

Pecos Bill *and the* TORNADO

Pecos Bill had never fallen off of anything. “I have ridden horses and hogs,” Bill said. “I have ridden seahorses and seals. I have even ridden a mountain lion. I have never fallen off of anything!”

One day a big black cloud stormed into town. It was a tornado. The tornado picked up a barn and turned it into a pile of toothpicks! Bill threw his rope around that tornado. Then he hopped on! ●

The tornado roared its way across Texas. Bill did not fall off. The tornado picked up a river and shook it back and forth. Now we call it the Snake River. The tornado sucked up a huge chunk of the ground. It’s now the Grand Canyon. Still, Bill did not fall off. ●

Bill rode that tornado the whole day. In the end, it became a soft white cloud. Bill hopped off. He was far from Texas. What do you think Bill rode back home?

Skill Here’s a clue that this might be a fantasy. Bill couldn’t really rope a tornado.

Strategy What do you know about tornadoes? Use that to help you decide if this is a realistic story or a fantasy.