The Brown family awoke that morning with a feeling that it was swell to be alive. It was one of those days when Mother Nature seemed to call to everyone to come outside and drink in her beauty.

Mother Brown was up early and out in her flower garden long before many people were even thinking about getting up. Mr. Brown left before daybreak with a load of fresh vegetables for the city market. Young Jimmy Brown had also risen early. The field mice were doing a lot of damage to the young trees in the apple orchard, and today he was going to start putting poison grain in their runways beneath the grass.

Jim was very happy this morning. For three hours he had been singing and talking to the robins and redbirds that made their homes in the orchard. Up and down each row he walked, poking his stick here and there until he found the highways of the mice, and then dropping a little bunch of poison grain where they would be sure to find it.

Jimmy worked his way over the hill and down into the flat. He poked his stick down by the trunk of a tree and froze in his tracks. A weird, hissing sound seemed to come from the point of his stick. Then Jimmy saw it. A huge bull snake was lying in the grass, and was plenty mad because it had been disturbed from its morning nap. Jimmy quickly recovered his nerve and started teasing the snake with his stick.

While playing with the snake Jim had the feeling that some one was calling him. He let the snake go and listened. Jimmy! Jimmy!

Yooch--Jimmy! Now he was sure; it was his mother calling.

Jimmy ran to the top of the hill--then he knew why his mother was calling. Coming out of the Southwest was a huge black cloud. Already it had started forming its funnel shape. Jimmy broke into a dead run for the house. Before he got there the wind was getting very strong. He put his head down and ran all the harder.

Mother Brown was frantic when he got there. She was trying to get the young plants in the hotbeds covered before the wind blew them away. Jimmy got there just in time to catch a big frame that had blown out of her hands.

Somehow they got the plants all covered, the chickens in the chicken house, and the cow in the barn with her young calf before the full force of the storm struck. Then they ran for the storm cellar. Mother Brown was so exhausted that Jimmy had to carry her the last few steps.

When the storm seemed to be over they got up nerve enough to step outside and see what was left of the farm. To their astonishment, the full force of the cyclone had missed their place by about a quarter of a mile. The neighbor Kales's farm buildings were completely demolished.

Mother Brown stopped a minute in silent prayer for the Kales and then started crying. Jimmy tried to be a man and comfort her, but he too felt like crying. Finally Mother Brown put her arms around Jimmy and whispered, "Thank God, we're safe."