
MISSY and
STANLEY'S TALE



"Missy and Stanley's Tale is a children's story, but the impact of surface water flooding on homes, families and businesses is all too real. The message in this book is an important one; that being aware and prepared for flooding can help us build resilience in households, communities and our nation."

— Tom De la Rosa, Adaptation and Resilience Manager,
The Environment Agency

Missy and Stanley's Tale is the third short film in a series to promote awareness of flooding and flood resilience actions.

The first film Missy's Tale, as part of the BeFloodReady Property Flood Resilience (PFR) brand, highlights the importance of property protection. The second film, Darcy's Tale, highlights the devastating impact of groundwater flooding.

Further information about flooding and PFR is available from **www.befloodready.uk**

Further information about localised flood alerts is available from
www.befloodwarned.uk

Missy and Stanley's Tale is produced by Blue Heart, which is funded by Defra and managed by the Environment Agency as part of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programme. The programmes will drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

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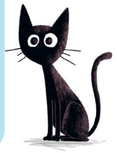
innovativeresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk

Co-written and published by Tales from Mother Earth Ltd from the original short film and characters created by

AARDMAN





Scan the QR Code to learn more about being prepared for flooding and to view the original animation of Missy and Stanley's Tale

See if you can find these images throughout the book:















This is a story of Missy the cat, Stanley the dog, and the flood. They are the best of friends and always look out for each other. They often share a bed and snuggle together for warmth and comfort.

You see Missy is an anxious cat, and with her best friend Stanley by her side they make a great team.



Missy is afraid of water. She doesn’t like the rain, or the river, and especially not the storm.

When it’s sunny, she likes to sit in the window and watch the world go by, but when it thunders, she hides and refuses to go outside!

Thunder crash!





But this doesn’t trouble the others. They know exactly what to do and are busy getting everything organised, just in case water finds its way into their home. With careful preparation, the family feels ready and well protected from the storm.

Feeling safe and content, Missy and Stanley settle down together in their bed and soon fall fast asleep.





With a sudden jolt of movement from under their bed, they are both wide awake! What's happening? Water is everywhere!

Their cosy basket has been swept up and turned into a floating life raft, drifting across what feels like an ocean… right inside their home.

Missy and Stanley stare around in disbelief, unable to make sense of it all. And worse still, the rushing current is carrying their makeshift boat towards the open door!



Outside, the street is flooded!

Their little raft bobs gently along through the streets and neighbourhoods they know so well - yet somehow, everything looks completely different now.

Missy and Stanley stare out at this strange new world…



Missy and Stanley feel like two small explorers on a grand adventure out on the open sea. What will they see next?

They wave hello to new friends as their raft carries them through the countryside, past farms, fields and famous landmarks.



The journey so far has been calm and gentle, but now the current in the water is getting faster, and they are speeding along!

Up ahead, they spot a swirling, twirling whirlpool. They both hold on tight as it sweeps them into a spinning ride of a lifetime.

Splash

.... Missy falls into the water!



Although she doesn’t like the water, Missy is a strong swimmer and soon pops to the surface and paddles along in the gentle current.

Feeling braver now, she starts to look for something to climb onto - anything that might help her get out of the flood.



Missy spots a tree and eagerly swims over to it. With a few quick scrambles, she climbs up and perches on a sturdy branch.

From her safe spot in the tree, she begins to dry her fur with gentle licks, and thinks about the rather strange adventure she’s having!





Looking out over the water, Missy feels a wave of relief when she spots Stanley in the distance.

She calls out to make sure he’s safe, wishing more than anything to be back home - warm and cosy by the fireplace, snuggled up with her family.



Eventually Missy finds her way back, but now her street is a strange, unfamiliar place that doesn’t feel like home anymore.

The floodwaters have gone, but everything is smelly, soggy and damp - something Missy still absolutely hates!



Feeling excited at seeing her family again, she rushes into her house expecting the usual happy hum of family life, and hopefully some dinner.

But when she turns the corner into the lounge, the room is empty… and completely silent.

Where is everyone?

If this is a dream, Missy needs to wake up - and fast! This is a very confusing situation to be in… and where is Stanley, her best friend?!





Slowly… Missy opens her eyes and realises it was all just a dream!

She snuggles closer to Stanley in their cosy bed, feeling safe and overjoyed that her best friend is there beside her once again.

Her family is here too, each person busy preparing for the approaching storm. There’s plenty to do, yet the house feels calm and bright. Someone is even humming a tune, one of Missy’s favourite songs, and the gentle melody fills the room with warmth and comfort.



In the real world, we can often prevent these kinds of strange dreams happening by being prepared and ready for the possibility of a flood.

There are lots of steps we can take to protect our family, pets, and home - and just as importantly, there are measures we can put in place to help us recover more quickly if floodwaters do arrive.

BeFloodWarned **BeFloodReady**





The Realities of a Flood and What to Expect...

Before a flood

Flooding like in the story doesn't happen very often, but it's still a good idea to be ready.

You can make a plan with your family, just in case. You might choose a few special things to put in a grab-bag to take with you.

Talking about this together can help everyone feel calm, safe, and prepared.

Straight after a flood

Flooding can leave things wet, dirty and smelly. Carpets, furniture and things left on the floor may be squelchy and need to be thrown away. That's why it's a good idea to move things UP – upstairs, or on high shelves before any water comes in.

The power, heating and plumbing may not work. It might be dark and cold inside, and you might not be able to use the toilet or drink from the taps.

You might see lots of new faces such as emergency workers, flood wardens, and builders - or familiar faces such as trusted adults and friends who come to help.

Feelings

It's ok to feel worried or confused, upset, scared about what happens next, or even angry. Talking to friends, family or other trusted adults who have also been affected by flooding can help. They will understand how you feel - and may feel the same way.

Be prepared!

In an emergency, it can be hard for adults to remember to explain what's going on to kids. That's why we have included information in this book. If you can talk to your family about flooding before, during and after it happens you will:

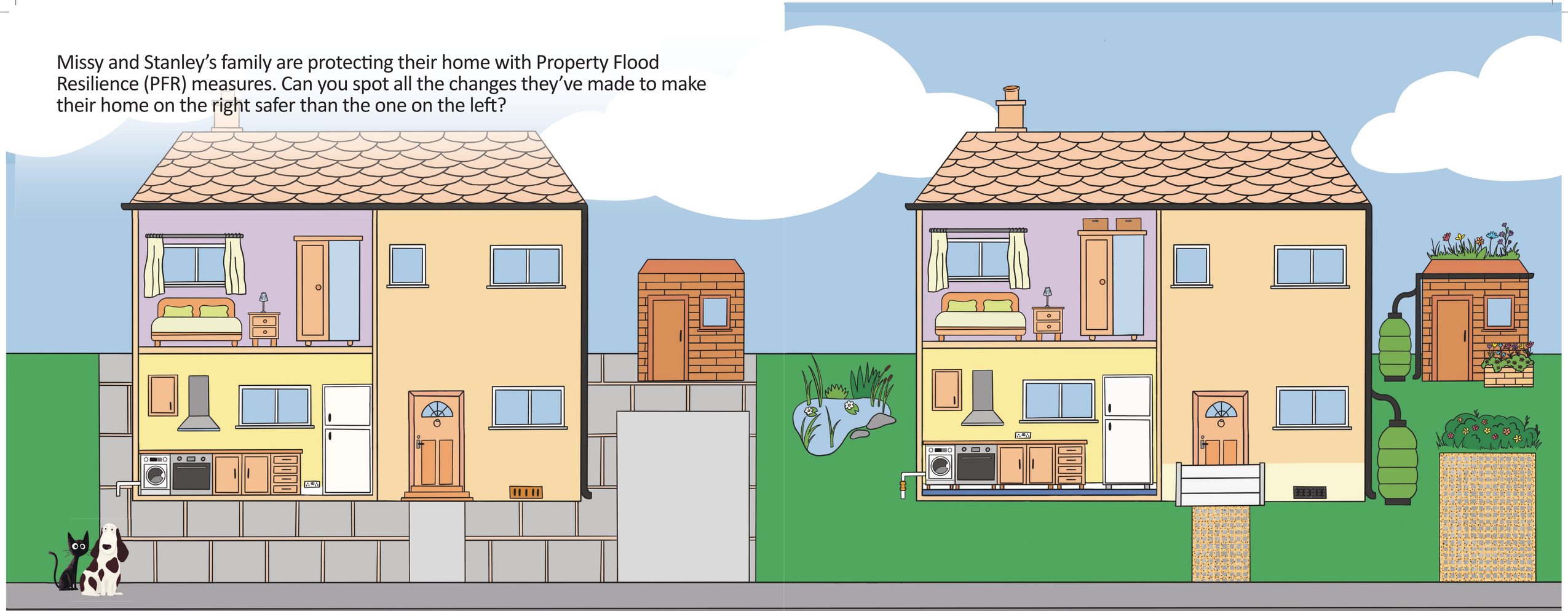
- Know what to do before a flood happens and can help others be prepared.
- Understand what's happening, and why things might need to be different for a while - living somewhere else, going to a different school, having a different routine.
- Be able to talk to your friends so they can understand too.

Just like Missy and Stanley, if you find your house full of water and you need to leave, you and your family can be prepared and have a plan to help you come back home soon.

If your home was at risk of flooding and you had to leave quickly, what special things would you pack in your grab-bag?



Missy and Stanley's family are protecting their home with Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures. Can you spot all the changes they've made to make their home on the right safer than the one on the left?



Which house do you think Missy and Stanley would choose to live in?

Did you spot all of the differences?

Scan the QR Code for the full list of differences and explanations

This storybook has been beautifully produced by Tales from Mother Earth from the original short film and characters created by Aardman for BeFloodWarned. It aims to raise awareness of flooding and the role that being forewarned and prepared can have in protecting communities. It was created with the support of the following organisations:

BLUE HEART

East Sussex County Council

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AARDMAN

Lincolnshire County Council — Working for a better future

IPFRA INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY FLOOD RESILIENCE ASSOCIATION

FLOOD RE

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 Inside Back Cover



Meet Missy and Stanley, a cat and dog duo who are the best of friends!

One day, a fierce storm sweeps through their town and threatens to damage and flood their neighbourhood.

Although, as you're about to learn in situations such as this, being prepared and forewarned is important, and it's always good to have friends!

This story encourages children to think about flood resilience and the measures we can all put in place to protect ourselves, those dear to us and our home.

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Tales from Mother Earth

