

3a Read the passage and answer the questions.

1. What was the weather like before the heavy rain started?
2. What was the neighborhood like after the storm?

The Storm Brought People Closer Together

Ben could hear strong winds outside his home in Alabama. Black clouds were making the sky very dark. With no light outside, it felt like midnight. The news on TV reported that a heavy rainstorm was in the area.

Everyone in the neighborhood was busy. Ben's dad was putting pieces of wood over the windows while his mom was making sure the flashlights and radio were working. She also put some candles and matches on the table.

Ben was helping his mom make dinner when the rain began to beat heavily against the windows. After dinner, they tried to play a card game, but it was hard to have fun with a serious storm happening outside.

Ben could not sleep at first. He finally fell asleep when the wind was dying down at around 3:00 a.m. When he woke up, the sun was rising. He went outside with his family and found the neighborhood in a mess. Fallen trees, broken windows and rubbish were everywhere. They joined the neighbors to help clean up the neighborhood together. Although the storm broke many things apart, it brought families and neighbors closer together.



3b Complete the sentences using information from the passage.

1. When the news on TV was reported, strong winds _____ outside.
2. While Ben's mom was making sure the radio was working, his dad _____.
3. Ben _____ when the heavy rain finally started.
4. When Ben _____ at 3:00 a.m., the wind _____.

3c Discuss the questions with a partner.

"Although the storm broke many things apart, it brought families and neighbors closer together." What other things can bring people closer together? How can we help each other in times of difficulty?