

# Who's Watching for You? A Story

Grade 3 Unit 6 L3



Christine came to work with her mom, a meteorologist. “Today, we get to watch a storm,” her mom said, as she settled into a desk chair near a computer.

“Why?” Christine asked, sitting next to her mom.

“Storms can move and change,” her mom said. “I’m part of a team that watches storms that can become hurricanes.”

“How can you watch them when you’re far away from them?” Christine asked.

“We have a number of different ways,” her mom said. “Let me show you.”

“We use **buoys** all over the world to send us data. These are mini-weather stations that float!”



“Meteorologists get additional information from ***ships at sea***. These ships send information to us like air and water temperature, wind speed and direction, and wave height. This data is all useful for storm and hurricane watching.”





“**Satellites** are launched from earth into outer space to take photographs of the earth. We can look at these photos to see storms forming.”





“Another way that meteorologists get information is to send up weather balloons with measuring devices called **radiosonde**. These balloons go into the sky and the radiosonde transmitter sends back information on the weather conditions in that area.”



“What kinds of information do they pick up?” Christine asked.

“The weather balloons can measure the speed of the wind and the rain,” her mom said.



“**Reconnaissance aircraft** are special planes sent by scientists into hurricanes to take various measurements.”



“That sounds scary!” Christine said.

“They are specially equipped to handle hurricanes. You can see that we do a lot of watching of storms to make sure that we know when hurricanes are going to form.”



“The final tool used by meteorologists are radio waves known as ***radar***, which are sent out from towers on land to detect water in the air.”



The End