The alarm went off again. Jonas knew what to do this time. They all had to go out in the hall, sit next to each other, and curl up into a ball. This was in case there was a tornado. Jonas hadn’t understood how in the world going into the hall and curling up into a ball would help you if you got hit by a tornado. Then his teacher had told him that they went into the hall to be away from windows that might break during a tornado. Curling up was in case something fell on you. That’s why they put their hands over their neck, to protect it in case something sharp fell.

Molly had just joined the class, and she sat next to Jonas. When the alarm went off, Molly hid under her desk. Jonas had to tell her to get out from under there and follow the class in the hall.

It turned out to be a drill, just like last time. After a few minutes, all the students went back into their classroom and sat back down at their desks. After school, Jonas teased Molly about hiding under her desk when the alarm went off. “Scaredy cat!” he said. Molly laughed at him. “I wasn’t scared,” she replied. Molly explained. She had moved to Oklahoma from California last week. In school in California, when the alarm went off, it was an earthquake drill, not a tornado drill. During the earthquake drill, you were supposed to hide under your desk.
Kanisha overheard them. She told them she had just visited her cousins in Florida, and there they are more likely to face a hurricane instead of a tornado or an earthquake. One time the weather forecaster on the nightly news said that a hurricane had formed near Florida, and that the hurricane would probably impact the area. So school was closed completely the next day.

There are other storms that can be predicted at least a day before they hit, and schools might close if severe weather were likely to impact the areas near the schools. Jonas had cousins in Minnesota. They told him that they had had three days in a row with no school because it wouldn’t stop snowing, but they had known about the snowstorm from a prediction by the weather forecaster the day before it started to snow.

“Any storm is scary, but I think earthquakes and tornadoes are the scariest,” Molly said. “The weather forecaster can probably tell you if a hurricane or snowstorm will come. With earthquakes and tornadoes, you never know.”
1. What do students do during a tornado drill?
   A. go into the basement
   B. go into the hall and curl up in a ball
   C. hide under their desks
   D. stay home from school

2. What is the setting of this story?
   A. a classroom in Oklahoma
   B. a classroom in California
   C. a classroom in Florida
   D. a classroom in Minnesota

3. Read the following sentences: “Molly had just joined the class, and she sat next to Jonas. When the alarm went off, Molly hid under her desk. Jonas had to tell her to get out from under there and follow the class in the hall.”

   Based on the evidence above, what conclusion can be made?
   A. Molly did not know it was a tornado drill at first.
   B. Jonas didn’t know what to do in a tornado drill.
   C. Molly was hiding from Jonas because she felt shy.
   D. The teacher forgot about Molly during the drill.

4. Based on the story, what conclusion can be made about emergency drills?
   A. Emergency drills are different depending on the different weather.
   B. All emergency drills are the same.
   C. Emergency drills are different depending on the different school districts.
   D. Emergency drills are different depending on the different countries.

5. What is this story mainly about?
   A. the proper procedures for tornado drills
   B. the differences between Oklahoma and California culture
   C. the best way to make new students feel welcome at school
   D. the different ways people respond to weather across the US
6. Read the following sentences: “Jonas had cousins in Minnesota. They told him that they had had three days in a row with no school because it wouldn’t stop snowing, but they had known about the snowstorm from a prediction by the weather **forecaster** the day before it started to snow.”

As used in the passage, what does the word “**forecaster**” mean?

A  someone who reports breaking news stories on TV  
B  someone who makes predictions of the future  
C  someone who gives people instructions for drills  
D  someone who is an expert on snow

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The weather forecaster can probably tell you if a hurricane or snowstorm will come. ________, with earthquakes and tornadoes you never know.

A  Actually  
B  On the other hand  
C  Finally  
D  For example

8. Why did Molly hide under her desk during the tornado drill instead of going into the hall like Jonas?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________
9. Students in Oklahoma, California, Florida and Minnesota all have different ways of responding to weather in their areas. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

10. Why is it important to know what kind of weather is coming into your area? Use information from the story to support your answer.

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
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A Actually  
B On the other hand  
C Finally  
D For example

8. Why did Molly hide under her desk during the tornado drill instead of going into the hall like Jonas?

Suggested answer: Molly had just moved to Oklahoma from California. In school in California, when the alarm went off it was an earthquake drill, not a tornado drill. During the earthquake drill, you were supposed to hide under your desk. So Molly thought they were having an earthquake drill.

9. Students in Oklahoma, California, Florida, and Minnesota all have different ways of responding to weather in their areas. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

Suggested answer: Students in Oklahoma participate in tornado drills. Students in California participate in earthquake drills. Schools in Florida close when a hurricane will probably impact the area. And students in Minnesota have no school when it snows.

10. Why is it important to know what kind of weather is coming into your area? Use information from the story to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the text. Students should indicate it is important to know what kind of weather is coming into your area so you are able to take the necessary precautions. For example, as the different students in the story experienced, different weather calls for different emergency drills at school or a cancellation of the school day.