

Hi, my name is
Frankie.

I love going to
school, but like most
kids, I love it when
we get a day off too!
However, a recent
unexpected day off
didn't turn out to be
so much fun after
all...



Frankie's Storm Story

Frankie opened the back door and peered out. The clouds were big and dark, and the sky looked almost black, even though it was the middle of the day.

"Hey, Stan," she called, "can you come inside?"

Stan ran up, tail wagging. "Why, what's happening?"

"The radio says there's a big storm coming, and we have to make sure our pets are inside. And school's been cancelled for the day – yeah!" Frankie clapped her hands and smiled.

Stan plumped himself into his favourite place in front of the heater. He cocked his head to one side.

"Hey, I saw you carrying in the garden furniture and outside toys."

"Yes," Frankie replied, "that's so they won't become flying missiles in the wind."

"I hope you didn't forget my kennel, I wouldn't want that to blow away, would I!"

"Don't worry, it's quite light and Dad has put it in the garage, Stan," said Frankie, patting his head comfortingly.

The wind was really picking up now. Branches brushed against the side of the house, and Frankie and Stan could feel the whole house shaking in the gusts. Rain was drumming down almost sideways, the wind was so strong.





“We better keep away from the windows, in case they smash in the wind. At least the curtains are closed, so that might stop some flying glass if they do break.”

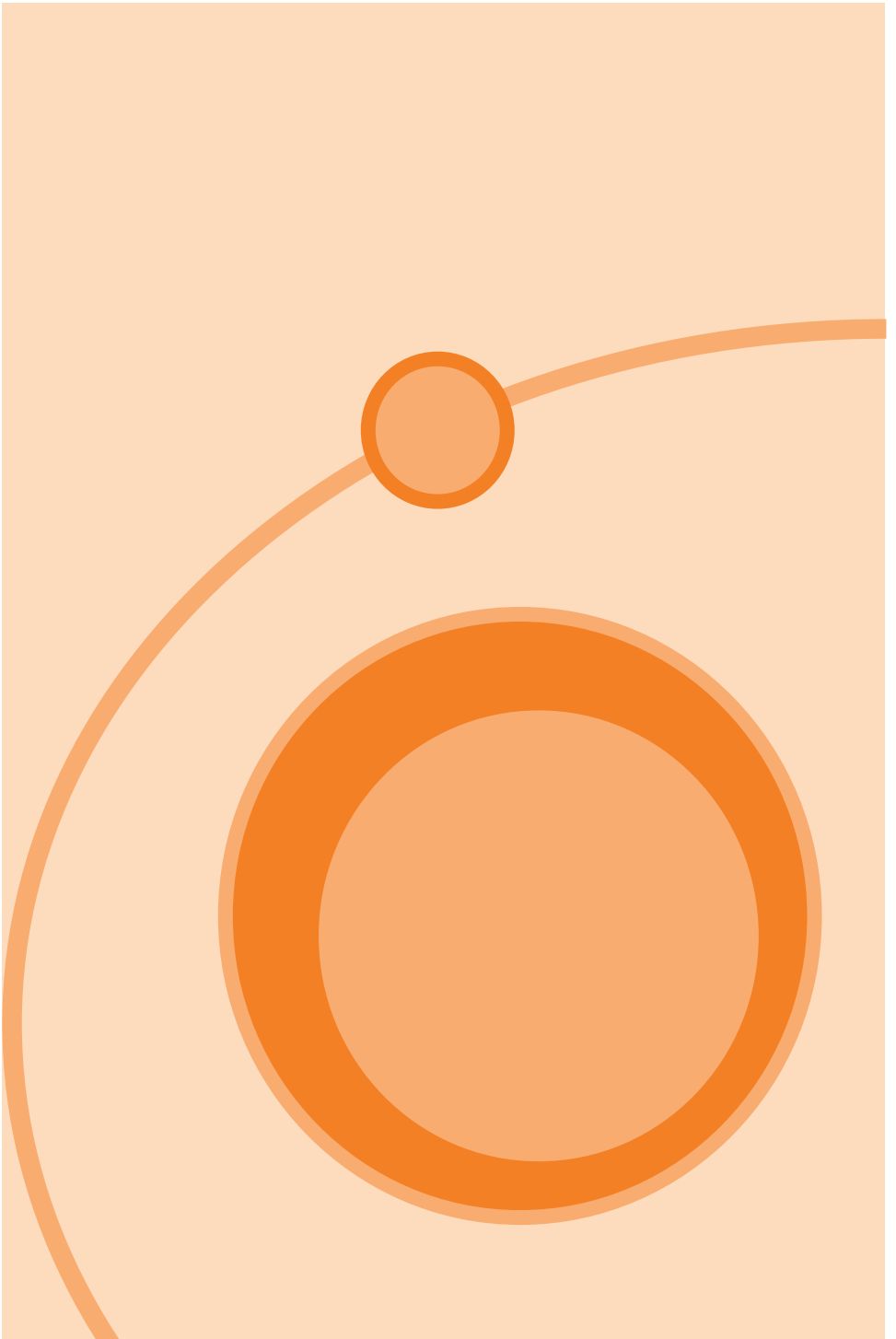
Frankie, Stan and their family stayed inside all day while the storm battered the house outside. Fortunately Stan was good at telling jokes, which kept their spirits up and stopped them from being too scared of the noise and buffeting.

The following morning the storm finally died down. They turned on the radio and heard on the news that the storm had been one of the biggest in recent history. Civil defence had had to evacuate some parts of town because of floods and slips.

“Well, now the storm’s over, I guess you can go back to school today,” said Stan.

“No,” Frankie answered. “The news said we’re not allowed to go out because the power lines might be hanging down. So no school again ... and I might actually enjoy the day off this time, because yesterday was really way too scary!”





What to do in a storm



Before

When a strong wind warning is issued:

- Listen to your radio for information.
- Bring pets inside if possible.
- Help clear away anything outside that may become a flying missile in the wind.

When a snow warning is issued:

- Listen to your local radio station for information.
- Avoid leaving home unless absolutely necessary.
- If you have to travel, help make sure you are well prepared with snow chains, sleeping bags, warm clothing and essential emergency items.
- Remind your family to check fuel supplies for wood-burners, gas heaters, barbeques and generators.
- Bring pets inside if you can and help move stock to shelter.

During

- Stay inside. If outside find shelter quickly.
- Close all curtains to slow down flying glass.
- Stay away from doors and windows. If the wind becomes destructive, shelter further inside the house.
- Stay away from metal and electrical fixtures.

After

- Stay indoors and listen to the radio.
- Avoid dangling and broken power lines.