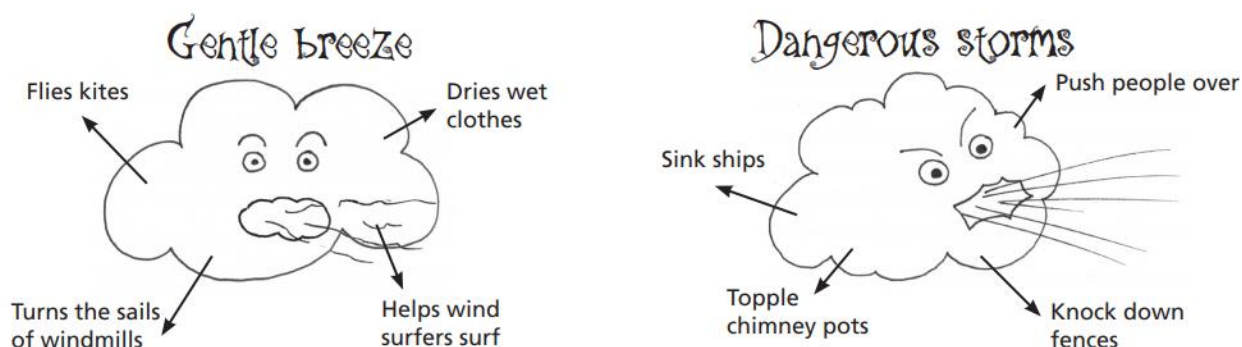







Wind

Wind is all around us. We may not be able to see it but we can certainly see and feel its effects. The wind can either be helpful or harmful.



The faster wind travels, the more damage it can create.

Francis Beaufort designed a special scale to help people guess what speed the wind was travelling.

The Beaufort Scale			
Force	Speed	Description	Picture
1 Light air	1-3 mph	Smoke shows the wind direction	
3 Gentle breeze	8-12 mph	Loose paper blown about	
5 Fresh breeze	19-24 mph	Leaves are blown from trees	
8 Gale	39-46 mph	Twigs are broken off the trees	
10 Storm	55-63 mph	Trees are blown over	

The most dangerous storms are hurricanes and tornados. These winds travel at over 73 miles per hour. Like angry giants, nothing stands in their way. They rip up trees and tear down homes. Cars are crushed and hospitals filled. Every year many people are killed or injured by such storms. Many more are made homeless.

So the next time you feel a gentle breeze ruffle your hair or you see a fresh breeze blow somebody's hat off, be thankful that the storm giant hasn't woken up.