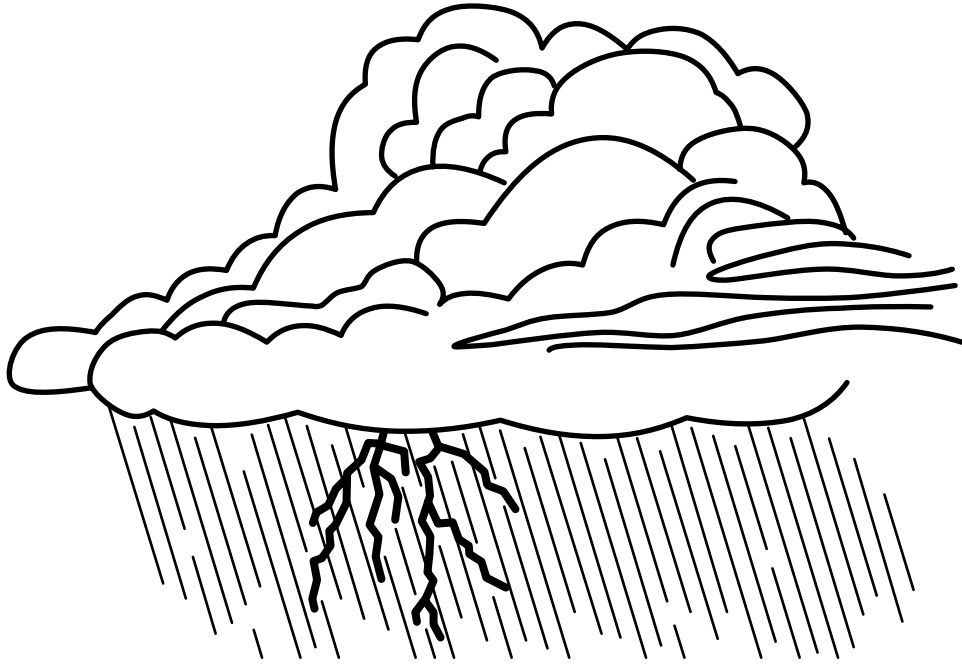
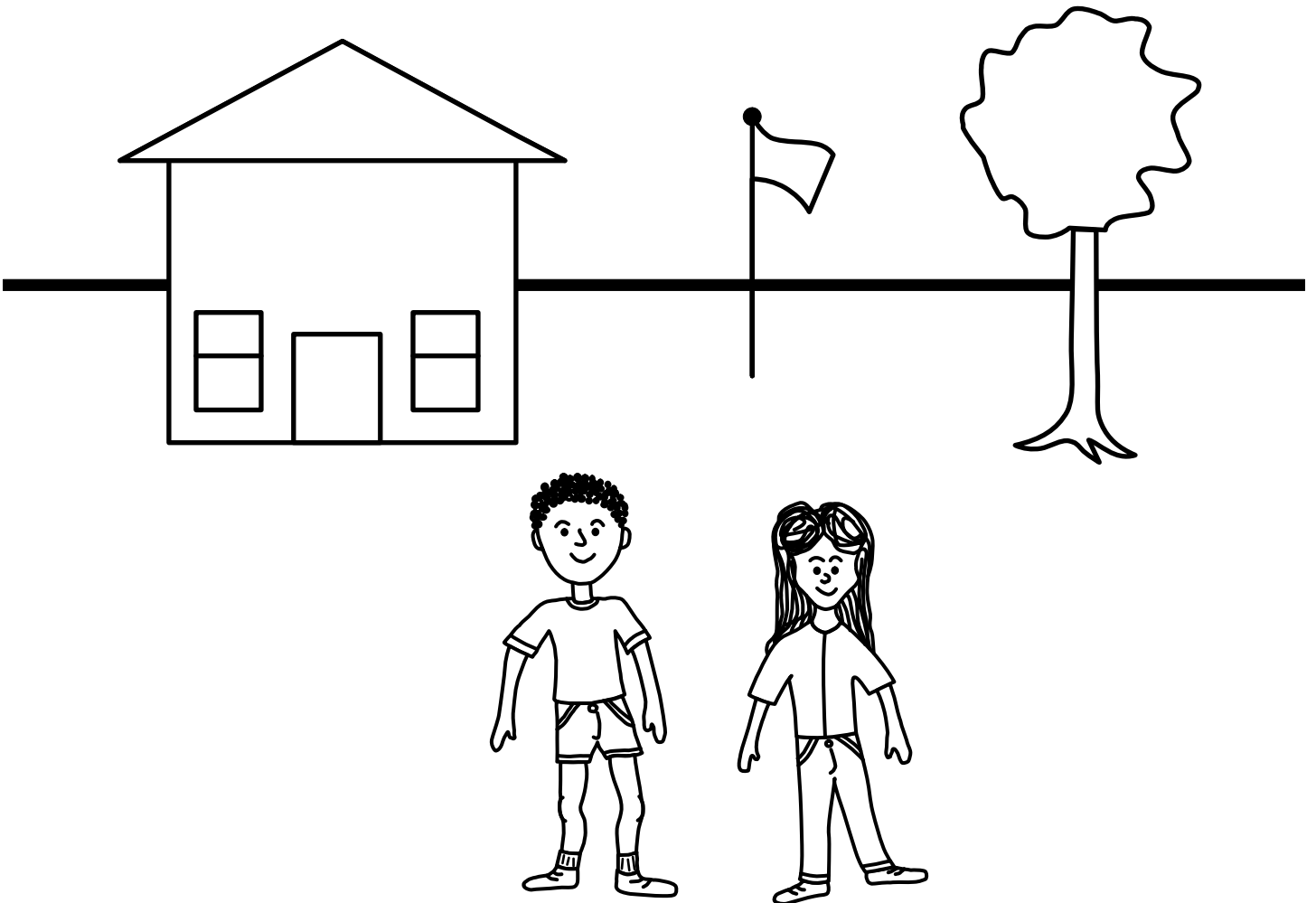


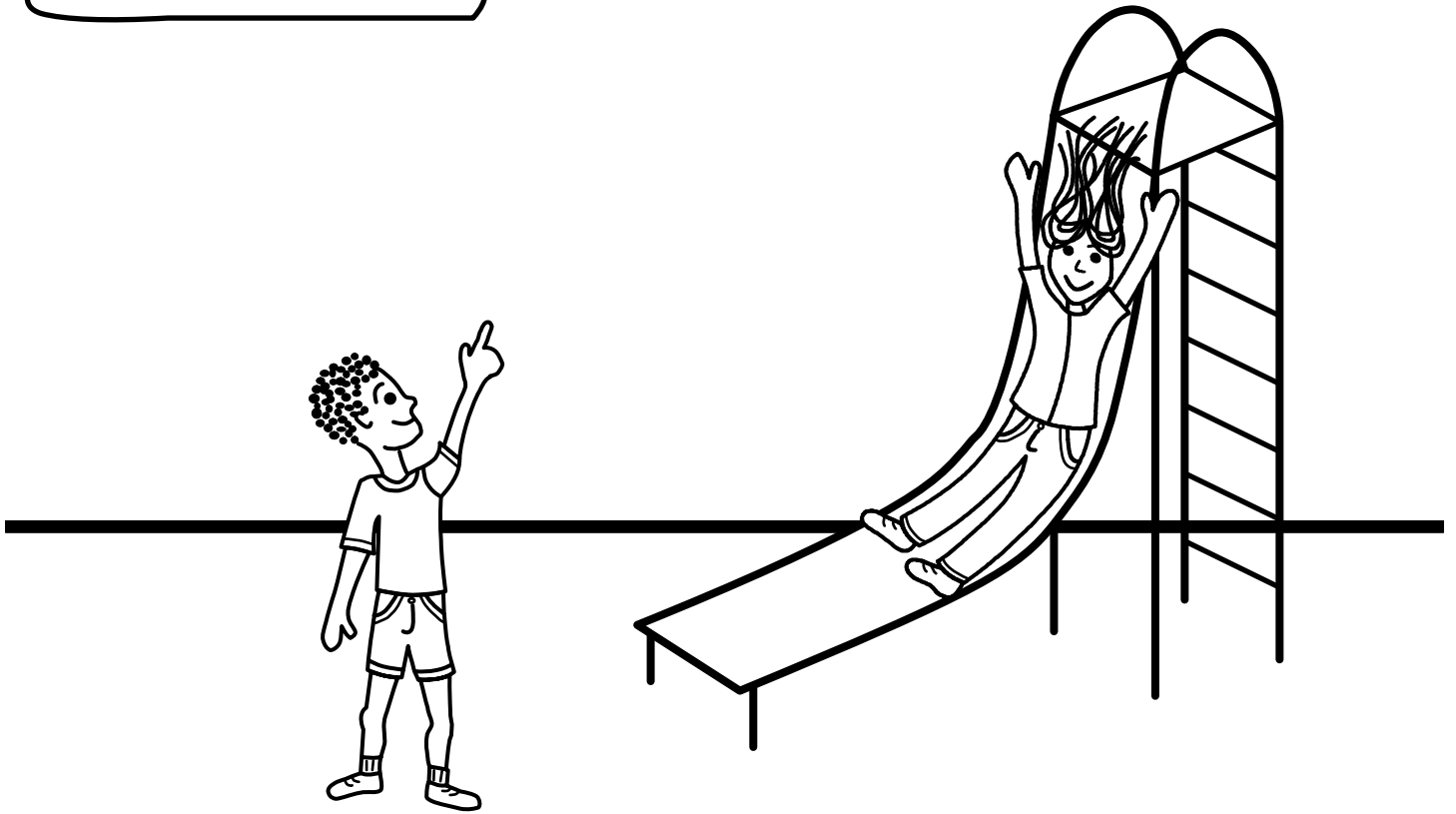
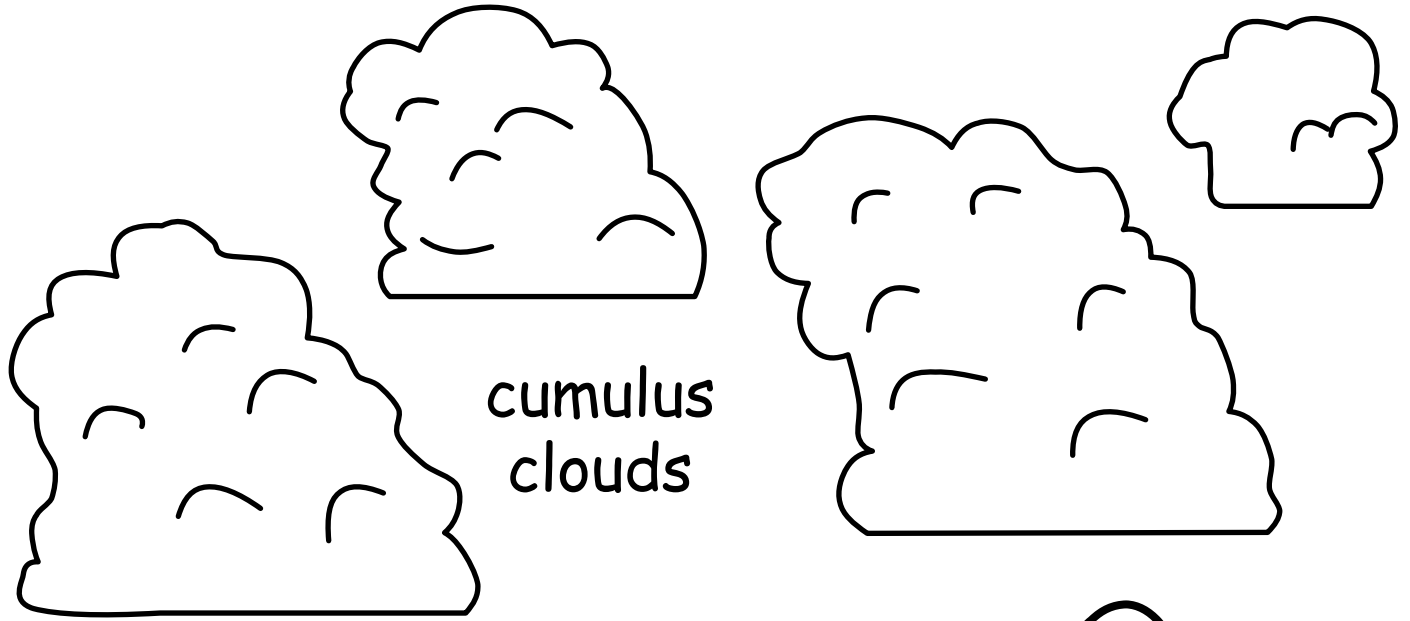
Series: 95-02



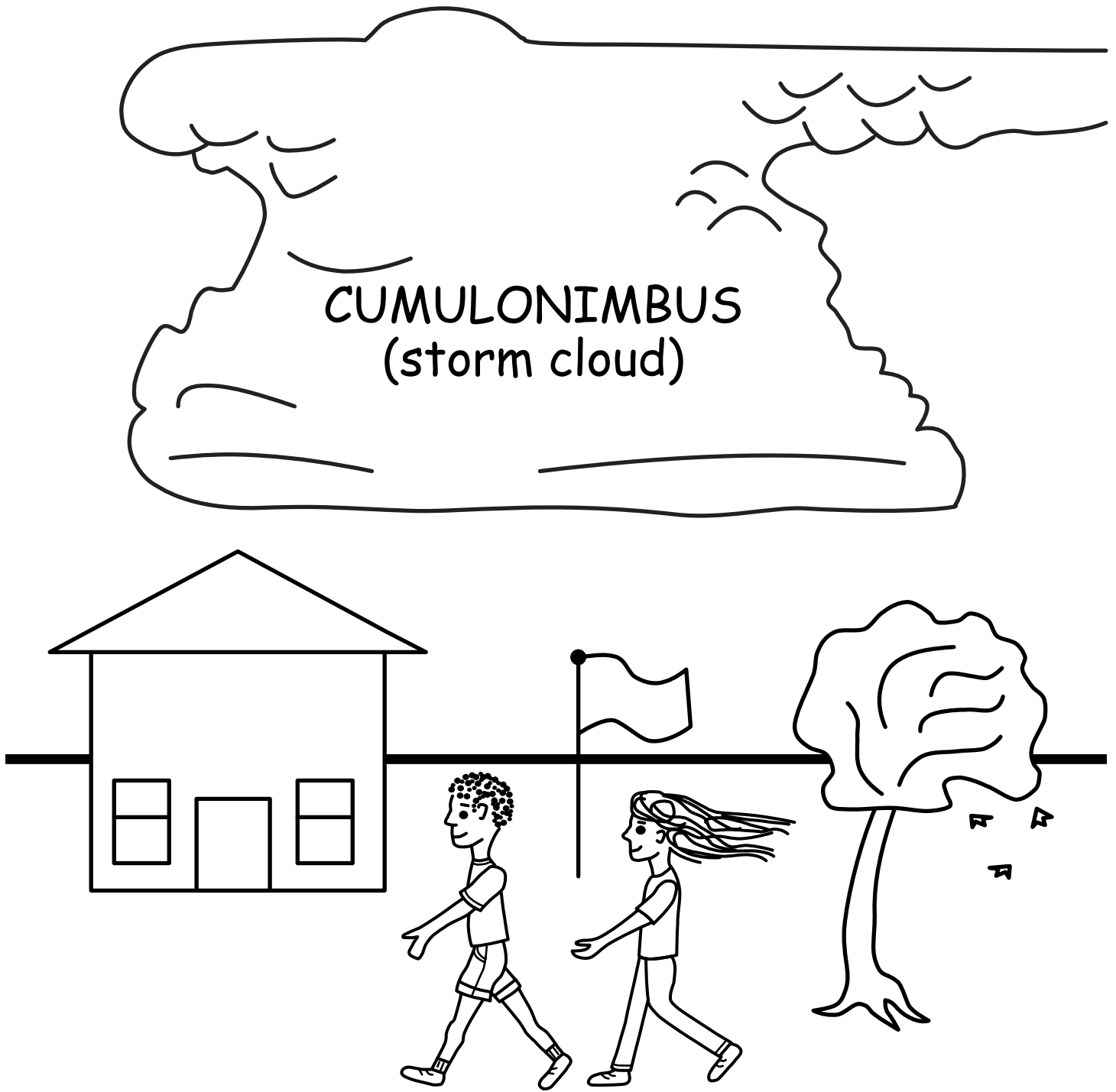
# **Billy, Maria, and the Thunderstorm**

# Billy, Maria, and the Thunderstorm

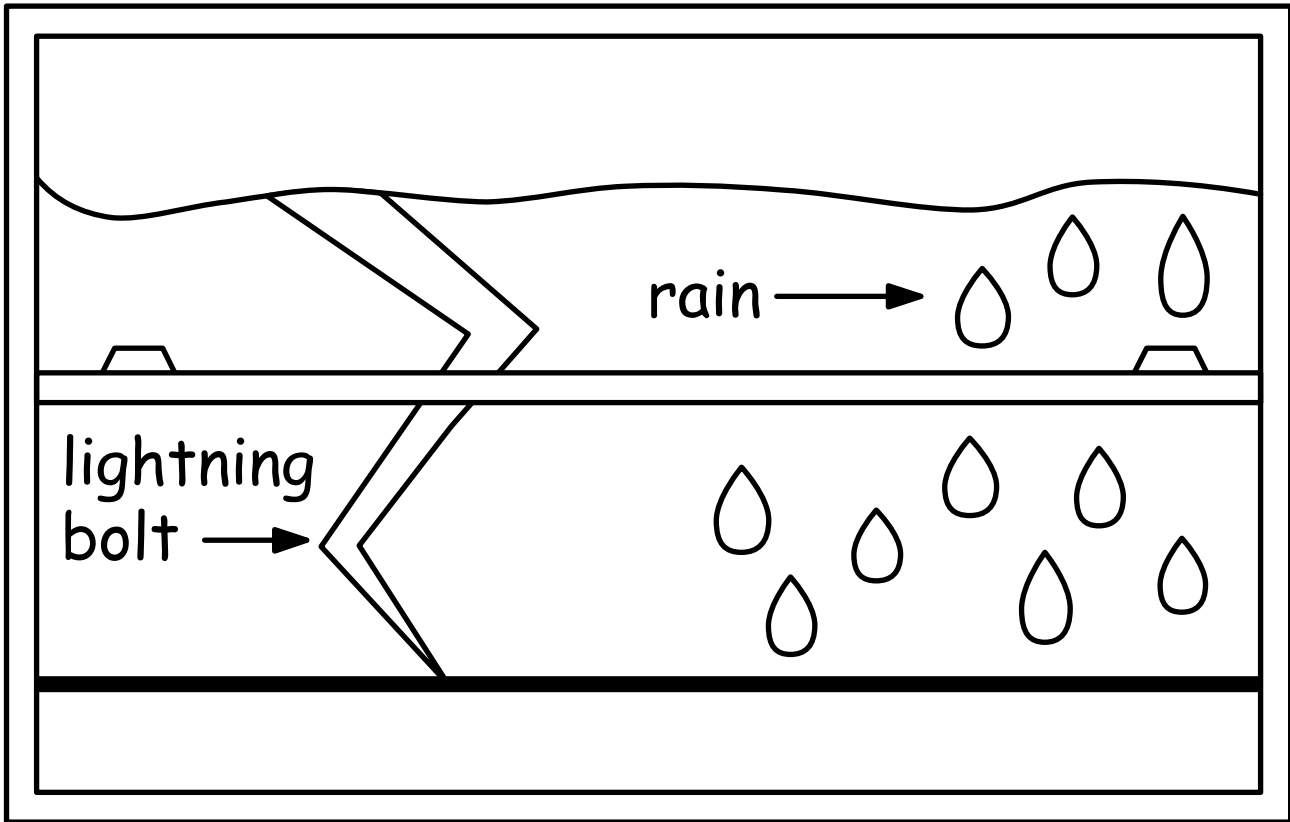




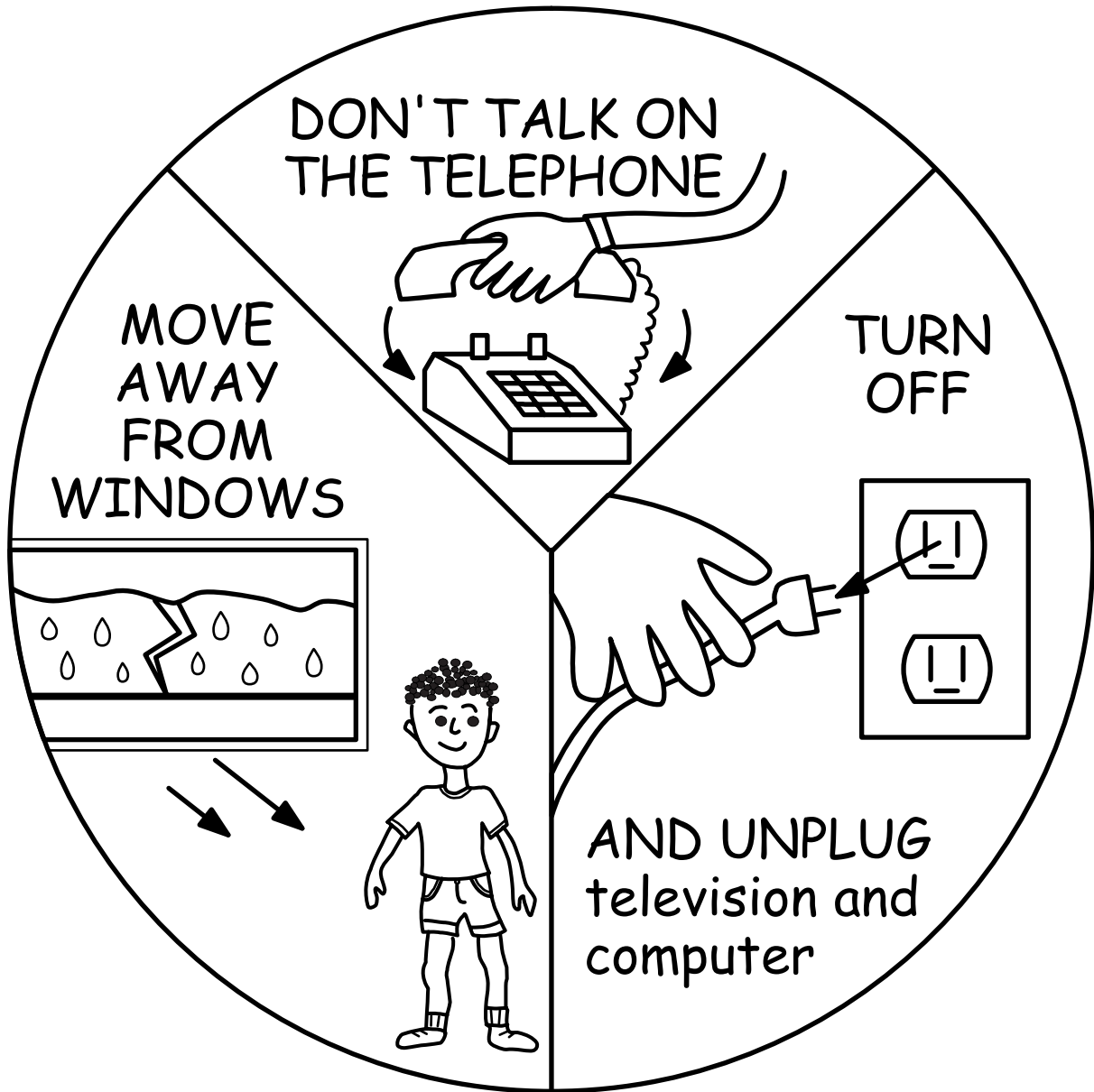
Billy and Maria were playing outside one afternoon when they noticed big, fluffy, cumulus clouds forming.



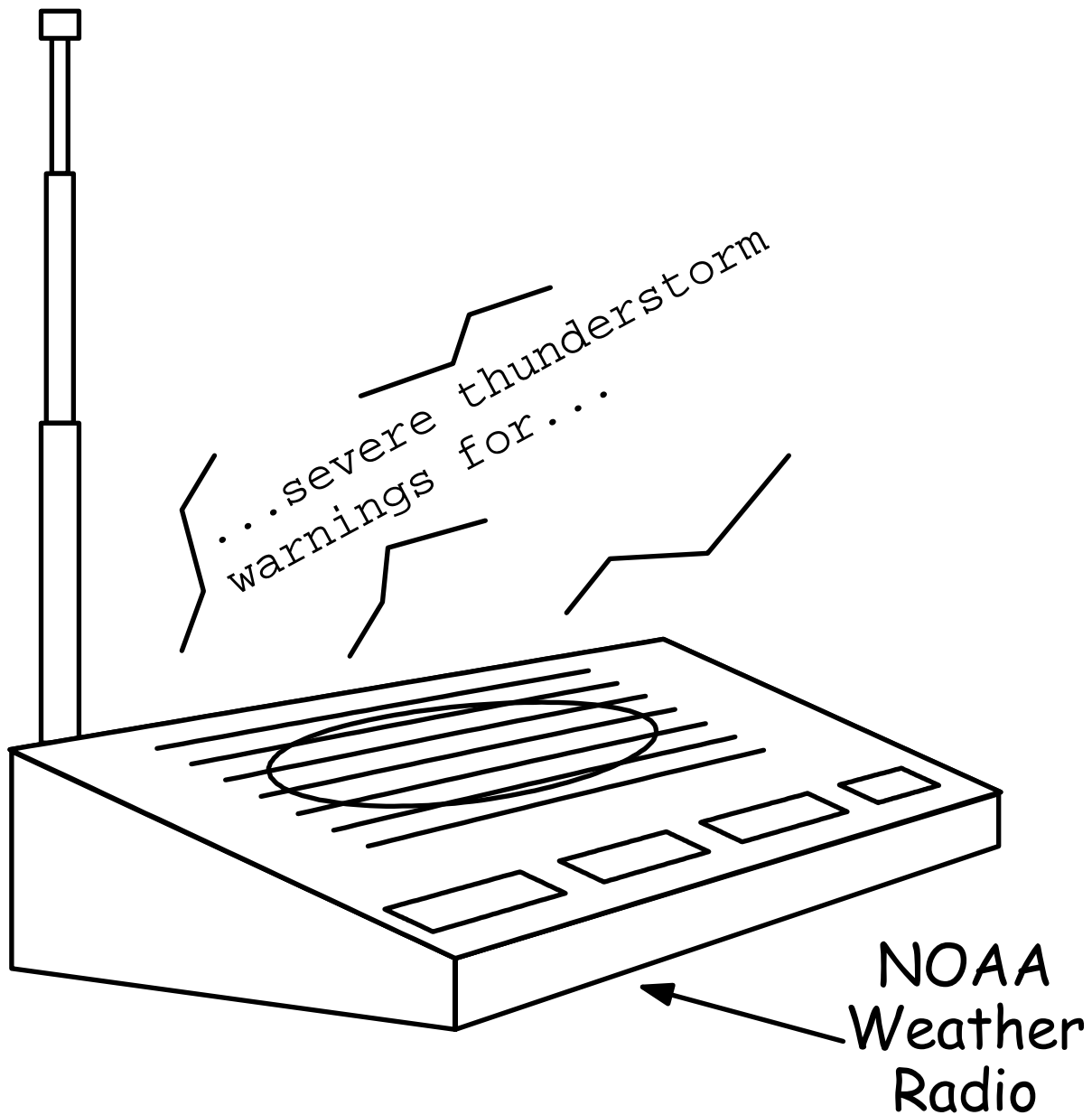
Before long there was a large storm within view. Maria and Billy decided to go inside since the wind was beginning to get very strong.



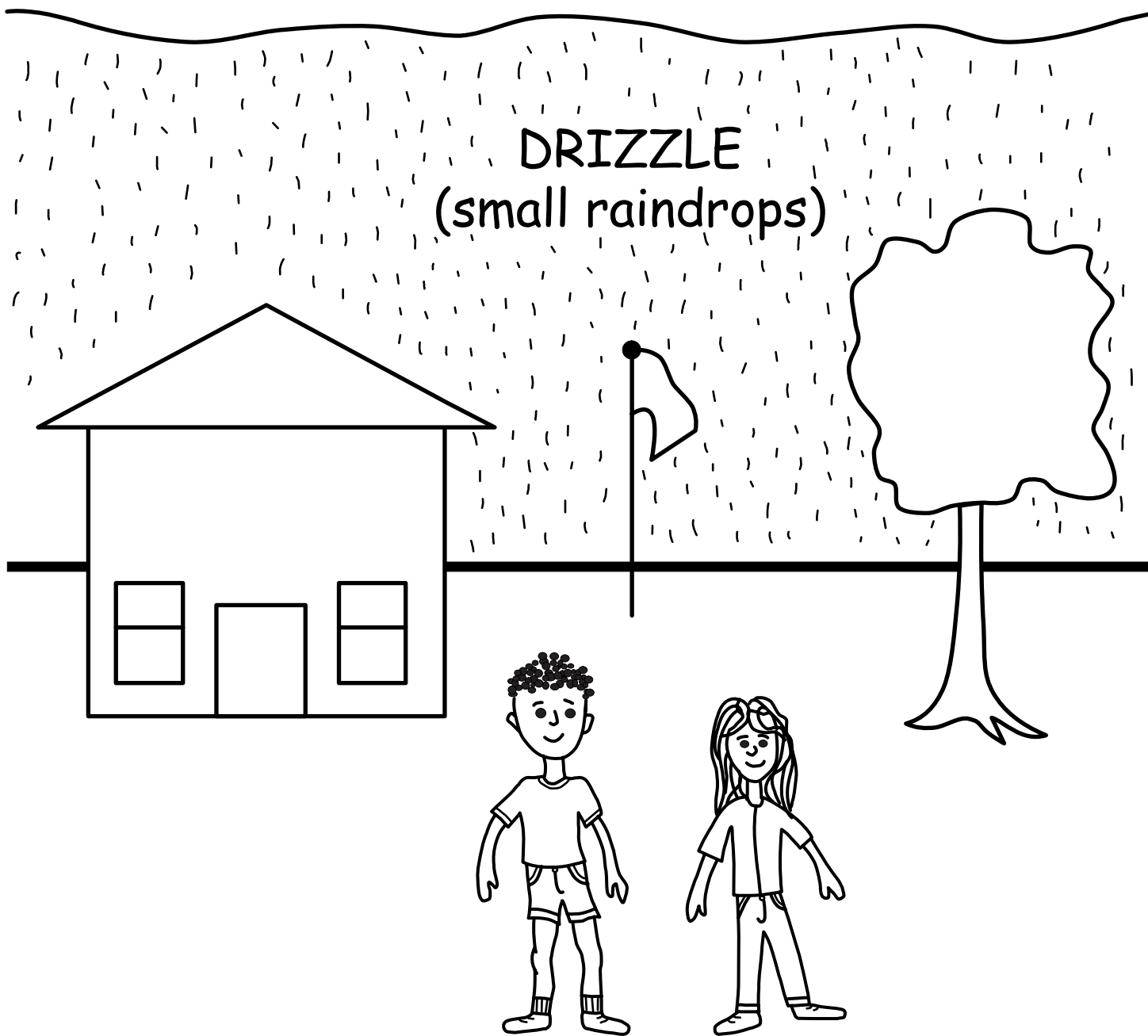
Billy was looking out the window when, suddenly, a lightning bolt flashed. It then began to rain hard. It was pouring and thunder was rumbling everywhere.



Maria's mother quickly got off the phone, Billy moved away from the window, and Maria unplugged the television and computer. These things were all done in order to keep safe from the lightning.

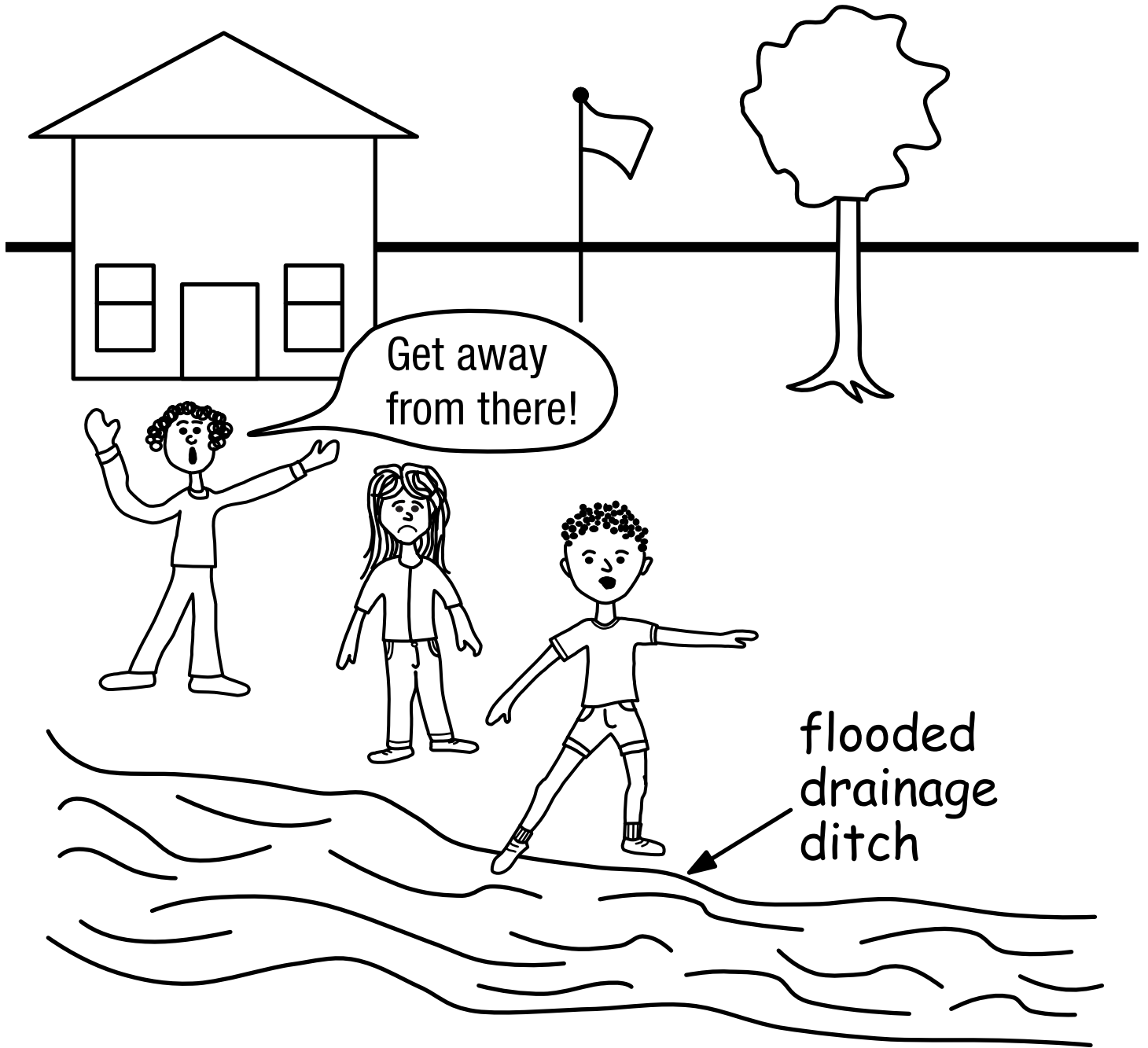


Billy and Maria felt scared because of all the thunder, so they listened to their NOAA Weather Radio to learn where the storm was and when it would be over.

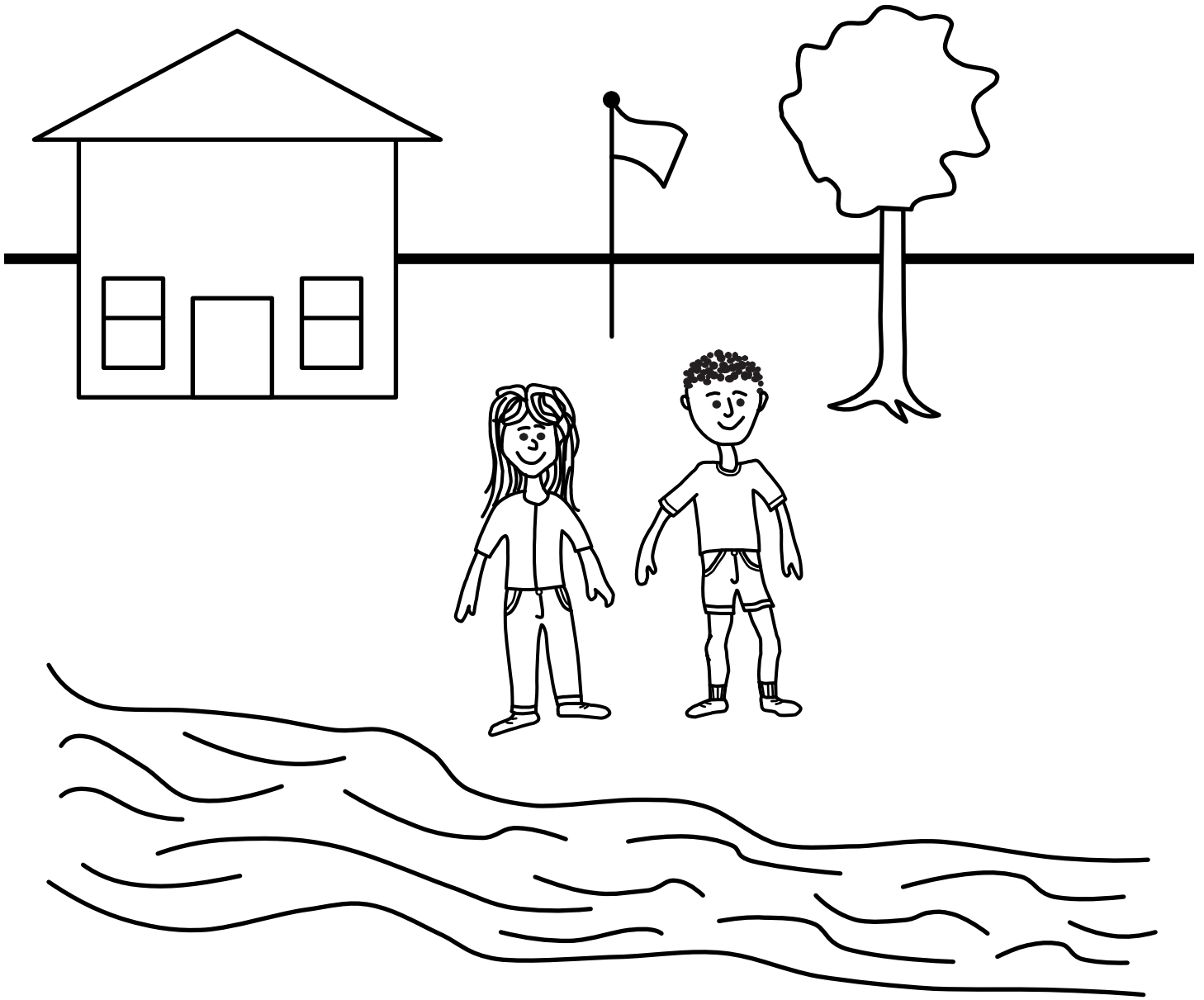


Soon, the lightning and thunder stopped. It was just drizzling, so Maria and Billy went outside to look around.





Billy went over to the drainage ditch to see where all the rainwater was going. Before he got too close, Maria's mother rushed out and told him "Get away from there!".



Billy was lucky for this warning. The ditch was flooded with water. He could have fallen into the water and drowned if he had gotten closer! Maria and Billy were glad they had learned how to stay safe during a thunderstorm.

1. Go inside
2. Stay away from windows
3. Don't talk on the telephone
4. Unplug televisions and computers
5. Listen to the Weather Radio
6. Stay away from running water and flooded areas when outdoors

**Billy + Maria**

Here are some of the safety rules that Billy and Maria learned.

## 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.

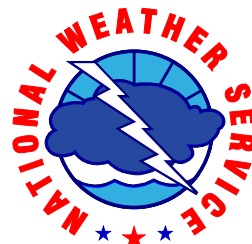
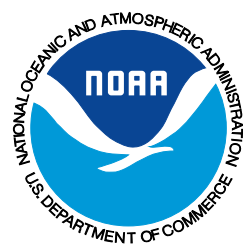
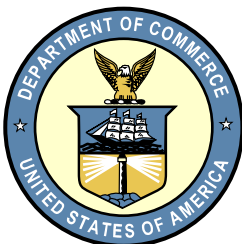
## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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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- 95-01 **Billy and Maria Visit the National Weather Service**, by Daphne G. Thompson, DOC, NOAA, NWS Central Region Headquarters, Scientific Services Division, Kansas City, Missouri, March 1995.
- 95-02 **Billy, Maria and the Thunderstorm**, by Daphne G. Thompson, DOC, NOAA, NWS Central Region Headquarters, Scientific Services Division, Kansas City, Missouri, March 1995.
- 95-03 **Billy and Maria Learn About Tornado Safety- Part 1**, by Daphne G. Thompson, DOC, NOAA, NWS Central Region Headquarters, Scientific Services Division, Kansas City, Missouri, April 1995.
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- 95-08 **Billy and Maria Learn About Winter Weather- Part 3**, by Daphne G. Thompson, DOC, NOAA, NWS Central Region Headquarters, Scientific Services Division, Kansas City, Missouri, August 1995.