

## The flying bathtub

**This is a story our mother told us on a stormy day.**

“It happened on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2005. One of the strongest tornadoes I’ve seen in nearly 30 years damaged (*zerstören*) parts of Birmingham. It carved a long strip through the city. The tornado picked up motorbikes and cars and carried them through the air like leaves from a tree. Three people were seriously injured (*schwer verletzt*).

When I heard the sirens, I took you and your sister by the hand, Anne took Pinkie, and we rushed downstairs into the cellar. But your Dad was still upstairs in the bathroom. He was sitting in the bathtub (*Badewanne*)

and was enjoying his bath when he heard the siren and a loud bang. He thought an ambulance or a police car was crashing into the house. Well, the tornado struck our house and blew the roof away. The roof was gone and now Dad was taking his bath outside in the garden! All that happened in a few seconds.

He looked so funny sitting in the empty tub. He didn’t leave the tub because he didn’t want his neighbours to see him naked. I gave him a towel and he climbed out of the tub. We were happy that he wasn’t badly hurt. He only broke his left thumb (*Daumen*). I regret (*bedauern*) that I didn’t take a photo of him.”



### Task 1

Are these statements true, false or not in the text?

1. Mum told us the story on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2005.
2. The tornado damaged some parts of the city.
3. The tornado carried away a part of our garden.
4. Pinkie was our cat.
5. Dad was having a shower in the bathroom.
6. The tornado blew away the roof and the bathtub.
7. There was no water left in the bathtub.

true	false	not in the text

### Task 2

Highlight the phrases that have almost the same meaning as the ones in the story.

- |                        |                    |                     |                       |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. nearly 30 years     | a) about 30 years  | b) exactly 30 years | c) more than 30 years |
| 2. a loud bang         | a) a loud scream   | b) a loud noise     | c) an explosion       |
| 3. seriously injured   | a) dead            | b) very ill         | c) badly hurt         |
| 4. rush downstairs     | a) walk downstairs | b) run downstairs   | c) go downstairs      |
| 5. it struck our house | a) it hit it       | b) it made it dirty | c) it ruined it       |

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## Task 3

Take the role of Anne's father and answer the doctor's questions for him.

Doctor: Now, what's the problem, Mr Pratt?

Father: I've \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> my \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> thumb.

Doctor: When did that happen?

Father: It happened on \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>.

Doctor: Oh, that was the day of the tornado. Did it do a lot of damage to your house?

Father: Yes, it \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> the roof and the bathtub.

Doctor: Where were you when the tornado hit the house?

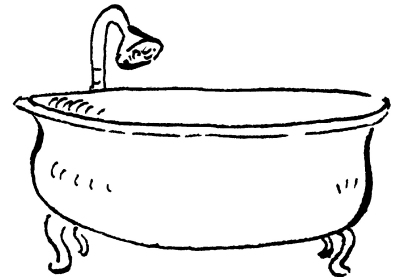
Father: I was still \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>.

Doctor: Why didn't you go downstairs into the cellar? That's safer than a bathroom.

Father: Well, I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> in the bathtub and enjoying a warm bath.

Doctor: How can anyone break a finger or a thumb while he is having a bath?

Father: The storm carried \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> and the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> away.



Doctor: Ha, ha, ha. A flying bathtub! And where did the tornado drop you off (*absetzen*)?

Father: Well, I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> in the garden with a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> thumb.

## Task 4

Read the text again and translate these sentences into English.

1. *Es war der stärkste Tornado in ungefähr dreißig Jahren.*

\_\_\_\_\_

2. *Er riss eine lange Schneise durch die Stadt.*

\_\_\_\_\_

3. *Wir eilten hinunter in den Keller.*

\_\_\_\_\_

## Warm worms are best

When my parents died, I went to live with my Aunt Linda and Uncle Harry in Canada. I remember my first winter there. I didn't go out much. It was too cold and I was lonely and unhappy. One evening we were watching the weather report on TV and Uncle Harry said, "Good weather tomorrow. Let's go fishing."

So after breakfast the next day Uncle Harry and I put on our warmest clothes, long anoraks and fur (*Pelz*) hats. We took a big axe, lots of blankets (*Decken*) and two boxes. We didn't have far to go. There was this big lake at the end of the garden. We walked onto the lake and Uncle Harry made a hole in the ice with the axe. We dropped our fishing lines into the cold water, wrapped ourselves in the blankets and sat on the boxes.

There was this girl near us and she already had three fish. After an hour or so she had eight fish and we had nothing. What was her secret (*Geheimnis*)? "Go over and ask her how she does it," Uncle Harry said. So I walked over and said hello. I pointed to her fish and asked her if she could give us a tip.

"Youmuthkeepyrwormswarm."

"I'm sorry," I told her. "I didn't understand that."

She took this big thermos from under her chair and poured two cups of hot tea. She gave one of the cups to me and she spat (*spuckte*) something into her cup. And then again and again and again. Then she said, "You must keep your worms warm. Warm worms are the best." And then she smiled and suddenly she was the prettiest girl I had ever seen. "I'm Jemima Morgan," she told me. "We're neighbours. And you must be Trevor, the boy from England. We'll be in the same grade (*Klassenstufe*) when you start school in the spring." And for the first time in that long, cold winter I smiled, too.

### Task 1

Read the text and answer these questions.

1. Why is Trevor in Canada?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why does Trevor smile again?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does a thermos do?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you think this story is really about? Choose an alternative title.

Winters in Canada

Ice fishing

Death and sadness

Loneliness

Life goes on

