

## What to do today

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

### 1. Write descriptions of a thunderstorm

- Look at the picture: *Thunderstorm*
- Can you imagine being in a storm like that? Write some descriptions of what you would see, here and feel.

### 2. Read a poem

- Read *Thunder and Lightning*
- Underline the verbs that have been used in the poem. Can you highlight any other powerful language that has been used in the poem?
- Practise reading the poem out loud until you read with real expression.

### 3. Answer questions about a poem

- Read *That Stormy Night*.
- Answer *Stormy Night Questions*. Write your answers in clear sentences.
- Share your answers with a grown-up. You can check some of them at the end of this pack.

### 4. Make a choice.

- Read *Where Would You Be?*
- Decide where you would want to be – inside or out in the wild. Write 3-5 sentences to explain your choice.

### Try the Fun-Time Extras

- Pick your favourite of the three poems:
  - Can you make an illustration for it?
  - Can you learn all or some of it off-by-heart?
  - Can you record and share your reading of the poem?
- Can you write your own poem about a storm?

# Thunderstorm



## Thunder and Lightning

Blood punches through every vein  
As lightning strips the windowpane

Under its flashing whip, a white  
Village leaps to light.

On tubs of thunder, fists of rain  
Slog it out of sight again.

Blood punches the heart with fright  
As rain belts the village night.

*by James Kirkup*

# That Stormy Night



That stormy night  
when the wind moaned like a wolf  
and bent the trees, and shook the house  
I wondered if it could blow the stars away.

What then – if their glittering dust  
lay among the fallen leaves the next day  
crystals and splinters in the morning light?  
I'd sweep them up and put them in a box

and bring them home to you. You'd say  
*Nonsense. What you see up there  
is light that's millions of years away  
you know that, don't you?*

Yes. I know. But still  
I'd shake my box of stardust  
hold it tight  
knowing the wind had blown the stars away

that stormy night

by Berlie Doherty

## Stormy Night - Questions

1. What simile does the poet use for the wind's sound?
2. What two effects does the wind have?
3. What does the narrator wonder?
4. What adjective is used to describe star dust?
5. Who do you think the narrator takes the box to?
6. Why don't you think that they believe there is stardust in the box?
7. What is your favourite phrase in this poem? Why?
8. What is your opinion of this poem?

## Where would you be?



Where would you be on a night like this  
With the wind so dark and howling?  
Close to the light  
Wrapped warm and tight  
Or there where the cats are prowling?

Where would you wish you on such a night  
When the twisting trees are tossed?  
Safe in a chair  
In the lamp-lit air  
Or out where the moon is lost?

Where would you be when the white waves roar  
On the tumbling storm-torn sea?  
Tucked inside  
Where it's calm and dry  
Or searching for stars in the furious sky  
Whipped by the whine of the gale's wild cry  
Out in the night with me?

by Karla Kuskin

## Thunder and Lightning - answers

Blood punches through every vein

As lightning strips the windowpane

Under its flashing whip, a white

Village leaps to light.

On tubs of thunder, fists of rain

Slog it out of sight again.

Blood punches the heart with fright

As rain belts the village night.

Verbs underlined

Powerful language highlighted

## Stormy Night - Answers

1. What simile does the poet use for the wind's sound?

The simile used is 'moaned like a wolf'.

2. What two effects does the wind have?

The wind bends the trees and shakes the houses.

3. What does the narrator wonder?

The narrator wonders whether the wind could blow the stars away.

4. What adjective is used to describe star dust?

The adjective used is the word, 'glittering'.