“Ooooh, Betty. Come quick!” said four-year-old Mary Ann. Paper dolls lay forgotten on the floor as she stared out the window.

Betty felt her stomach muscles tighten as she joined Mary Ann. On the horizon loomed a rolling black cloud. It stretched from the ground into the sky, and it was heading directly toward them.

“It’s another dust storm, Mary Ann,” Betty said, trying to stay calm. How many more would there be, she wondered.

For the last four years—since 1932—Oklahoma and nearby states had endured dozens of such storms. Betty knew the routine. “Let’s get some towels from the kitchen,” she said.

The girls went from window to window, closing each and placing a rolled-up towel where the window met the sill. It would keep out some of the windblown dirt, but Betty knew that powdery dust would cover everything—dishes in cupboards and clothes in closets—long after the storm had passed.

“I’m scared,” said Mary Ann.

“I know,” said Betty, “but we’ll be safe if we stay in the house.”
“What about Mommy and Daddy?” Mary Ann asked.

“They’re probably on their way home from the bank. They won’t be able to drive in the storm. I expect they’ll stop at a neighbor’s home.”

The dust cloud hid the sun and brought an eerie darkness, even though it was the middle of the afternoon. The wind howled. Tiny particles of soil pelted the window glass.

No wonder they call these storms “black blizzards,” thought Betty. She stared out the window.

“Oh no!” she said suddenly.

“What’s wrong?” asked Mary Ann.

“I thought I saw Fancifoot. See there—near the fence,” Betty said. In a momentary lull of the wind, she had glimpsed Fancifoot’s white markings.

Betty remembered other dust storms. Sometimes, even though there was no rain, there was thunder and lightning. That would frighten Fancifoot.

Fancifoot was Betty’s colt. She had seen him born. She had named him. She had helped carry his hay and clean his stall. Fancifoot would stumble around trying to find shelter. What if he stumbled into the dry creek bed and broke a leg?

Suddenly Betty picked up Mary Ann and set her in the rocker.

“I’m going to get Fancifoot back into the barn,” Betty said. “You stay in this chair and don’t move.”

Mary Ann nodded solemnly.

Betty jammed on her old straw hat and pulled the brim low over her forehead. She wound a scarf around it so her nose and mouth were covered. In the storeroom near the kitchen, she found her mother’s long clothesline. She wrapped one end around her wrist and tied it in a knot. Then she plunged into the storm.

The wind almost whipped the clothesline from her hand. Sandy grit pounded her face. Betty closed her eyes and groped her way to the porch railing. Bracing herself against the wind, she trudged along the house, then turned left to follow the fence.

The fence ended. No Fancifoot. Betty couldn’t see more than a few yards in the swirling blackness. Then she heard him whinny, and she stumbled toward the sound.

“Fancifoot!” Betty called. Where was he? Again she heard a low whinny. She turned and stepped forward. Now she thought she heard him to her right. She walked backward to keep the grit from hitting her face.

Maybe the wind is playing tricks, she thought. Maybe I didn’t really see or hear him. But then she smacked right into him.

“Fancifoot,” she said with relief, “you’re OK.” She glided her hands over his ears and neck. Quickly, she looped the slack of the clothesline around his neck.

“We’ll never make the barn,” she said. “I’ve turned around so many times I can’t tell where it is. You’re coming home with me.”

Hand over hand, Betty guided Fancifoot. “Up two steps and we’ll be safe. Come on, boy,” Betty coaxed as she pulled him into the house.

“All safe,” Betty gasped to a surprised Mary Ann.
“We’ll put him in the storeroom until the storm is over,” Betty said.
The storm continued to blow as Betty prepared supper. She sliced bread and cheese and found an apple for Fancifoot. Then she lugged Daddy's chair over to the storeroom.

“Come on, Mary Ann, I'll read your favorite story, and we can keep an eye on Fancifoot at the same time,” Betty said. Soon Mary Ann was asleep.

Betty noticed that the wind was not as strong as it had been. Then she, too, fell asleep.

*Ai-ooga-ai-ooga!* Betty sat up, wide awake. Then she heard it again. *Ai-ooga!*

“What is it?” Mary Ann asked.

“Our car! They're home!” Betty answered.

They raced to the front door. A hazy rising sun shone on drifts of dirt piled against the house.

“Are you all right?” Mommy and Daddy asked as they hugged and kissed the girls. “We were passing Schuler's farm when the storm hit, and had to stay there overnight. We were so worried.”

“Thank goodness you're all right,” said Daddy. He looked uncertainly at Betty. “I noticed the barn door was open. I'm afraid we may find Fancifoot got out of the barn and—”

He stopped as Mary Ann and Betty giggled.

“He did get out of the barn, but he's OK. He's right there,” Betty said pointing to the storeroom where Fancifoot stood—munching Betty's old straw hat.
1. What is the main idea of the story?
   o A. A horse is frightened by a terrible dust storm.
   o B. Parents return home to find their children safe.
   o C. Two young girls act responsibly to rescue their horse.

2. Use two details from the story to describe the setting.
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

3. According the story when Betty is rescuing Fancifoot from the storm what event happens next after she looped the slack of the clothesline over his neck?
   o A. She pulled him into the house.
   o B. She glided her hands over his ears and neck.
   o C. She guided him into the barn.
4. Which word most accurately (best) describes Betty in the story?
   o A. Adventurous
   o B. Self-centered
   o C. Courageous

5. What problem do the girls face in the story?

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

6. What are two events that happen as a result of the problem?

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
1. What is the main idea of the story? (GLE 2.1.3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 point</th>
<th>Answer is C.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2. Use **two** details from the story to describe the setting. (GLE 2.2.3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0 points</th>
<th>No answer, or answer does not include details from the story.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 point</td>
<td>Answer describes only one detail OR one or more answers are incorrect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>Answer describes, using two details, where and when the story takes place. (Answers might include: Oklahoma, farm or ranch, 1930's, during a dust storm, middle of the afternoon into the next morning, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. According the story when Betty is rescuing Fancifoot from the storm what event happens next after she looped the slack of the clothesline over his neck? (GLE 2.2.1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 point</th>
<th>Correct Answer: A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
4. Which word most accurately (best) describes Betty in the story? (GLE 2.2.3)

| 1 point | Correct Answer: C |
5. What problem do the girls face in the story? (GLE 2.3.1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0 points</th>
<th>No answer.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 point  | Problems may include but are not limited to the following:  
           • The girls are left home alone during a dust storm/there is a dust storm.  
           • Fancifoot has escaped the barn and is out in the dust storm. |

6. What are two events that happen as a result of the problem?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 points</th>
<th>Student provides one text-based event that happens as a result of the problem OR provides two text-based events that would happen as a result of an appropriate problem.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>Student provides two text-based events that happen as a result of the problem OR provides three text-based events that would happen as a result of an appropriate problem.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Text-based events may include but are not limited to the following:
A. The girls close the windows/put rolled-up towels in the sill
B. Betty covers her head and face
C. Betty ties a clothesline to her arm
D. Betty goes into the storm to search for Fancifoot
E. Betty calls to Fancifoot when she hears him whinny
F. Betty finds Fancifoot by running into him/gets Fancifoot
G. Betty decides not to go to the barn because she’s turned around so many times
H. Betty uses the clothesline to guide Fancifoot
I. Betty puts Fancifoot into the house/storeroom
J. Betty feeds Fancifoot and Mary Ann
K. Betty reads Fancifoot and Mary Ann a story
L. Parents stay at neighbor’s house/come home