

The Storm Rolls In

Read the story. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 All afternoon the air had been **as thick as soup**. Nadia sat on the porch steps with her grandmother, fanning herself with a folded newspaper. Not a single leaf moved. “It is **so hot I could melt into a puddle**,” Nadia groaned. Gram just smiled and pointed west.
- 2 Far away, dark clouds were piling up above the hills. **The sun slipped behind them and hid**. The yard turned a strange greenish gray, and the birds went quiet all at once.
- 3 Then the wind came. It blew hard across the field and shook the laundry on the line until the sheets pulled at their pins. The old screen door swung open and shut. Nadia’s newspaper blew out of her hand and sailed over the fence into the next yard.
- 4 **BOOM!** Thunder shook the porch boards under their feet. A second later the rain began, and it fell hard and fast. It was so loud on the tin roof that Nadia had to shout. “It is **raining cats and dogs!**” she yelled. Gram laughed and pulled her back from the edge of the steps.
- 5 They stood together and watched. **The gutters were rivers**, and the dusty garden soaked up the water. In ten minutes the storm had passed. The air felt cool and fresh, and every leaf in the yard was shining.



The Storm Rolls In: Questions

Go back to the bold words in the text. Think about what the author really means.

1. What does the author mean by “as thick as soup”?
 - ☐ The air smelled like food.
 - ☐ The air felt heavy, hot and still.
 - ☐ It was foggy outside.
2. “The sun slipped behind them and hid” is an example of which kind of figurative language?
 - ☐ hyperbole
 - ☐ simile
 - ☐ personification
3. What does Nadia mean by “raining cats and dogs”?
 - ☐ Animals are running through the yard.
 - ☐ The storm is almost over.
 - ☐ It is raining very hard.
4. Which word is an example of onomatopoeia?
 - ☐ BOOM!
 - ☐ storm
 - ☐ puddle
5. What does the author mean by “The gutters were rivers”?
 - ☐ A lot of rainwater was rushing through the gutters.
 - ☐ A river ran beside the house.
 - ☐ The gutters were full of leaves.
6. The author says the air before the storm was “as thick as soup”. Write your own simile to describe a very hot day.

The Storm Rolls In: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. What does the author mean by “as thick as soup”?

- ☐ The air smelled like food.
- ☒ **The air felt heavy, hot and still.**
- ☐ It was foggy outside.

Proof Soup is thick and heavy. The air felt that way: hot, damp and hard to move through.

2. “The sun slipped behind them and hid” is an example of which kind of figurative language?

- ☐ hyperbole
- ☐ simile
- ☒ **personification**

Proof The sun cannot hide on purpose. The author gives it a human action.

3. What does Nadia mean by “raining cats and dogs”?

- ☐ Animals are running through the yard.
- ☐ The storm is almost over.
- ☒ **It is raining very hard.**

Proof This is an idiom. It is a common saying that means heavy rain.

4. Which word is an example of onomatopoeia?

- ☒ **BOOM!**
- ☐ storm
- ☐ puddle

Proof “BOOM!” sounds like the noise thunder makes.

5. What does the author mean by “The gutters were rivers”?

- ☒ **A lot of rainwater was rushing through the gutters.**
- ☐ A river ran beside the house.
- ☐ The gutters were full of leaves.

Proof A river carries a lot of fast water, and during the storm the gutters did too.

6. The author says the air before the storm was “as thick as soup”. Write your own simile to describe a very hot day.

Answers will vary. Example: The sidewalk was as hot as a frying pan.
