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Chasing The Storm: Tornadoes, Meteorology, And Weather Watching (Nonfiction - Young Adult)



Synopsis

"Huge, towering clouds build up in the sky it's a super cell. The Doppler radar indicates that the system is rotating. But is there a funnel? Is it touching the ground? Only a storm chaser can confirm when a tornado is present and help meteorologists warn nearby towns. Whenever severe weather threatens, storm chasers hit the road to hunt for tornadoes, hurricanes, or violent storms. Some drive thousands of miles in just a few days as they follow a storm system from Iowa to Texas. Others serve their cities and towns by taking photos from their backyards and phoning in storm details to local weather stations. Specially trained Hurricane Hunters hop into aircraft packed with scientific instruments to fly deep into powerful hurricanes, hoping to reach the eye of the storm. Are storm chasers a bunch of foolish daredevils? Not at all. Many are scientists while others are professional photographers and videographers. Storm chasers arm themselves with training about severe weather, use sophisticated instruments, and follow safety guidelines. In *Chasing the Storm*, you'll meet real storm chasers and meteorologists, hear their stories, and discover how they do their work. You'll learn tornado basics, get a great window into the science of meteorology, and learn how to pursue a career in the field. You might even decide to become a storm chaser yourself!"

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1110L (What's this?)

Library Binding: 64 pages

Publisher: Twenty-First Century Books (January 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1467712841

ISBN-13: 978-1467712842

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 7.5 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,311,746 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Disaster Preparedness](#) #146 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Safety](#) #399 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Atmospheric Sciences](#)

Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

Customer Reviews

The sky is dark, but the signs of an impending storm are there. Internet sites are abuzz with action, including ones like the Storm Prediction Center in Oklahoma. Tensions are high, but excitement among the storm chasers is higher. There might be a lot of driving and having a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to keep track of exactly where you are in relation to the storm is a must have. Perhaps if you are lucky, you'll spot some of those towering clouds that indicate the formation of a supercell. Luck is the word for it because sometimes it takes a hundreds of miles of driving just to spot one. The life of a storm chaser can be an exciting one, but also fraught with danger. It's a good way to get killed, especially if you don't know what you are doing, but it can happen even if you do. There may be an element of luck involved, but a good storm chaser knows a lot about the weather. In this book you'll listen to storm chaser tell their tales, but on May 31, 2013, there were three that never lived to tell theirs. Three storm chasers, Tim Samaras, Paul Samaras, and Carl Young were killed by a powerful tornado in Oklahoma. They were professional storm chasers, but their luck ran out when the path of a storm suddenly changed. In addition to that GPS, there are many other tools of the chase. For example, most storm chaser travel with tablets and laptop computers, cameras, and instruments for measuring wind speed, temperature, and air pressure. You'll find out what other type of things storm chasers need to know, including what makes a good tornado and the signs of one. Not much to know about one you say? There's actually a lot to learn about tornados, the weather, and the need for storm chasers is critical.

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