

Hello, Thunderstorm!

By Luke Paranjpe

The Beginning

It was a sunny day, June 19th, 2023, the day my mom and I experienced the most exciting and unexpected adventure. The day began with my mom getting ready to take her daily walk around the neighborhood. As she was about to leave, she asked me if I wanted to come. I didn't even think before saying: "Yes!" I found my shoes, and frantically put them on. "Let's go!" I said cheerfully.

We left through the front door and into our yard, with its grass freshly cut and perfectly maintained plants, all wrapped together with beautiful flowers, prickly bushes, and trees sprouting with glory. I rolled on the grass. The ground was mushy, but the grass felt spiky on my back. I rolled around for a while until Mom stopped me. It was time to get up and start walking. We walked down the sidewalk, passing pretty houses, each having the same nice look as ours. We agreed that we loved every single one.

At each house we stopped to play a game. We gave each house a score on a scale of 0-10. It was a complete waste of time, but we both loved it. We continued until we passed my friend Stacey's house. She has a sweet golden retriever named Rover. Everyone loves it when he's outside (which is all the time). And as usual, from the prickly bushes appeared Stacey's enormous dog, with his shiny tongue glistening in the sunlight.

From Mom's pocket came a 'ding!' I saw her open a text from my Dad that read: "Hurry up, a thunderstorm is on its way! Be home in five minutes!" We both froze, even though it was the absolute worst time to do just that. Then we looked at each other and decided...it was time to Run!

We had already wasted twenty minutes playing our games and had just started our actual walk. I looked up and saw clouds looming over us. They were dark blue near the bottom, and puffy white near the top. They were the tallest clouds I had ever seen. I looked at Mom, pointing at them, and we both stopped to gaze. This cloud wasn't the usual dark blue; it was indigo but shaded in the darkest black I'd ever seen. I looked to my left to find our house, which was out there, somewhere.

Soon, the clouds became a dark gradient pattern of gray. The sky had turned vicious. The clouds were moving fast, so we started to sprint and as we were running, we continued playing our games. The clouds got closer and closer. They took up the whole sky. We were only halfway home.

The Raindrop

Dark blue clouds were billowing over us when we heard: ROOOOOOOOAAAR!!!!!!! It shook the ground and made us fall. It was earsplitting, like a lion, but right next to your ear. Thunder! Concrete burst from the ground just thirty feet from us with a striking forked arch of pure white flashing its surroundings aflame. Thankfully the rain quickly put it out before it could cause any damage. A flash soon broke through the drizzle. Lightning!

We ran faster, ignoring the rain now pouring over us. The wind let out a ghostly growl. Suddenly- THUNK! And again. And again. Pounding us from one mile upwards. Hail! THUNK, THUNK, THUNK. I pushed through it, ignoring the pain from the white balls of falling ice. And that's when we saw it: the gazebo. "MOM!" I screamed so that she could hear my cry over the groaning wind. "WHAT?" She replied. "LOOK; THE GAZEBO!" I shouted. "YAY! Hold my hand," she said.

I held her hand as we walked across the flooding road. The rain continued to worsen. We dove into the gazebo. It was cozy. I sat down and took a deep breath, but water filled my mouth. I spat it out. We got up and slowly made our way out of the gazebo. We couldn't see even one house in front of us, so our games had to stop.

I looked up and saw a hint of blue. The rain faded drop by drop, and the fierce wind appeared to have pushed the clouds away into the distance. The sun dried our clothes. We walked some more and played our game until...a couple houses later...the clouds whipped back up to enormous heights nearby. Could this spell some serious weather? I thought we had already seen the worst.

The Comeback

The rain started to pick up again, each raindrop being harder than the last. Dark black clouds towered over us, like an eyewall forming its circle shape. We were right in the middle of it. The wind sped up almost instantly, and the worst part started with an earsplitting ROOOOAR! My Mom and I fell over, and it didn't seem like we were going to be able to get back up. Winds accelerated. Rain and hail fell hard. Lightning darted around us almost as frequently as the rain. A siren blared. Tornado watch!

I mustered up all my strength and slowly got up, my jacket scraping the concrete. I looked over to the grass which was no longer visible; blocked out by the hail. We both tried to run, which turned out to be slower than our walk, and it left us in a tired panic. We both fell again, not because of the wind, but exhaustion. My mom and I got up after a bit and trudged through the endless hail that continued to pummel us. We finally sat down until we saw blue skies again.

As if nothing had happened, the rain and hail cleared up, and the clouds swiftly moved away. We ran as fast as we could, knowing the storm could come back. Every step brought us closer to safety. As we ran, we saw dark clouds again, a bit higher in the sky but dark black. Still tall, but less intimidating. We sprinted across the concrete. Would we make it in time?

We ran until our house came into view! "Mom!" I screamed in happiness, "I found our house, it's right around the corner!" "Yessssss!" she said. The clouds loomed over us for the last time. We darted swiftly for our front door. I almost didn't recognize our house; the bushes were smushed down, like a giant had stepped on them. We opened the door and stepped inside just in time; the rain had started again. And I said something I'd never thought I'd be able to back when we were in it...

Goodbye, Thunderstorm!

About the Author

Luke Paranjpe is nine years old and lives in Oakland Township, Michigan. He is an avid reader and has been writing short stories since he was three years old. In his spare time, Luke loves to watch clouds (especially cumulonimbus ones!), spend time with his friends, and play with his dog Lucky.