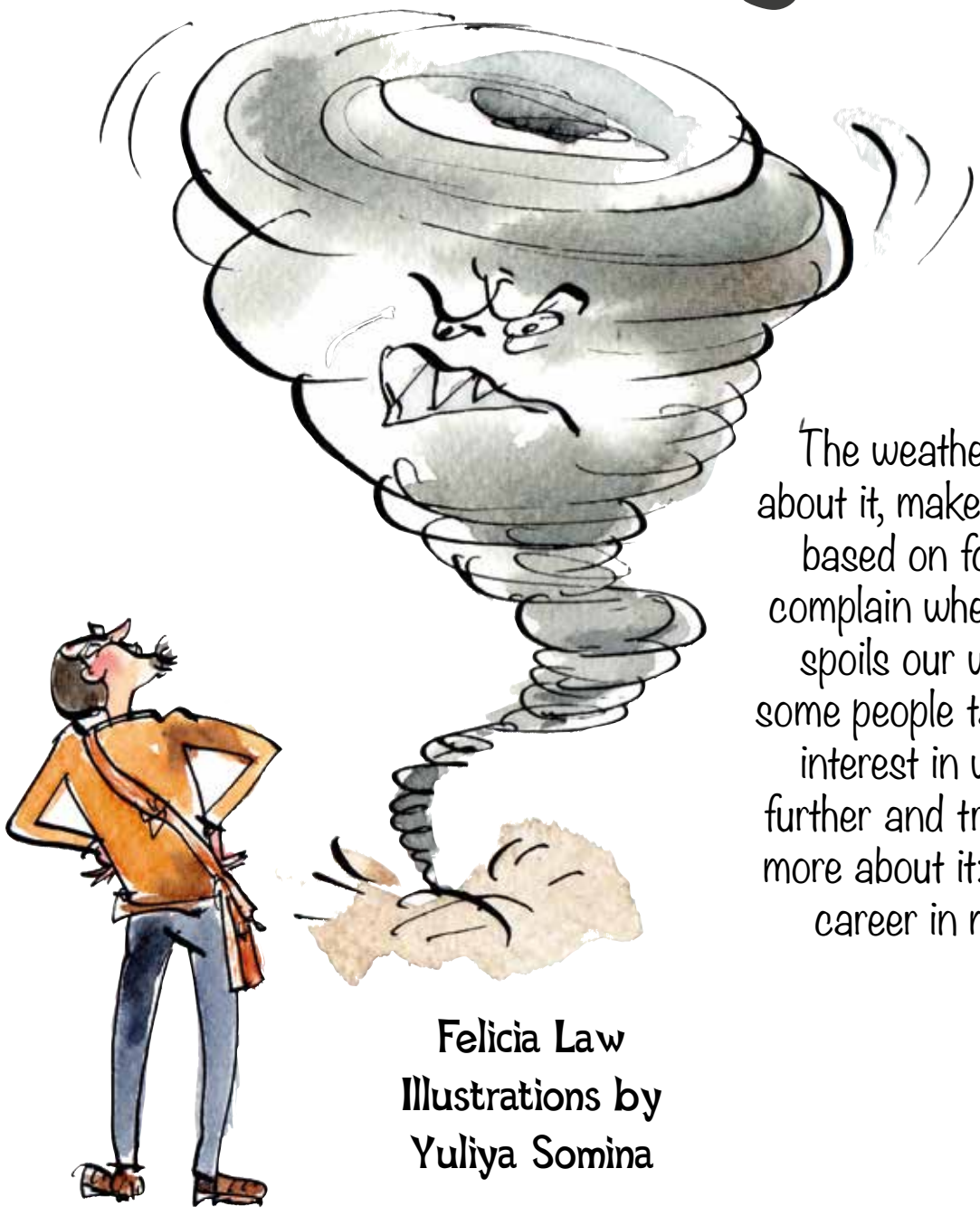
CAREERS IN SCIENCE

I'm going to be a Meteorologist



The weather. We all talk about it, make our daily plans based on forecasts and complain when bad weather spoils our weekend. But some people take this general interest in weather even further and try to learn a lot more about it: they choose a career in meteorology.

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Meteorology takes its name from the Greek word 'meteoron' – something that happens high in the sky. The ancient Greeks observed clouds, winds and rain, and tried to work out how they were connected. The weather was important even then because it affected the farmers who raised their food, and their seamen who sailed the oceans.

Today, our towns and cities and our environment are affected even more seriously by events and changes in the atmosphere. We need to understand many difficult questions about the behaviour of the atmosphere and its effects on all of us who live on the planet. And that's where METEOROLOGISTS come in.

It's never too early to start planning what you want to do as a career. If you've already decided that weather science is your thing, this book will help you understand how to get there.

Contents

I'M GOING TO BE A METEOROLOGIST ...

'Because I want to study and be able to predict what causes different kinds of weather conditions. I'll do this using information obtained from all over the globe – from the land, the sea and the upper atmosphere.

'This is a job where I'll be working with people all over the world who, like me, are collecting and sharing data. I'll then be able to help other people and organisations by telling them what weather they can expect, especially if it will help them do their job – or even save lives.'

And that's why I'm going to be a meteorologist.

I WANT TO KNOW WHY THE SUN SHINES IN SOME PLACES ...

more than ten months of the year, reaching temperatures that scorch the earth and make life difficult for animals and humans

WHILE IN OTHER PLACES

the Sun hardly shines at all or gives off a weak heat.

I WANT TO KNOW WHY RAIN FALLS ...

where it does and why it doesn't fall in other places, what creates cloud that brings rainfall in such torrents that it can flood large areas and damage lives

AND WHY

there is so little rain in other places and long droughts occur.

I WANT TO KNOW WHY SOME AREAS ...

have weather patterns such as monsoons that bring regular heat and rain, so everyone living there knows what to expect

WHILE IN OTHER PLACES

severe storms can arrive unexpectedly, bringing chaos and damage.

There are many, many areas of study in weather forecasting.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT WEATHER IS ON THE WAY ...

using the wide range of instruments available – from simple rain gauges and thermometers to computerised observation stations –

AND AFTER THAT

how global warming may affect the weather for centuries ahead.