

Series: 95-03

Billy and Maria Learn About Tornado Safety

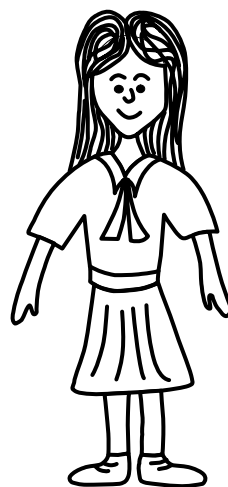
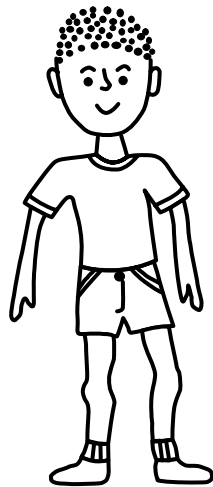
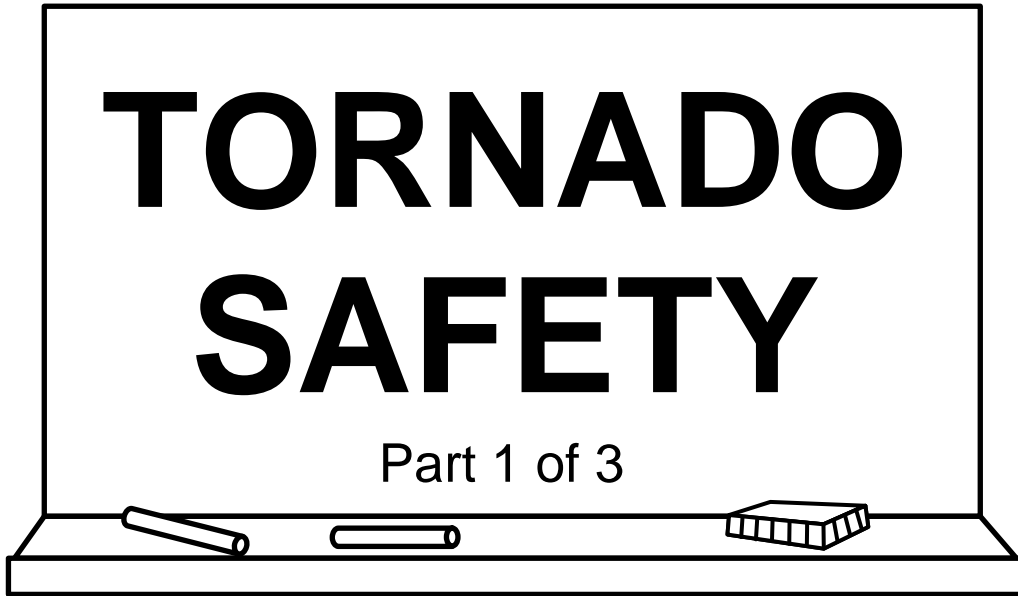
Part 1 of 3

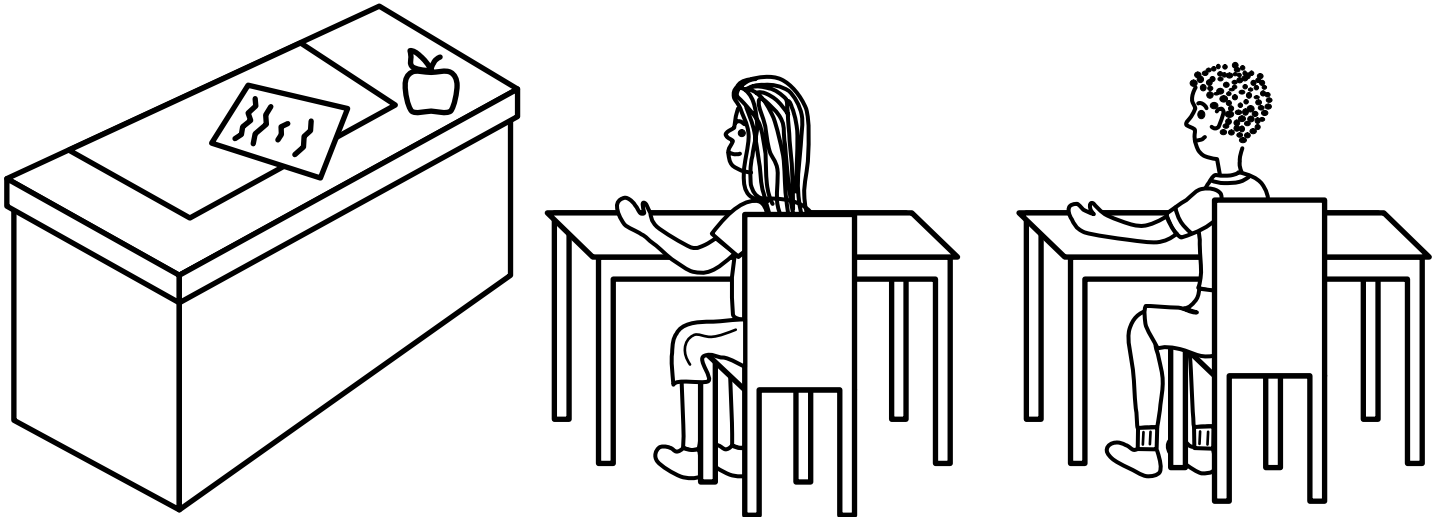


Billy and Maria Learn About

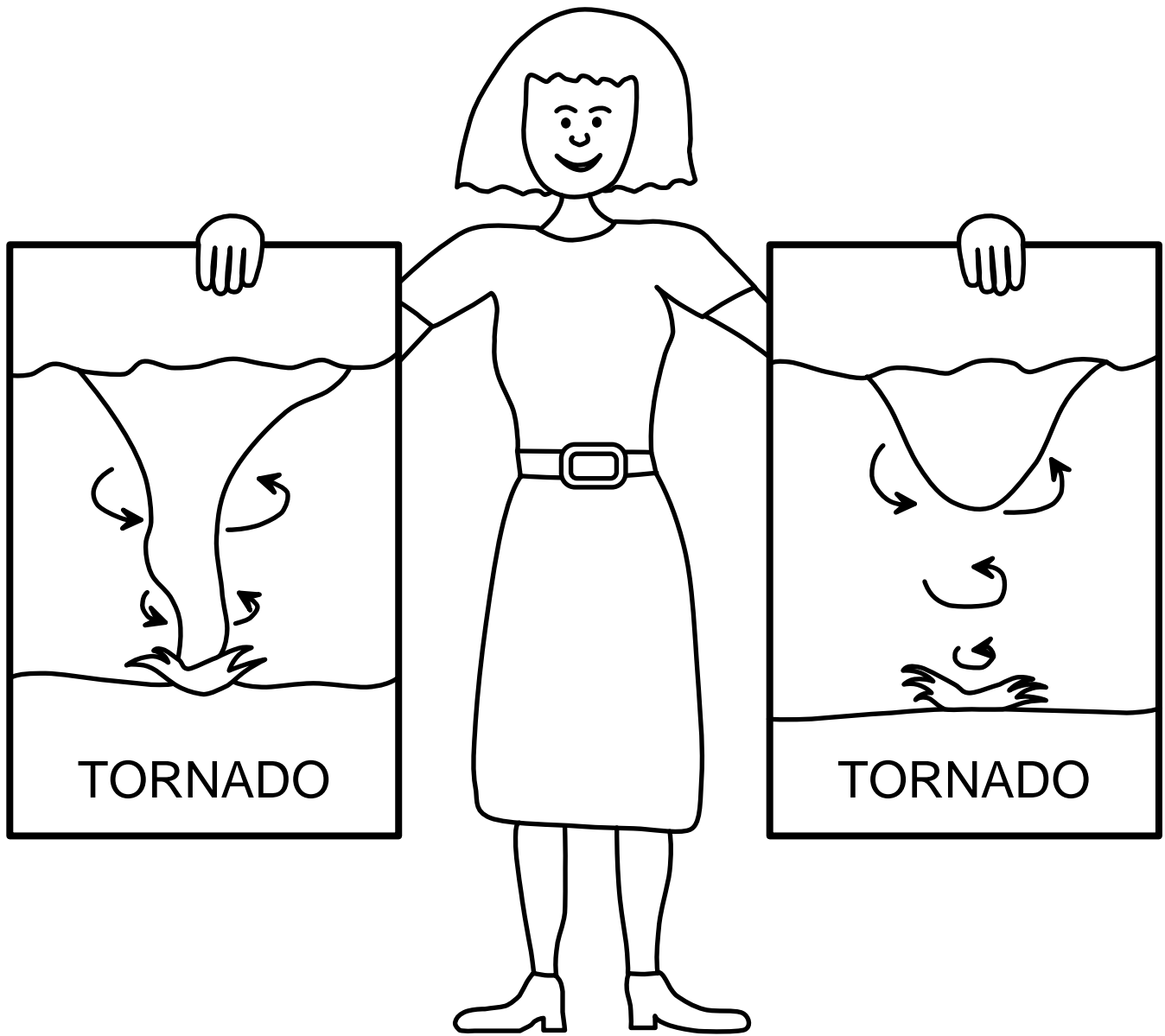
TORNADO SAFETY

Part 1 of 3

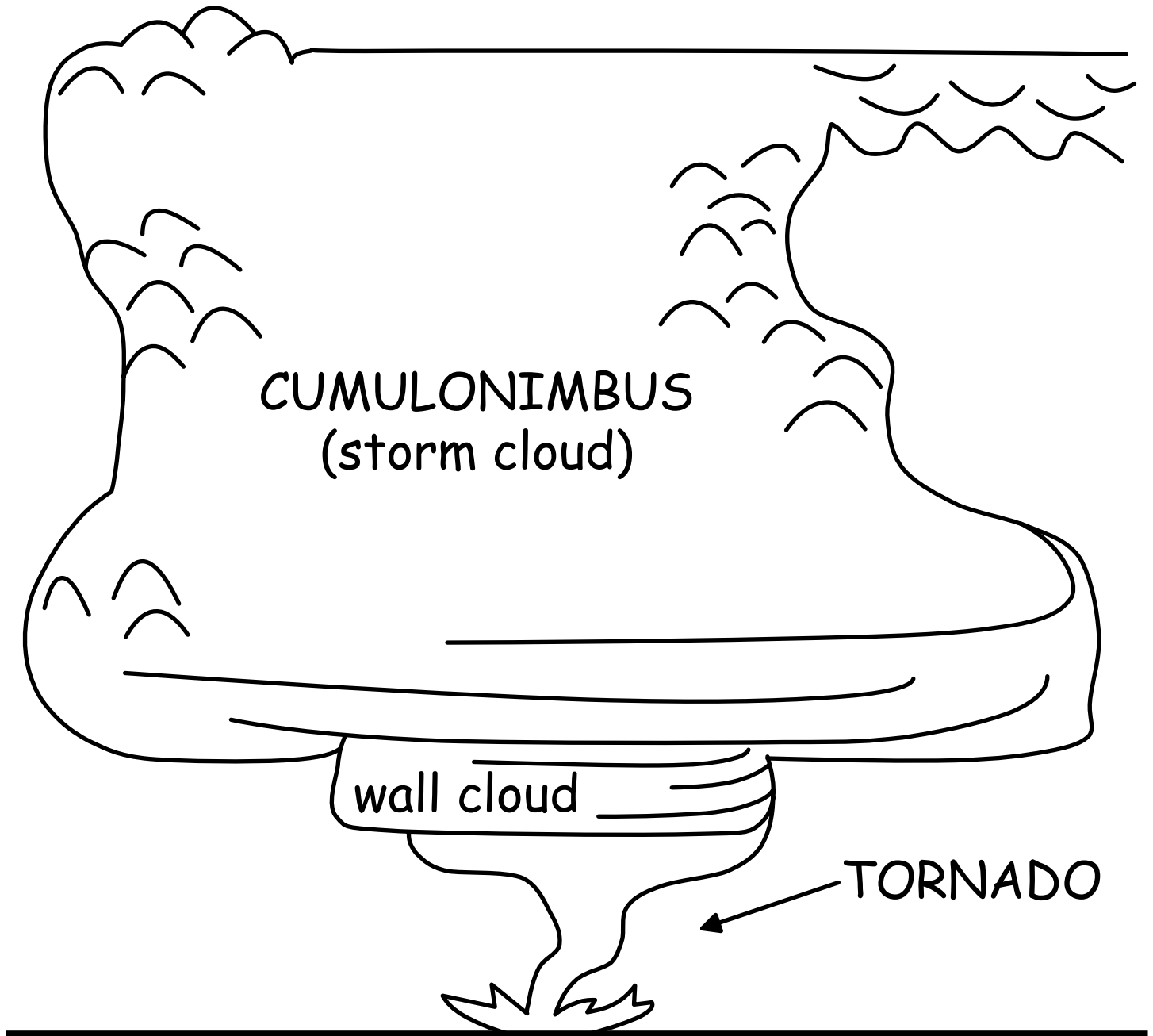




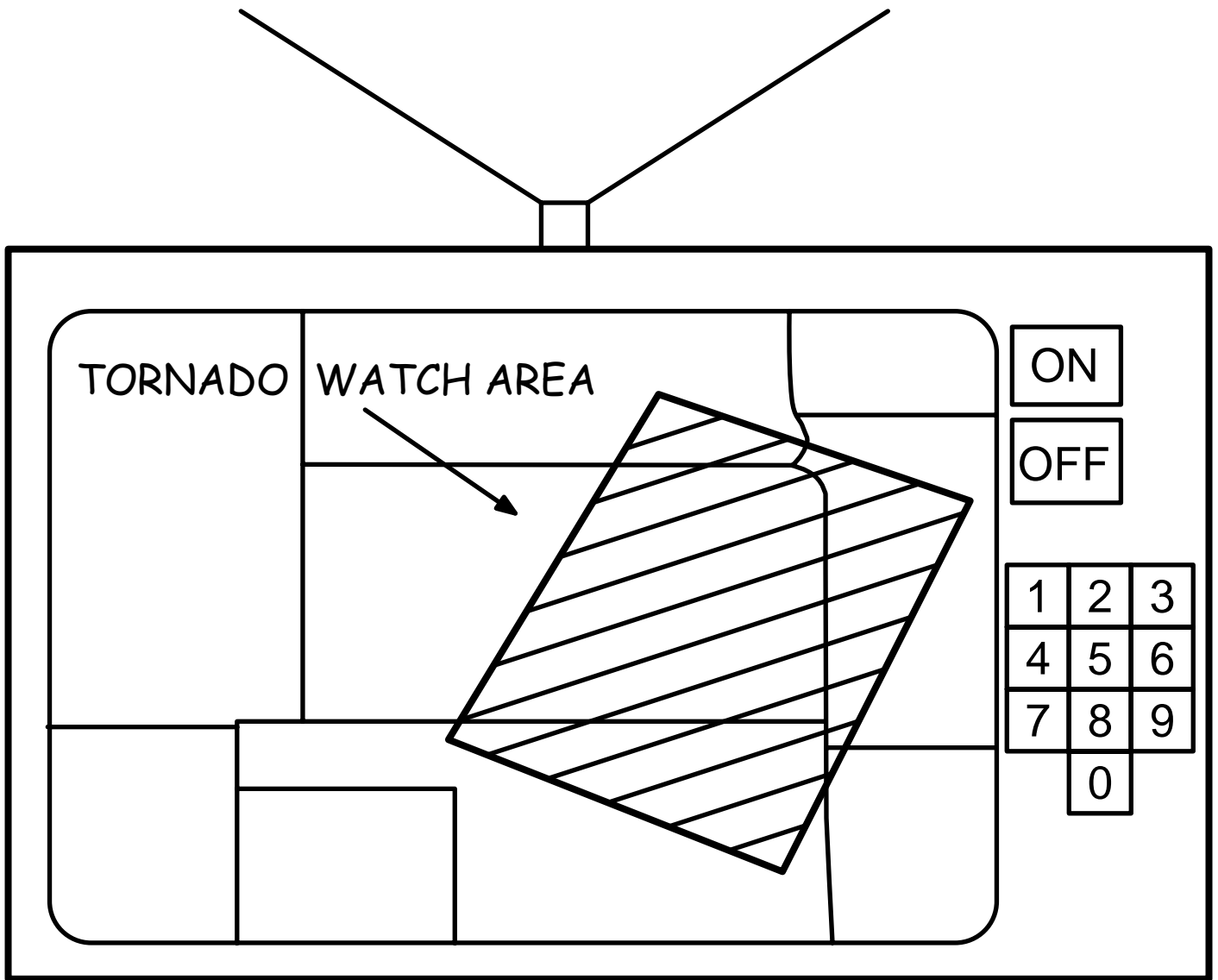
Billy and Maria were at school one spring day when their teacher began to tell them about tornado safety. This was a very important subject, so they made sure they listened to her.



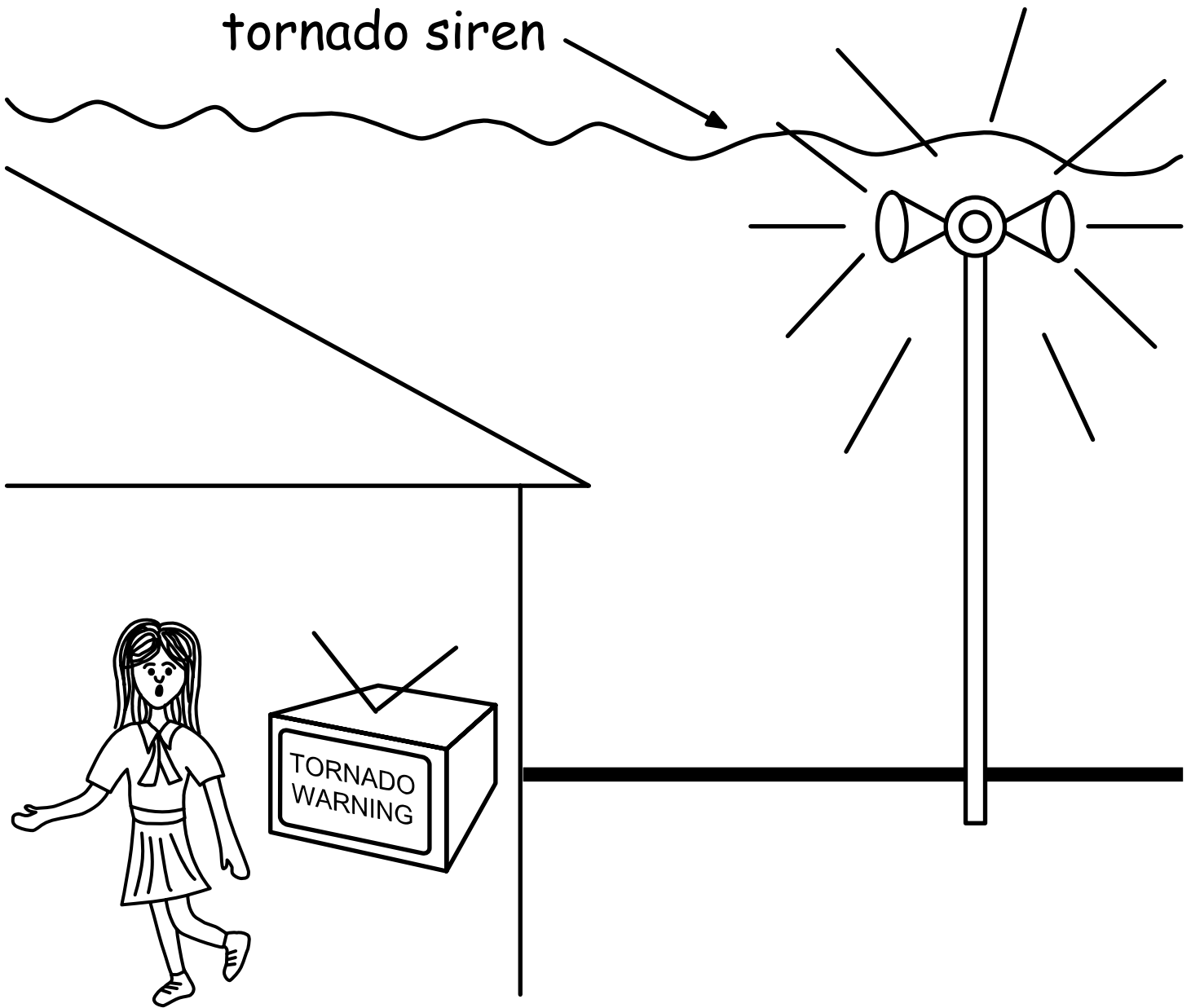
The teacher showed Billy, Maria, and the class two pictures of tornadoes. Tornadoes are made of strong winds that spin. Sometimes they appear to be solid and touch the ground. Other times they look like a cone with dirt spinning underneath.



Tornadoes usually come from a part of the storm that is low to the ground. This is known as a wall cloud. A wall cloud is connected to a big storm cloud called a cumulonimbus cloud.



If the weather looks bad outside, check your local television channels, radio stations, or NOAA Weather Radio to see if there is a TORNADO WATCH for your area. This means that there is a chance for tornadoes in or near the watch area.

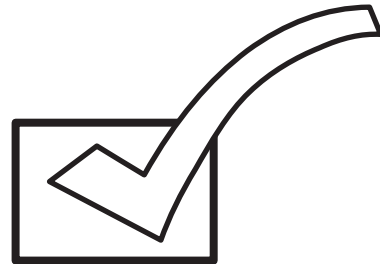


If there is a tornado, a TORNADO WARNING will be issued. A siren may sound outside, on your television, and on your radio to alert you. When this happens you should take cover so you do not get hurt.

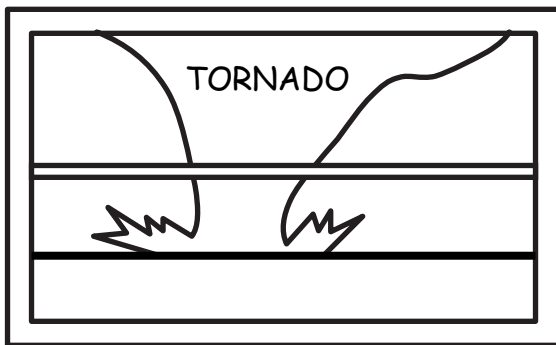
Question: If a tornado is coming do you open a window in your house before going to shelter?



YES



NO



Move away from windows and find shelter

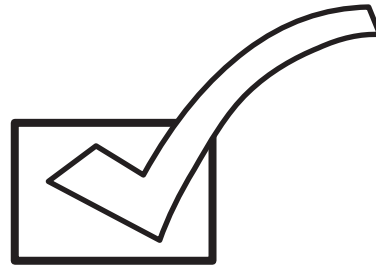


Billy and Maria's teacher told them two myths about tornado safety. The first was about opening a window when a tornado comes. She said that you should move to shelter immediately and stay away from windows. They can break when the wind blows very hard and you can get hurt.

Question: Is the safest place to take shelter when a tornado comes always in the southwest corner of your house?

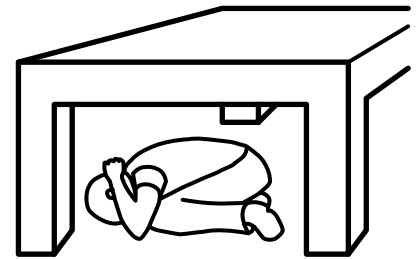
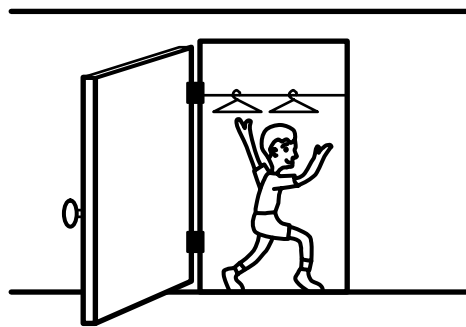
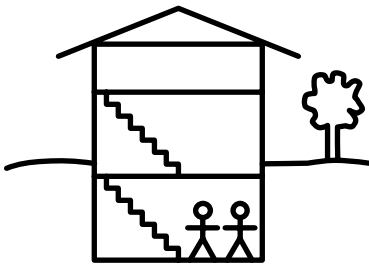


YES



NO

Take shelter in other places like:



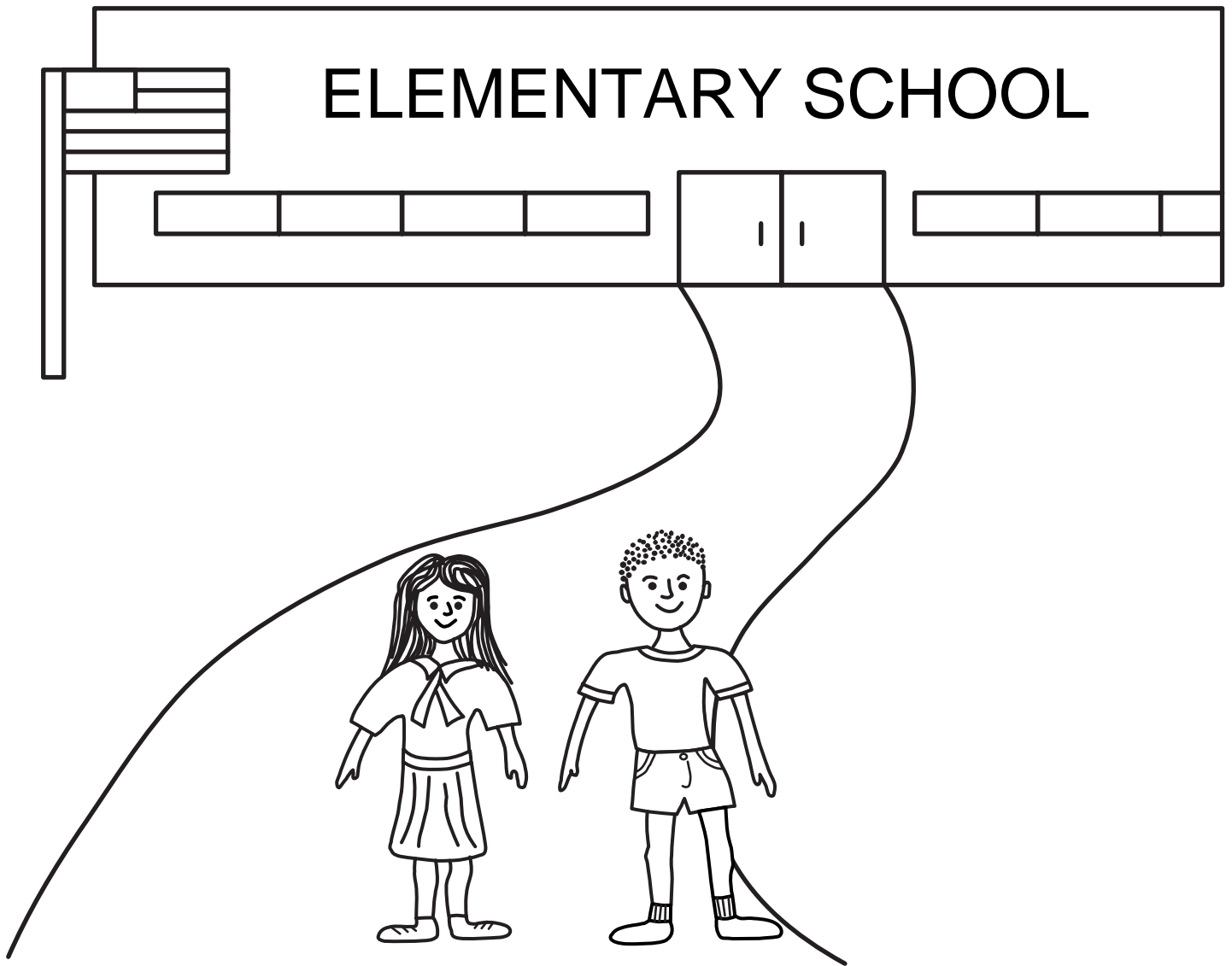
The second myth was about taking shelter in the southwest corner of your home. This was wrong! There are places where it may be safer to take shelter. They are:

1. Your basement or shelter
2. The lowest floor of your home
3. Inside a closet or bathroom in the middle of your home.
4. Under a heavy table.

When taking shelter, curl up like a ball and cover your head with your hands or with a book.



The teacher told Billy, Maria, and the class that if they had to take shelter they should curl up like a ball. Then they needed to cover their heads and necks with their hands or a book. "These rules will help keep you safe!", the teacher said.



Billy and Maria thought that their teacher had taught them some good tornado safety rules. They decided to have tornado drills at home so they would know exactly where to take shelter in case a tornado came.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was established as part of the Department of Commerce on October 3, 1970. NOAA Mission responsibilities are to assess the socioeconomic impact of natural and technological changes in the environment and to monitor and predict the state of the solid Earth, the oceans and their living resources, the atmosphere, and the space environment of the Earth.

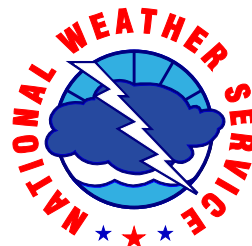
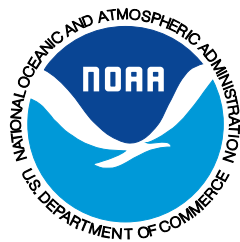
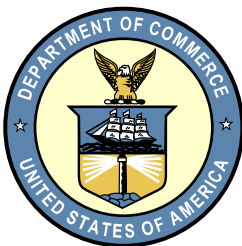
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

An 1870 act of Congress created the U.S. Weather Bureau under the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Subsequent Congressional action in October 1890 placed the Weather Bureau under the Department of Agriculture. The Weather Bureau was transferred to the Department of Commerce in 1940. In 1965, the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA), which included the Weather Bureau, was created under the Department of Commerce. Still operating under ESSA, the Weather Bureau was renamed the National Weather Service in 1967. ESSA became the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1970.

" The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information data base which can be used by other governmental agencies and the private sector. "

NATIONAL SEVERE STORMS LABORATORY

"The National Severe Storms Laboratory, in partnership with the National Weather Service, enhances NOAA's mission through a balanced program of research to advance the understanding of weather processes, research to improve forecasting and warning techniques, development of operational applications, and transfer of understanding, techniques, and applications to the National Weather Service and other public and private sector agencies."



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