

The grey cloud



I was on a long, boring train ride with my aunt. I looked out of the window at the rain. The countryside looked grey and cold.

'Tell me a story, Aunt Clare,' I said. 'One about the rain.'

'All right,' she said. This is the story she told me.

'There was a small cloud in the sky above the apartment where Lily lived. Sometimes the cloud got angry because the wind was too strong, or because it was alone in the sky.

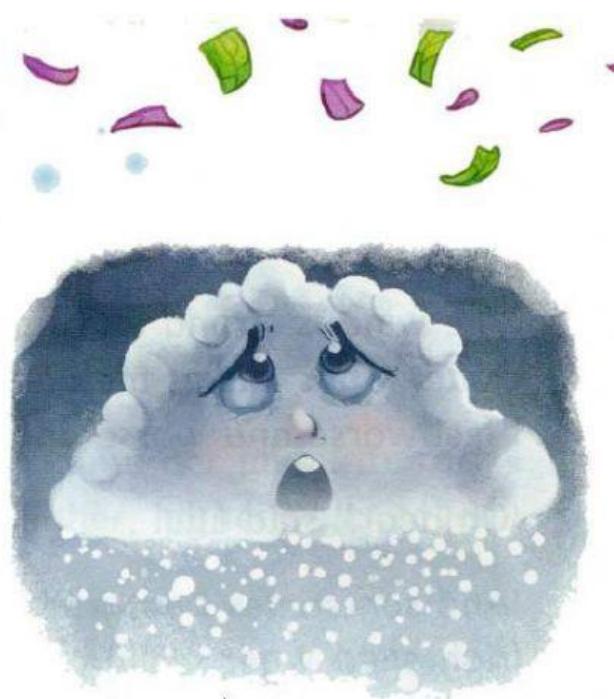
When the cloud got really angry, it got slowly bigger and greyer. Its grey colour fell on to the roof of Lily's apartment building. It also fell into Lily's roof garden and when Lily went outside to skip, she couldn't see the red and yellow flowers there. She could only see grey ones. Lily often got angry then, too.

Sometimes the cloud wasn't only angry. It got really sad. When the cloud felt really angry AND sad, it felt worse and it cried and its wet rain fell on Lily's windows and balcony.

Lily didn't like being wet. She couldn't go outside and dance on the garden table because she didn't like getting her head, neck and shoulders wet. Lily often got angry AND sad then, too.



Sometimes the cloud wasn't only angry and sad. It often got frightened. When the cloud felt frightened, it felt colder. Then its snow fell quietly on the ground and rocks and on the mountains behind Lily's home, and water changed to ice. Walking in the snow and on the ice was difficult and dangerous. Lily often got angry, sad and frightened then too.



Monday wasn't a good day. The cloud was huge and very grey. Lily couldn't see any light from the sun. She couldn't see her feet on the ground.

And, at night, Lily couldn't see any light from the moon or stars.

Tuesday and Wednesday were worse. Nothing was different. On Thursday morning, when Lily got up and saw no light outside again, she thought, 'I've got to do something about this!' She climbed up the stairs to the roof garden.



'Cloud!' Lily called from the top of the roof. 'This is the worst day of my week! I love looking at you when you are small and white, and when you skip and dance and climb in the wind. But why are you huge and so grey now? What IS the matter?'



The cloud started to cry.

‘The wind is strong and I am weak and I have no friends,’ cried the cloud. ‘That makes me angry and sad, and I get bigger and greyer. I feel worse and worse and then my rain falls.’

‘Oh dear!’ said Lily.

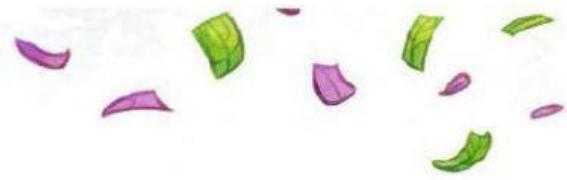
‘And sometimes I get frightened because I have no friends. When I feel frightened, I get really cold and my snow falls,’ added the cloud.

‘Well, shall I be your best friend today? I know I can make you feel better again. Stronger too!’ Lily said to the cloud and started to skip along the roof garden. ‘And when you feel happy again, I can be happier, too!’ she said.

‘Come on! Let’s skip!’ Lily took off her coat and started to skip around the grey flowers and the cloud slowly started to skip around the sun.

‘That’s better, but more quickly! More quickly!’ laughed Lily. ‘Come on, my friend! Now, let’s dance!’ Lily jumped up onto the table, waved her arms around and started to dance and the cloud slowly started to dance in the wind.



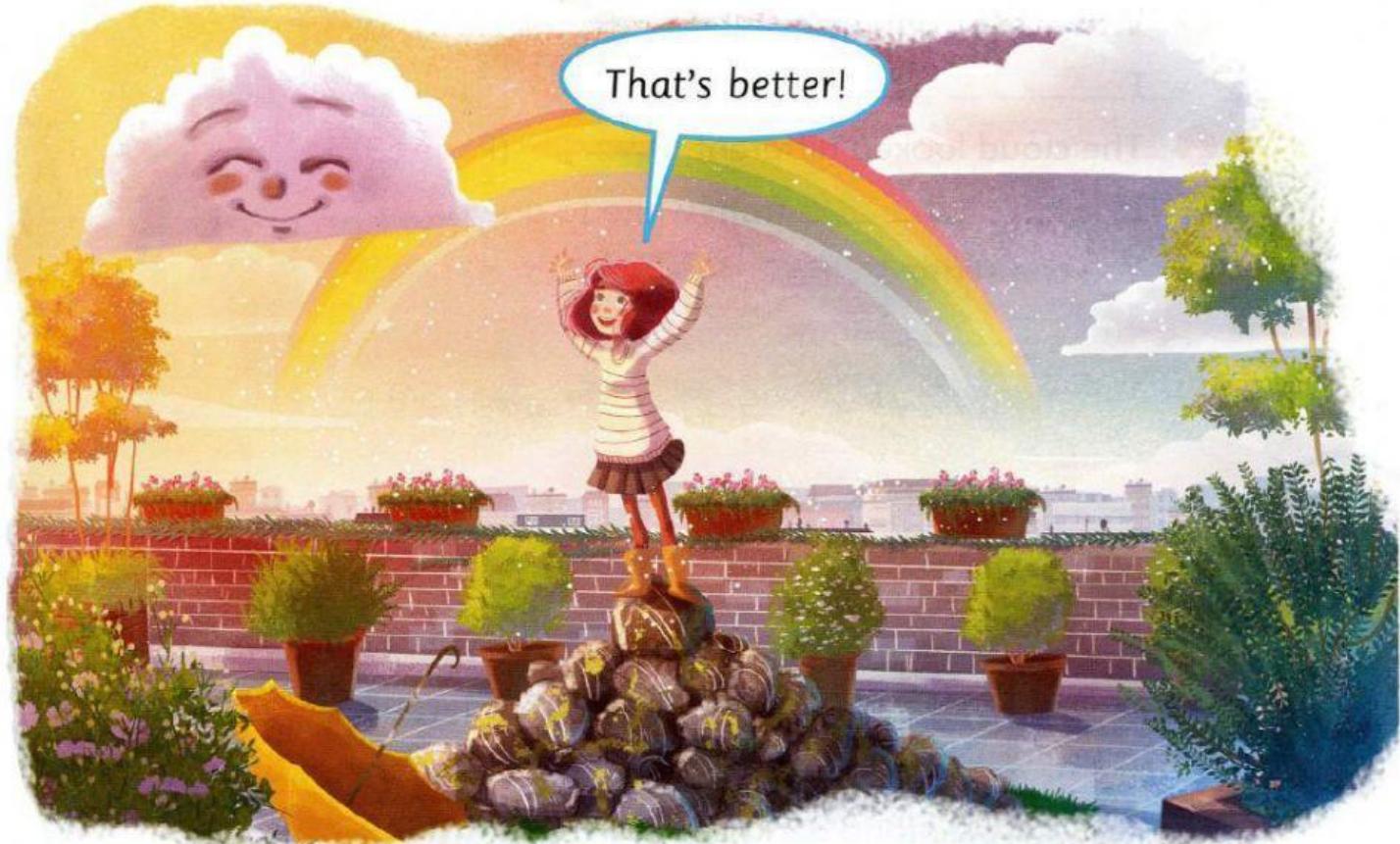


'Fantastic!' laughed Lily. 'Now, Come on! Are you feeling better or worse?'

'Better!' said the cloud.

'Great! Then now, let's climb!' Lily started to climb her favourite rock and the cloud started to climb in the sky. 'Higher, higher!' Lily called.

And when the cloud skipped and danced and climbed with Lily, its colour changed from grey to white and a beautiful rainbow appeared in the sky. The cloud was happy again and Lily couldn't stop laughing.



But it wasn't always like that.

On some days of the year, the cloud's rain and snow fell because it felt angry or sad or frightened again. Lily understood that.

'We can't always feel happy,' Aunt Clare said. 'But skipping, dancing and climbing and laughing and playing with really good friends can always help us feel better again. Now pick up your bag! Here's our station!'

The grey cloud



A

Find the words in the story. Read and complete.

1 This means NOT 'exciting'.  (Page 52)

The trip was b o r i n g.

2 I'm more ill today than yesterday.  (Page 52)

I'm _____ today.

3 Water fell from my eyes.  (Page 52)

I _____.

4 The cloud looked different.  (Page 53)

It _____ from white to grey.

5 You can skate on this.  (Page 53)

There's _____ on the ground.

6 This means NOT 'strong'.  (Page 54)

I'm _____.

B

Read and circle the correct answer.

1 When the cloud felt frightened / fine, it got colder.

2 Walking on ice is sometimes safe / dangerous.

3 On Tuesday / Thursday, Lily went to talk to the cloud.

4 Lily skipped along her balcony / roof garden.

5 It started to rain / snow when Lily talked to the cloud.

6 When Lily danced on the roof, she was on a table / rock.

C

What is the happiest answer? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

A

I'm all right.
Don't feel bad.

B

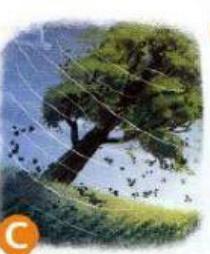
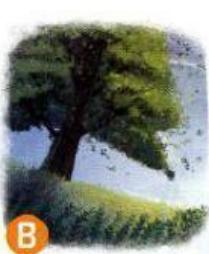
I'm much better
now, thanks.

C

I'm feeling
worse today.



D Choose and write *bad*, *worse* or *worst*.



E Listen and write.

22



1 Age: 10

2 Favourite hobby: listening to

3 Favourite food: cake

4 Her best holiday place: in the

5 Worst weather: when it is

6 Best friend's name:

Look at the pictures and read the story. Write 1, 2 or 3 words to complete the sentences.

Charlie and Pat's sad day

Pat and Charlie lived in a village and were very good friends. But last Saturday, Pat called Charlie on the phone and said, 'Dad's got to work in the city and we've got to move there. I'm really sad. I don't want to go ...' Charlie wanted to help Pat. He thought quickly. He knew there were lots of exciting things to do in the city.



Examples

Pat and Charlie's homes were in *a village*

Last *Saturday*, Pat phoned Charlie.

- 1 Pat was sad because his family had to move to
- 2 Charlie thought quickly because he wanted his friend.

'You can go to the cinema every week! Who's your favourite film star?' he asked. 'Jim Lift! He's really cool,' said Pat. 'Yes! He's fantastic,' said Charlie. 'And sometimes there are funfairs. Famous pop stars sing in the park there, too.' 'Like Daisy Day!' said Pat. 'Yes!' said Charlie. 'And you love swimming and skating! There's a huge pool in the city and when everything gets really cold, you can go ice skating on the river there.'

'You're right, Charlie,' Pat said. 'I'm happier now.'

'Good!' said Charlie. 'I shall send you a funny text every evening. See you!'



- 3 In the city, Pat can go to the cinema and see Daisy Day in the too!
- 4 Pat can do his favourite sports in the and on the river.
- 5 Charlie says he can send Pat every day.

Charlie went to find his mum because he was really sad that Pat had to move. 'But I didn't want him to know that,' Charlie said. 'You're a good friend,' Mum said. 'Are you hungry? Let's make your favourite chocolate pancakes!'



- 6 Charlie wanted to talk to because he was sad.
- 7 Mum wants to make some for Charlie.

G

Look and read and write.



Examples

The children are ice skating ... on a lake ...

What colour is the boy's sweater? red ...

Complete the sentences.

- 1 The girl is wearing a
- 2 You can see three

Answer the questions.

- 3 What is the weather like?
- 4 Where is the bird?

Now write two sentences about the picture.

- 5
- 6

H 23 Where are these people? Listen and tick (✓) three places.



I 24 Listen and say the poem.

I'm high and I'm white.
But I am not a kite.
You can climb up me.
But I am not a tree.

Clouds sit on my shoulders.
My ground grows small flowers.
My top touches the sky.
Can you do that? Try!