

Series: 95-04

# Billy and Maria Learn About Tornado Safety

Part 2 of 3

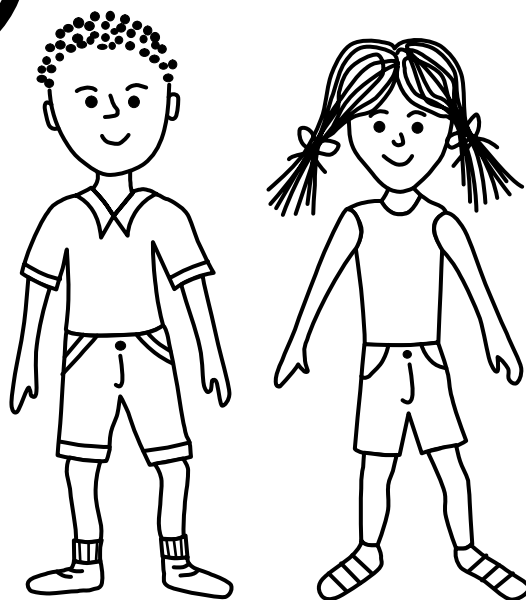


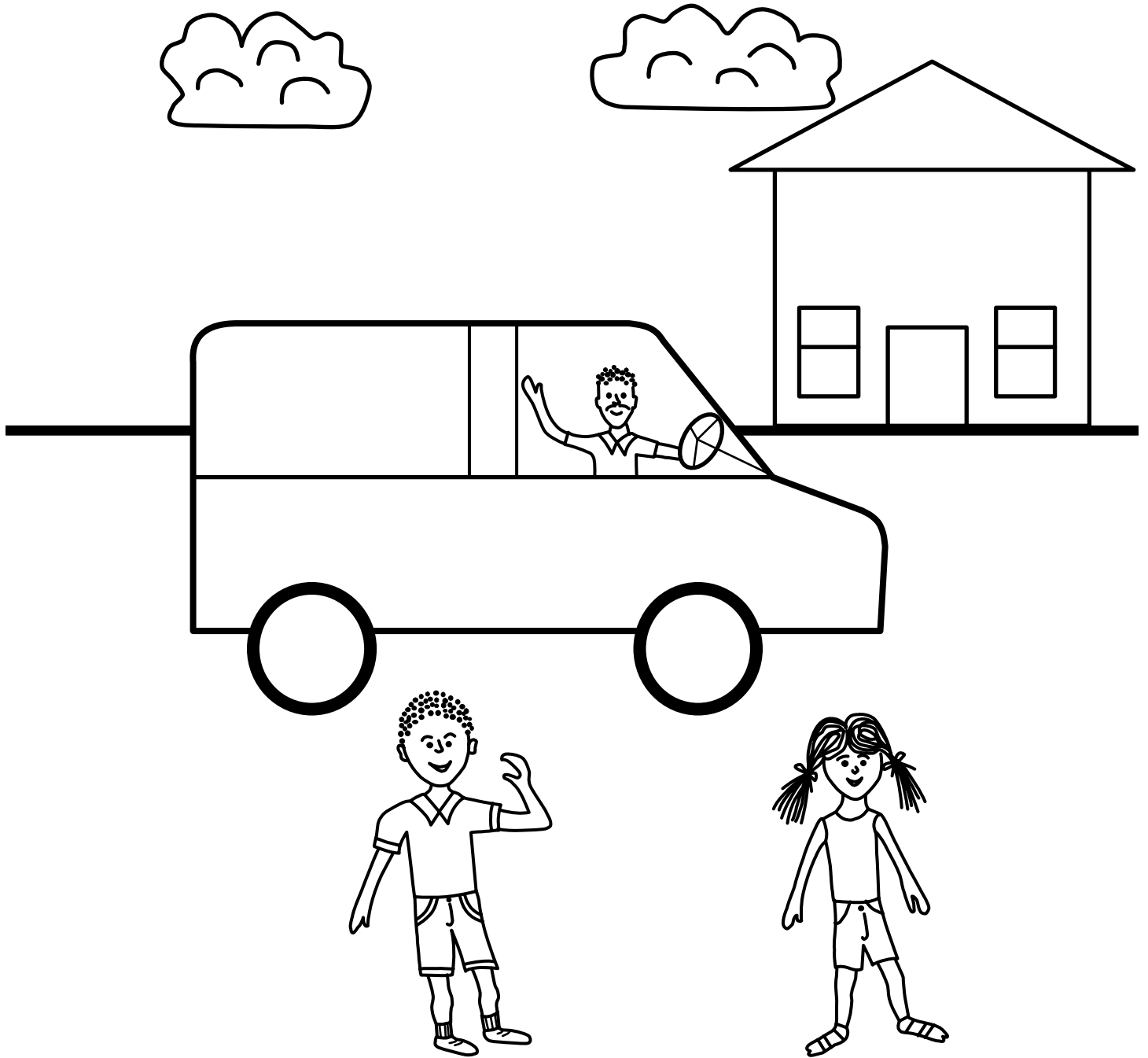
# Billy and Maria Learn About

**TORNADO**

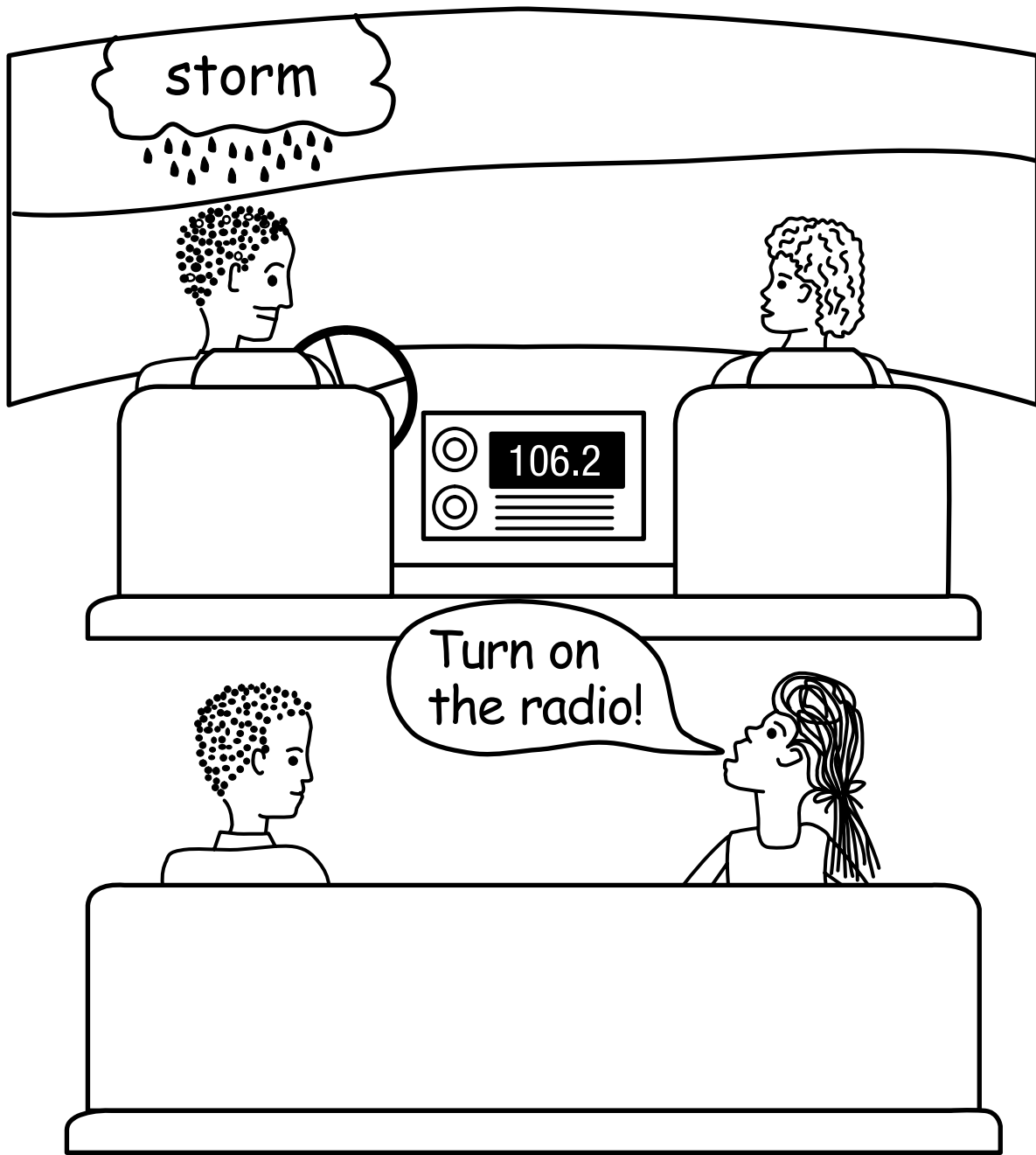
**SAFETY**

Part 2 of 3

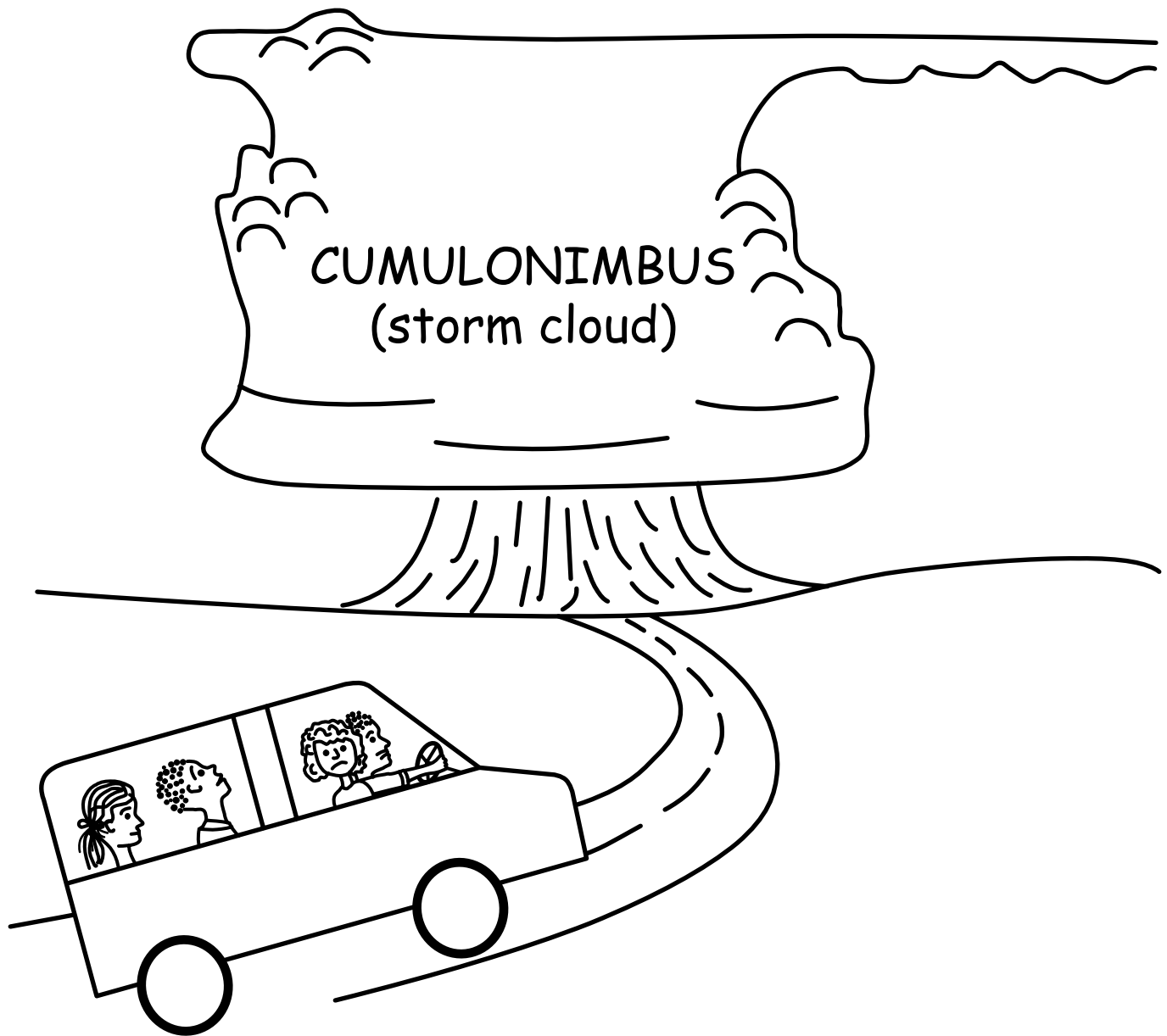




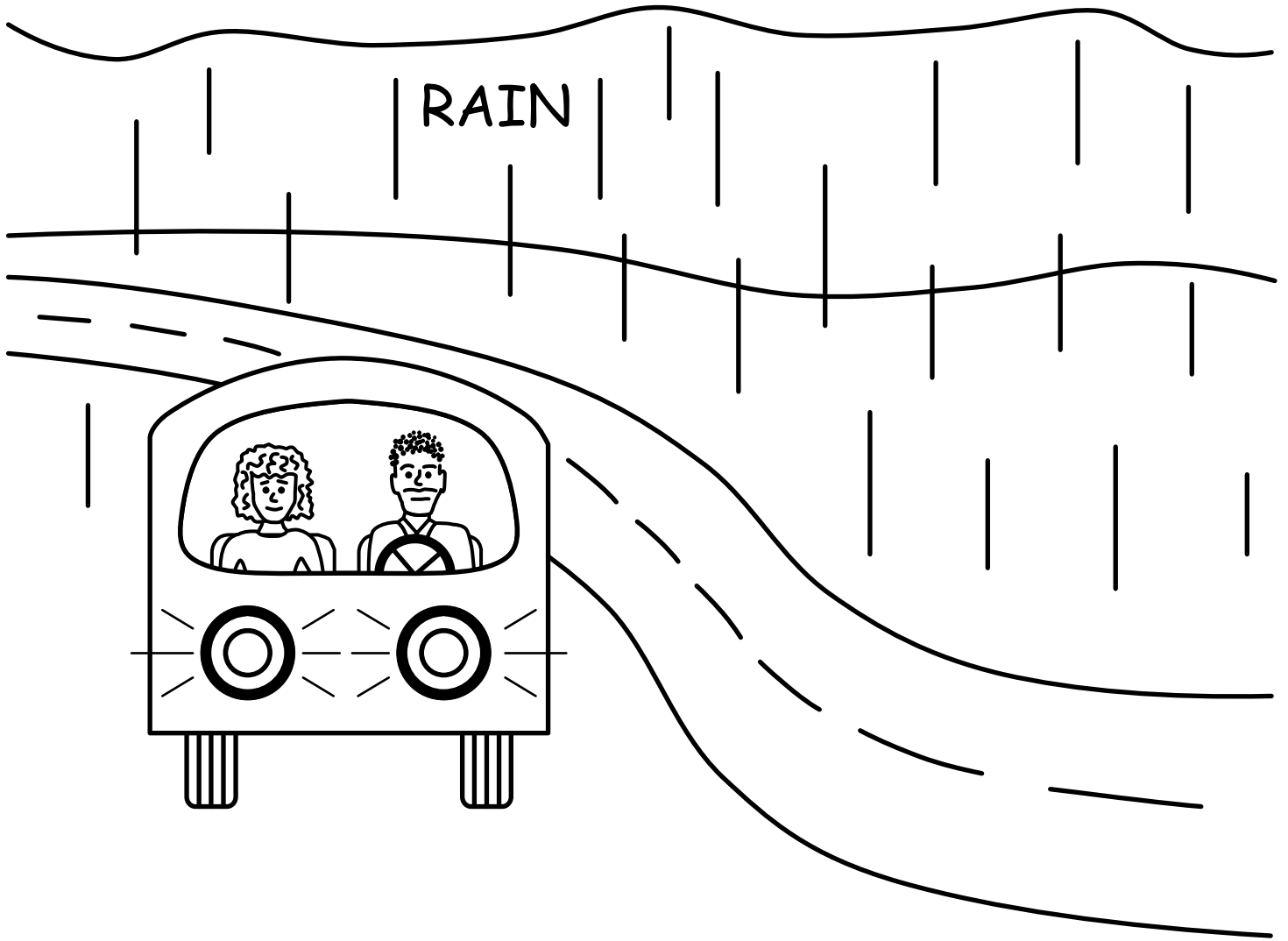
One day, Billy and his family decided to go on a trip. They invited Maria to come along with them. The whole group got in the van and went to visit Billy's cousin Henry.



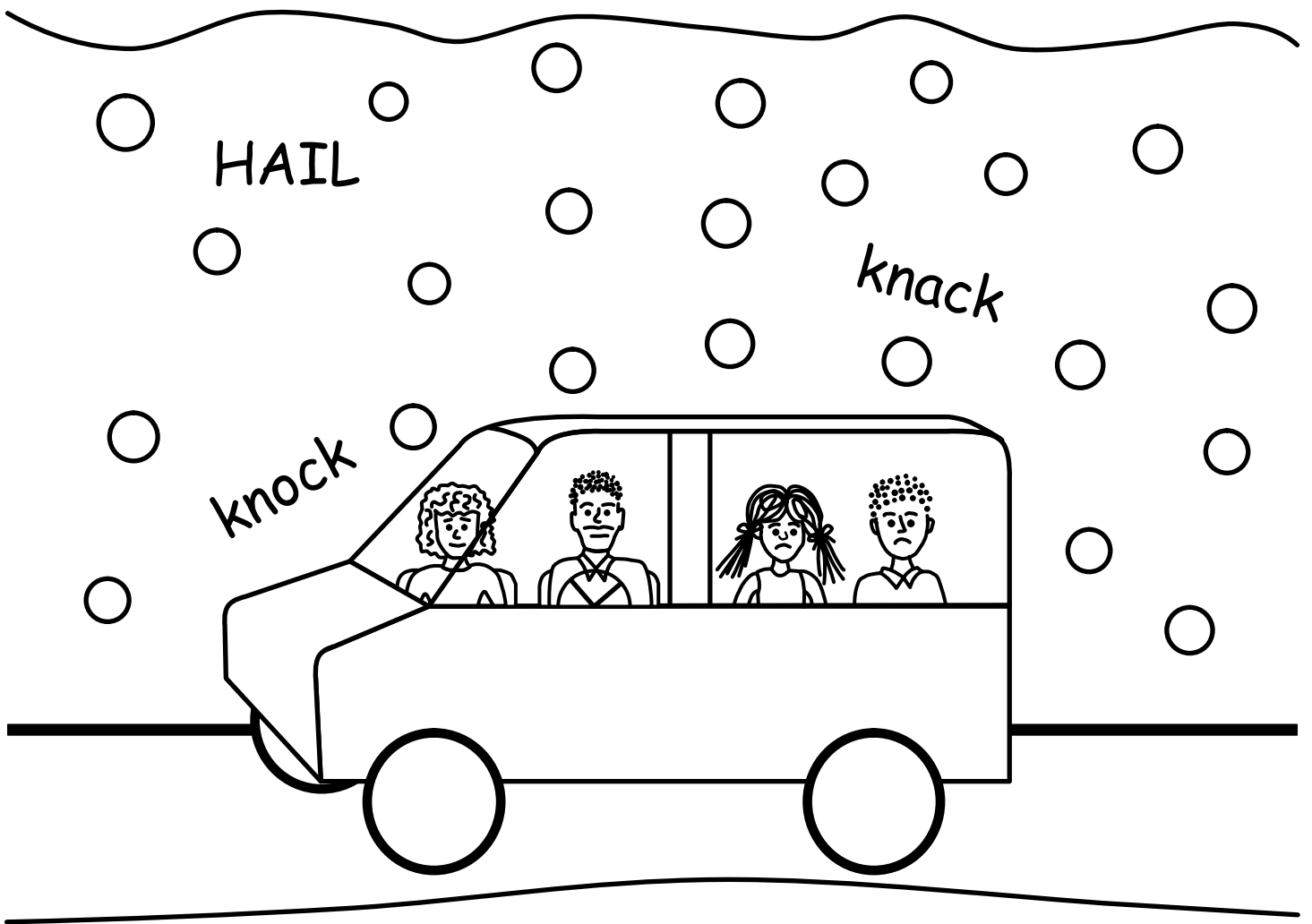
As they were driving, they noticed a storm forming nearby. Billy and Maria wondered if the storm was severe. Billy's mom turned on the van radio to listen for any reports about the storm.



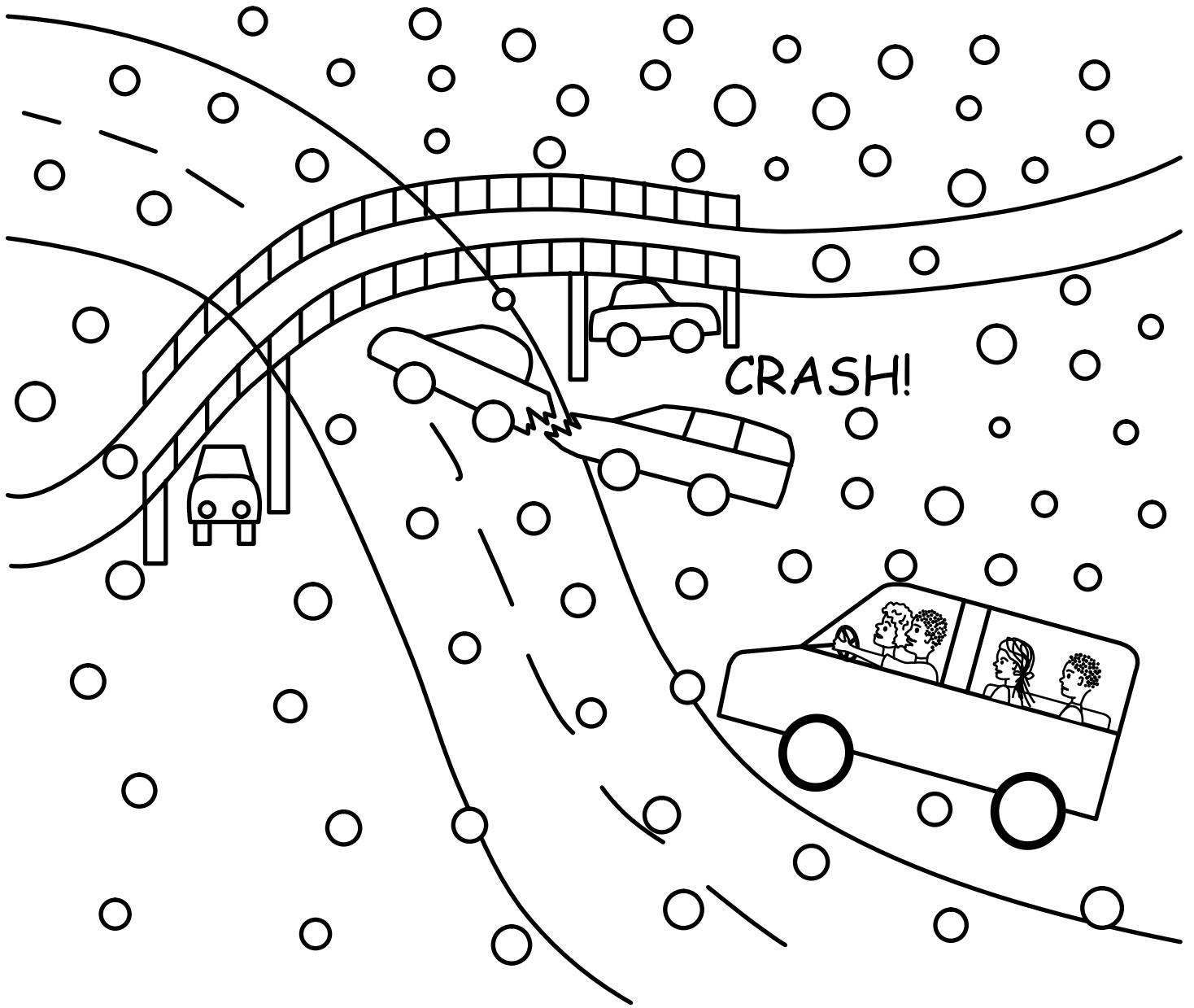
They heard the voice on the radio say the storm was severe. This meant there could be strong winds with the storm. It also meant there could be hail the size of dimes or larger. Billy and Maria would have to keep an eye on the storm since it looked like the storm was moving toward them.



Suddenly, it started to rain very hard. Billy's dad could hardly see the road. He decided to pull over on the shoulder and turn on the headlights so other drivers could see the van.

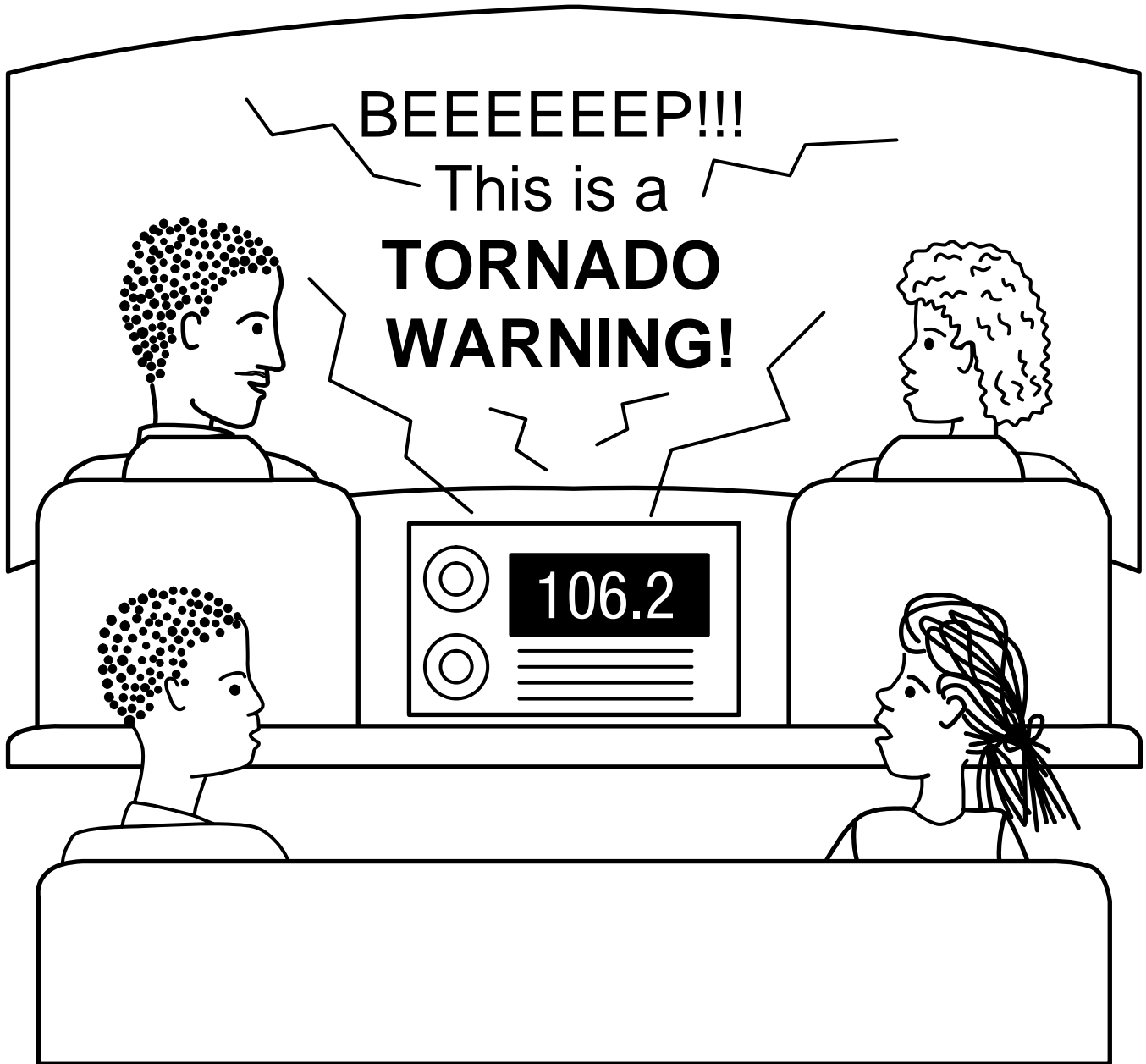


After a few moments, the rain was not falling as hard. They started driving again. Then they heard a noise. Knock, knack, knack. It was hailing outside. Billy's dad slowed the car. He knew that driving fast would cause more hail damage to the van than driving slow or pulling off the road.

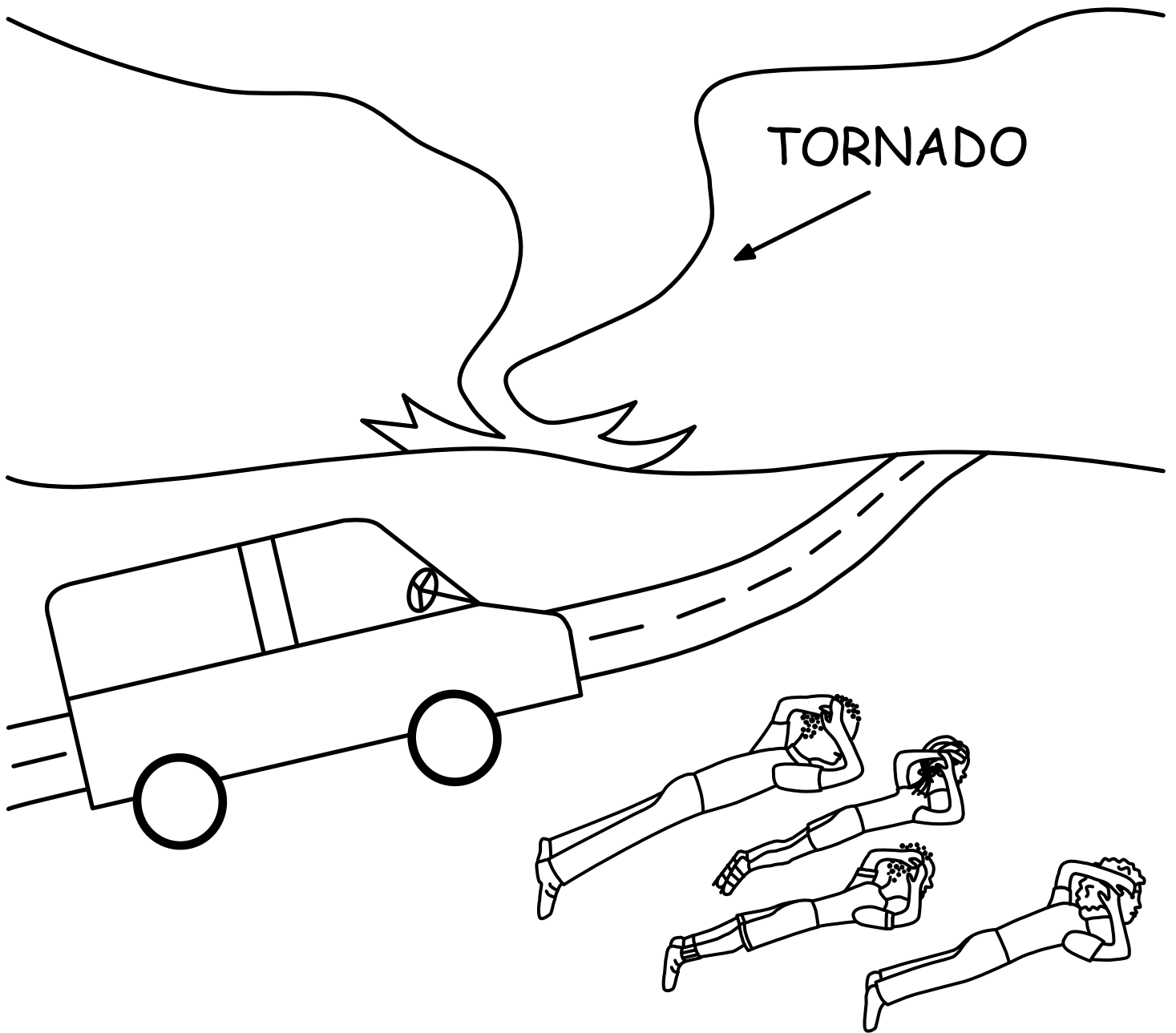


Billy and Maria looked out the van window and saw cars rushing to park underneath a bridge. Unfortunately, someone did not park completely off the road. Another car that was rushing to get away from the hail ran into it and there was a big CRASH!

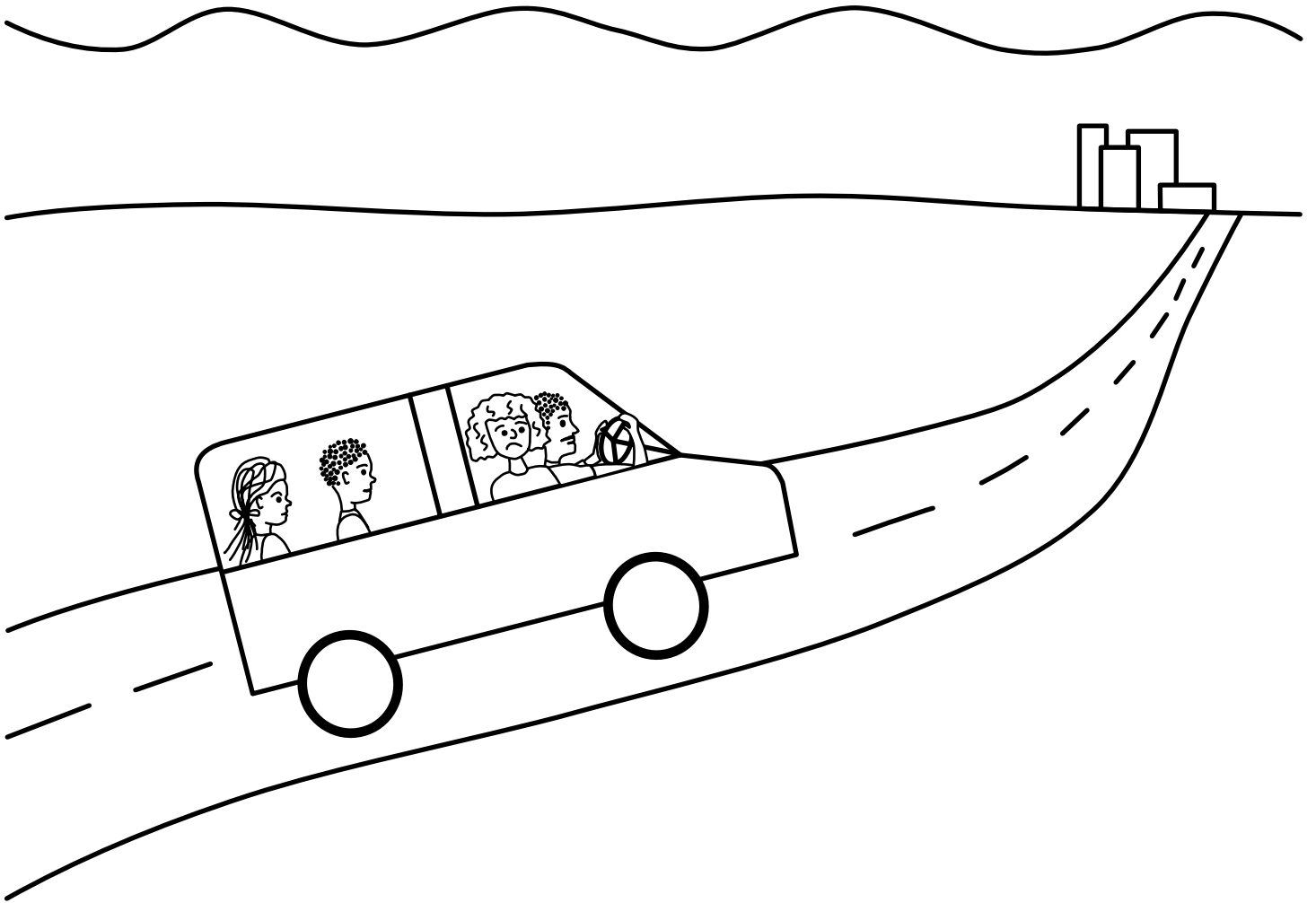




While Billy and Maria were watching the crashed cars, an alarm sounded on the radio. BEEEEEEP. "This is a tornado warning! A tornado has been spotted close to I-35 and the town of Andover. Take cover immediately!" the voice on the radio said.



Billy and Maria looked out the window and saw the tornado. Billy's mom spied a nearby ditch for them to run to for safety. They lay down flat in the ditch and protected their heads with their hands.



The tornado passed near them. Some of the cars that were parked under the bridge were blown over. Luckily, no one was hurt badly. Everyone got back in the van. They heard the tornado had hit the town where Billy's cousin Henry lived. Billy and Maria were glad they were all right, but now it was time to check on Henry.

## NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was established as part of the Department of Commerce on October 3, 1970. NOAA Mission responsibilities are to assess the socioeconomic impact of natural and technological changes in the environment and to monitor and predict the state of the solid Earth, the oceans and their living resources, the atmosphere, and the space environment of the Earth.

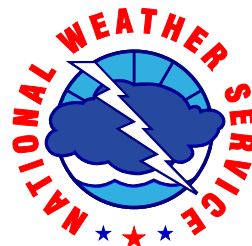
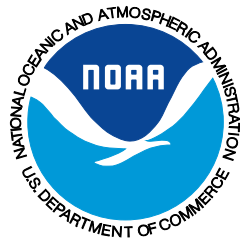
## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

An 1870 act of Congress created the U.S. Weather Bureau under the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Subsequent Congressional action in October 1890 placed the Weather Bureau under the Department of Agriculture. The Weather Bureau was transferred to the Department of Commerce in 1940. In 1965, the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA), which included the Weather Bureau, was created under the Department of Commerce. Still operating under ESSA, the Weather Bureau was renamed the National Weather Service in 1967. ESSA became the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1970.

" The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information data base which can be used by other governmental agencies and the private sector. "

## NATIONAL SEVERE STORMS LABORATORY

"The National Severe Storms Laboratory, in partnership with the National Weather Service, enhances NOAA's mission through a balanced program of research to advance the understanding of weather processes, research to improve forecasting and warning techniques, development of operational applications, and transfer of understanding, techniques, and applications to the National Weather Service and other public and private sector agencies."



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