

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 Claire," 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 angry, it got slowly bigger and greyer. Its grey colour fell on to the roof of Lily's apartment building. It's 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 you 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 Claire 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!"

Answer the questions

- 1) What's the name of the story that aunt Claire told the girl?
- 2) Where did Lily live?
- 3) Why did the cloud get angry?
- 4) What day was a cloud huge and grey?
- 5) What day did Lily talk to the cloud?
- 6) What was the weather when the cloud was happy?

Read and write True(T)/ False(F)

- 1) Lily was travelling by bus
- 2) The weather was sunny and warm.
- 3) Lily was with her aunt.
- 4) She lives in the flat.
- 5) There was a big pool in the yard.
- 6) Sunday wasn't a good day.
- 7) Lily couldn't see any light from the sun.
- 8) The girl likes skipping and dancing

Read and write the correct word

roof feet ice balcony cry window happy

- 1) I looked out of the _____ at the rain.
- 2) The cloud started to _____
- 3) She couldn't see her _____ on the ground.
- 4) We can't always feel _____
- 5) There were beautiful flowers on Lily's _____
- 6) The water changed to _____ in winter.
- 7) Lily talked to the cloud from the top of the _____

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**.

Draw lines. Make sentences

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) The countryside looked | started to skip around the grey flowers |
| 2) There was a beautiful | the roof garden |
| 3) She climbed up the stairs to | it felt colder |
| 4) Lily took off her coat and | grey and cold |
| 5) It's grey colour fell on to the roof of | rainbow in the sky |
| 6) When the cloud felt frightened | Lily's apartment building |

Complete the sentences with the word

boring ice pick up roof dangerous station apartment skip rainbow rock
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- 1) My _____ is on the fourth floor.
- 2) He threw a _____ into the pond.
- 3) The lecture this morning was so _____ that many people actually fell asleep.
- 4) The train arrived at the _____ on time.
- 5) The _____ is too thin to skate on.
- 6) As soon as it stopped raining a beautiful _____ appeared.
- 7) Birds use their beaks to _____ food.
- 8) We have to fix the _____.
- 9) Girls like to _____ a rope at the break.
- 10) It is _____ to ride a motorbike without a helmet.

Match words with pictures

rainbow station roof ice dangerous pick up
apartment skip rock boring

