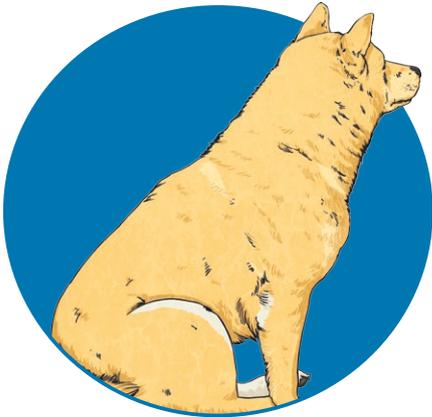




An Extract from

Dodge and the Tornado



Dodge tilted his head to the wind and sniffed the air. It smelt dry and dusty like it always did just before it rained. He listened. A strange roar rumbled in the distance, like a heavy train thundering down the track. He tilted his head again, trying to get a better view but the buildings were in his way. He looked along the street towards the park, then back towards the underpass where he had sheltered for the night. Strange, he thought. No humans. That was never a good sign.

The roar was getting louder. He scampered up the hill to get a better view. Raising his front paws against an old bin, Dodge stared over the buildings towards the vast plains of the American Midwest. There, in the near-distance, tearing up everything in its path and reaching high into the sky like a giant spinning-top, was a raging mass of swirling wind. He'd seen something like this before - the humans called them tornadoes - but this one was the biggest yet, and it was headed straight for the town. Dodge made a little whimpering noise and sprinted towards the underpass.

The wind was getting stronger. Leaves, rubbish and old plastic bags danced in circles in the air as Dodge darted between them. Trees bent unnaturally on the street-side and tiles torn from roofs landed like missiles on the road. Dodge focused on the underpass. It was a strong-looking bridge made to carry heavy lorries. If he could make it there, he would be safe. The roar of the tornado was louder than ever now; the sound of ripping metal adding to the deafening noise as the wind whipped at his fur. He weaved through a mist of dust and rubble and with a huge leap dived into the underpass. He nuzzled under his blanket, clenching it with his teeth. With his eyes tightly shut and with the tornado raging around him, he wondered where Banjo was.

Dodge could feel all sorts of things hitting him. They were small at first, like wrappers and pieces of cardboard but they were getting larger and starting to hurt. He opened his eyes slightly. Dark clouds hung angrily over the buildings and he could see a huge column of wind spinning down the street towards him. It was ripping and tearing at anything in its path. Cars were tossed around the street like toys, windows were smashed and whole branches were torn from trees. The sound was unbelievably scary and loud.

Dodge whimpered and held his front paws over his eyes. He just needed to stay put and wait for the tornado to go away. Then he would find Banjo and everything would be alright again. He was safe where he was. The underpass was made of steel and bricks. The tornado wasn't that strong... was it?

Something hard thudded into his side and he yelped. He turned in time to watch his blanket disappear into the swirling wind. He covered and lowered his head. The twisting column was almost at the mouth of the underpass now – metres away – screaming and thundering with rage. The bridge trembled and the ground vibrated like an earthquake. Stones kept spitting and whipping into Dodge's body and he could feel the pull of the tornado as it tried to suck him into its grasp.

It was no good. It wasn't safe here after all. He felt as if the entire bridge was about to collapse at any moment. Dodge spun around and sprinted away from the storm.

That's when he heard it. A familiar sound. Something he couldn't ignore. He stopped and turned around again, staring into the mass of destruction as it spat stones, glass and tin cans like bullets around his head. Dodge took a deep breath, slowly stepped forward and stared into the eye of the tornado.

There it was again. That sound. He couldn't wait any longer. In an instant, Dodge was running towards the tornado. Towards danger.

As he approached the mouth of the underpass – where the tornado was at its strongest - Dodge began to accelerate. He was small, but he had always been fast. If he was quick enough, perhaps he could dart through the tornado without getting sucked in. Just as he was about to hit the column of spinning wind, Dodge closed his eyes and leapt forward.

Boomff!

The tornado grabbed him, twirling and tossing him through the air. It roared at him, screamed at him, twisting his body this way then that way. Heavy lumps thumped at his chest, legs and head. Up he went, weightless and dizzy, spinning wildly. But despite the tornado's tight grip, Dodge could feel himself slipping free.



Suddenly, the tornado released him. He was hurtling downwards now. He opened his eyes to find himself way above the buildings! He looked down. The roof of a nearby building was close. Too close. He was going to crash straight through it. Before he had time to think, Dodge landed, rolling and summersaulting along a partly destroyed roof, then onto his paws. He pounced up and carried on sprinting through the storm, dashing across a wooden beam, then leaping onto a lower building. Within three steps he had jumped to a window ledge, then bounded off a nearby wall to land safely on all fours in the middle of the street. He peered around. It looked like a bomb had hit it.

Dodge smelt the air, out of breath and bruised. He tilted his head. The scream of the tornado had lessened, but he wasn't listening for that.

There. There was that sound again. Dodge sprinted into a nearby building and down some stairs. It was dark and the sound began to get louder. Dodge stopped again, sniffing the floor. He was relying on his sense of smell now. He picked up the scent and bounded along a corridor of broken furniture and flickering lights.

As he turned the corner, he found what he had been looking for. There, trapped under a heap of fallen shelves and wooden cabinets, was an old man whistling his special tune. Dodge squeaked with happiness and licked the man's face.

He had found Banjo.

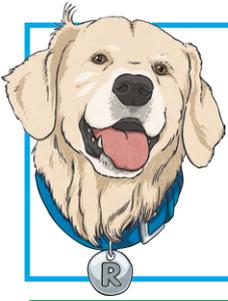


Q1: What kind of creature do you think Dodge is?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Q2: *'Strange, he thought. No humans. That was never a good sign.'*

Why did Dodge think that seeing no humans was a bad sign?



Q3: In which country is this story set?

Q4: Why did Dodge choose to hide underneath the underpass?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



Q5: *'The tornado wasn't that strong... was it?'*

By writing in this way, what effect has the author created?



Q6: *'Dodge began to accelerate.'*

In this sentence, what does the word accelerate mean?



Q7: *'He was relying on his sense of smell now.'*

Why did Dodge rely solely on his sense of smell?





Q8: Name two things that Banjo was trapped under.

- _____
- _____

Q9: Do you think Dodge has an owner? Give a reason for your answer.



Q10: How are Dodge and Banjo similar? Give two reasons.

1) _____



2) _____

Q11: What do you think that Dodge did next? Explain your answer.



Q12: Sum up the key points of this text in 30 words or less.





Dodge and the Tornado **Answers**

Q1: What kind of creature do you think Dodge is? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept the answer 'dog' provided that evidence from the text is used in support, such as:

- **I think Dodge is a dog because it says that he 'raised his front paws' and that he 'landed safely on all fours'. Dogs have paws and four legs.**
- **Dodge is a dog because the text says that he sniffed the floor and followed the scent, which is something that dogs do.**

Q2: 'Strange, he thought. No humans. That was never a good sign.'

Why did Dodge think that seeing no humans was a bad sign?

Accept answers relating to the fact that the humans were purposefully avoiding the area due to something they knew about but Dodge did not, such as:

- **Dodge knew that the area was normally busy and it must mean that the humans were hiding from something he did not know about.**
- **Dodge thought that the humans would only be staying away if something dangerous was about to happen.**
- **Dodge knew that humans would not go into this area if there was a good reason to stay away so it was a bad sign for him that he was there.**

Q3: In which country is this story set?

Accept the answers 'America', 'North America', 'United States of America' or 'USA'.

Q4: Why did Dodge choose to hide underneath the underpass?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept answers relating to the fact that Dodge thought that the underpass was strong enough to withstand the tornado, providing that relevant evidence from the text is also provided, such as:

- **Dodge thought that the underpass 'was a strong-looking bridge made to carry heavy lorries' so he thought it would be strong enough to withstand the tornado.**
- **The text says that the underpass was 'made of steel and bricks' and so Dodge knew that it would be strong and stay firm in the storm.**

Q5: 'The tornado wasn't that strong... was it?'

By writing in this way, what effect has the author created?

Accept reasonable answers which discuss creating the concept of doubt and suspense, such as:

- **By using a rhetorical question, the author has made the reader question whether or not the tornado was stronger than Dodge thought.**
- **The rhetorical question makes the reader begin to doubt that Dodge is safe beneath the underpass.**
- **This sentence makes the reader question whether or not Dodge is safe so it builds suspense in the story.**

Q6: 'Dodge began to accelerate.'

In this sentence, what does the word accelerate mean?

Accept any reasonable definition of the word accelerate based on its context in the story. The following, and their synonyms, are accepted:

- **speed up**
- **get quicker**
- **hurry**
- **run**

Q7: 'He was relying on his sense of smell now.'

Why did Dodge rely solely on his sense of smell?

Accept answers which discuss that Dodge could not see what he was looking for and smell was his only lead, or answers which discuss that dogs use their sense of smell to track down prey, such as:

- **Dodge relied on his sense of smell because he could not see the source of the noise.**
- **It says that the building was dark so Dodge might not have been able to see but dogs have a good sense of smell so he used that instead.**
- **Dodge was more confident using his good sense of smell because he could not see and could not tell where the noise was coming from.**

Q8: Name two things that Banjo was trapped under.

Accept the following answers only:

- **(a heap of fallen) shelves**
- **(wooden) cabinets**

Q9: Do you think Dodge has an owner? Give a reason for your answer.

Accept either yes or no as an answer provided that a reasonable justification based on the text is given in support, e.g.

Yes because:

- **He has a blanket and someone who cares for him must have bought that.**
- **He keeps thinking about someone called Banjo who he cares about.**
- **Banjo whistles Dodge's 'special tune', which shows they know each other well.**
- **Dodge was very happy when he saw Banjo and licked his face, showing that they are close.**

No because...

- **He is living on the streets.**
- **He does not have a safe place to go inside during the storm.**
- **Nobody comes looking for him when the storm starts.**

Q10: How are Dodge and Banjo similar? Give two reasons.

Accept any feasible similarity mentioned or inferred by the text, including:

- **They had both been caught up in the storm.**
- **They had both been hurt by the tornado / its debris.**
- **They had both lost each other.**
- **They both knew the familiar tune.**

Q11: What do you think that Dodge did next? Explain your answer.

Accept any reasonable prediction based on the fact that he had found Banjo trapped under debris, such as:

- **Dodge might try to pull the shelves and cabinets off Banjo to free him.**
- **Dodge might bark until someone comes to help.**
- **Dodge might go off in search of help from a human or another animal.**
- **Dodge might stay and comfort Banjo until help arrives.**

Q12: Sum up the key points of this text in 30 words or less.

Accept any summary of the text, which covers the key points of the tornado and Banjo in 30 words or less, such as:

'During a tornado, a dog called Dodge left the underpass and followed a familiar sound to find his friend Banjo who was trapped under some rubble.'