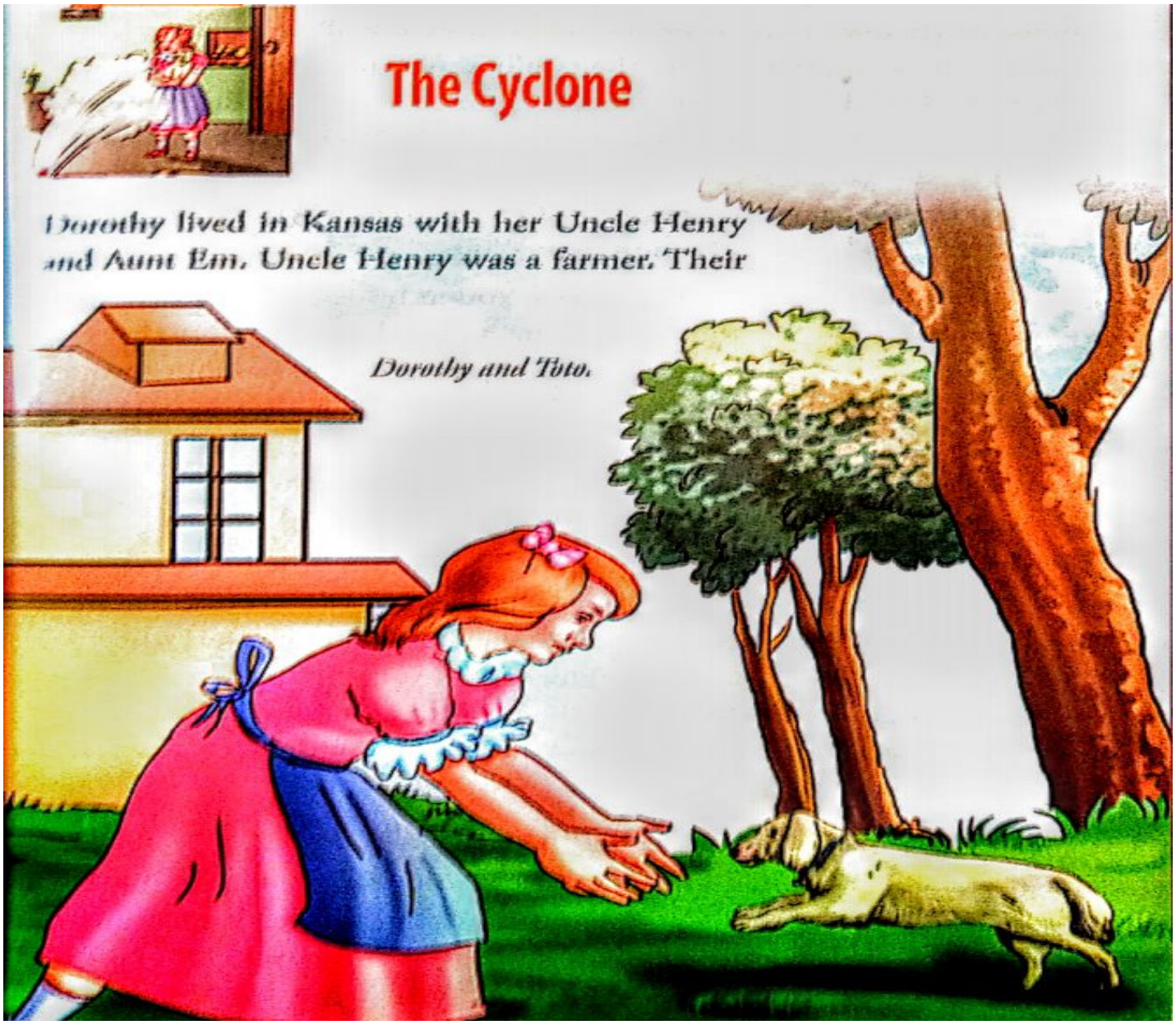
STEPPING STONE SCHOOL (HIGH)

**CLASS: VIII**

**Worksheet - IX**

**Subject: English** **Date: 06-05-2020**

**Topic: Comprehension** **Time Limit: 40 mins**



house was small with very little furniture. There was an old cooking stove, a cupboard for keeping the dishes, a table, four chairs and beds. The house had neither a basement nor a cellar, only a small hole in the ground called a **cyclone** cellar, where the family took protection against those great **whirlwinds**. There was a trapdoor in the middle of the floor, from where a ladder led down into a small dark hole. If Dorothy stood at the doorway she could see the countryside, flat land, the great **prairie** everywhere. Not a tree or a house could be seen anywhere. Even the grass was not green; they were the same grey colour.

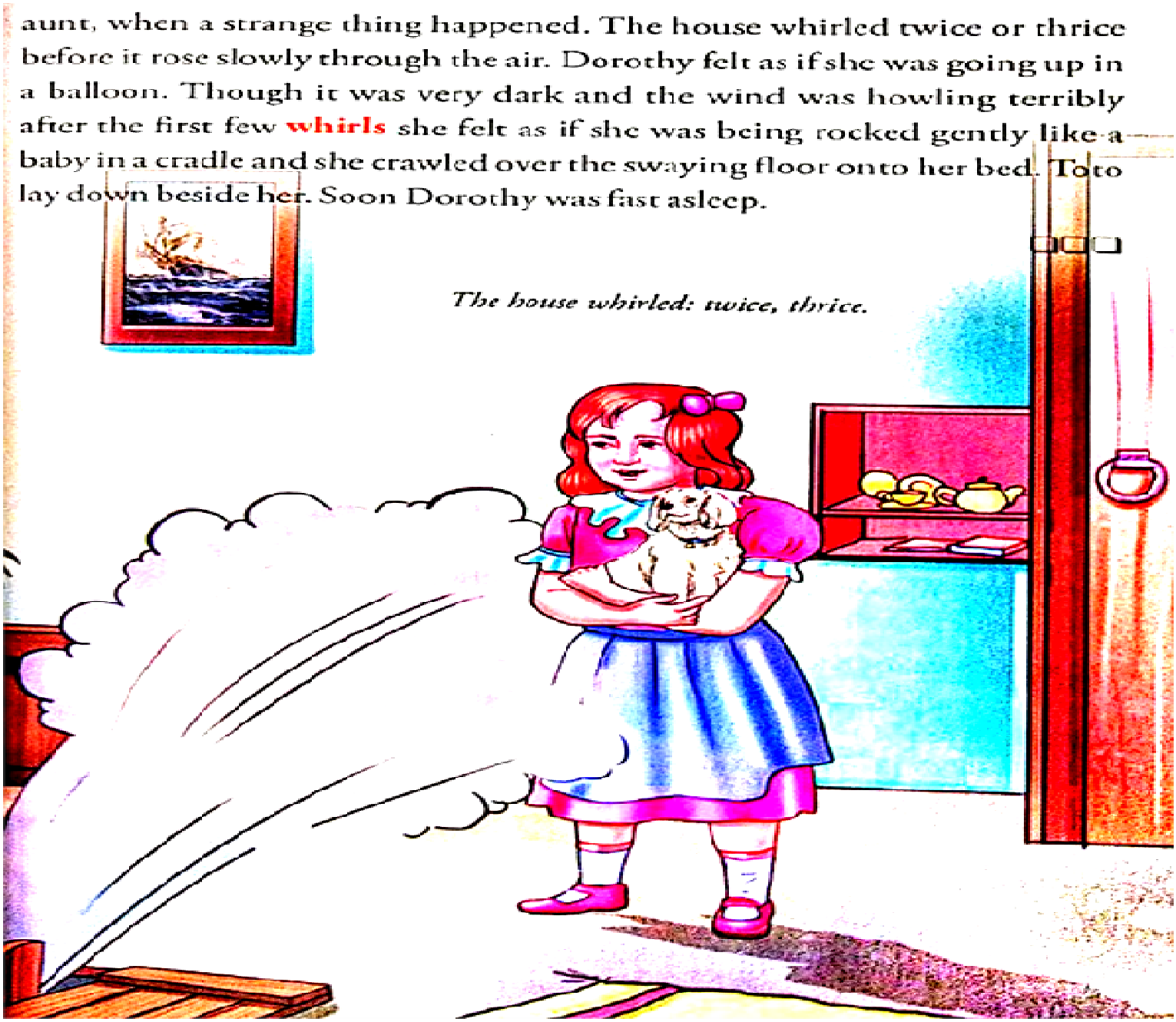
When Aunt Em had come there as a young bride, she had been very pretty, but the sun and wind had changed her. The sparkle from her eyes had left, the redness from her cheeks had gone, and she was thin and grey now. When Dorothy, an orphan, had first come to her, she was startled by the child's laughter and even now she still looked at the little girl with wonder that she could find anything to laugh at over there. Uncle Henry never smiled. He worked very hard and looked stern and solemn.

It was Toto who made Dorothy laugh. Toto was a little black dog with silky hair and small black eyes. He had a funny **wee** looking nose. Dorothy and Toto played all day long, but today, Uncle Henry was looking anxiously at the sky. Suddenly he yelled, "There's a cyclone coming, I'll go and see to the horses and cows", and he ran towards the shed. Aunt Em stopped working and she came to the door. One look told her that danger was close by.

"Quick Dorothy," she screamed, "run for the cellar."

Toto suddenly ran under the bed and Dorothy ran to get him. Aunt Em had already opened the trapdoor and climbed down the ladder into the small dark hole. Dorothy caught hold of Toto and started to follow her

aunt, when a strange thing happened. The house whirled twice or thrice before it rose slowly through the air. Dorothy felt as if she was going up in a balloon. Though it was very dark and the wind was howling terribly after the first few **whirls** she felt as if she was being rocked gently like a baby in a cradle and she crawled over the swaying floor onto her bed. Toto lay down beside her. Soon Dorothy was fast asleep.



*The house whirled: twice, thrice.*

***Now copy the meanings and the questions on a sheet of paper date wise and keep them filed to be submitted on the opening day***

***MEANINGS:***

***Cyclone:*** violent typical storm
***Whirlwinds:*** strong wind that makes things twist and turn
***Prairie:*** Grassland
***Wee:*** small
***Whirls:*** moving round and round

***ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:***

1) Describe the farm house where Dorothy lived?
2) Who was Toto? How did he look?
3) What happened when Dorothy tried to get to the trapdoor?