

Name: _____

Class: _____

Determine the meaning of figurative language in a literary text

Read the meaning of the words and phrases in the box below before reading the story. They will help you understand better as you read and answer the questions.

- **dry spell** – a period of time with no rain
- **funnel** – a hollow cone with an opening at the point
- **horizon** – the line where the earth seems to meet the sky

The Dry Spell

The summer had been long and hot. Dry winds swept the plains and stirred up the dust into funnels. Heat was the enemy. Our whole family had fought to keep the crops alive. Now, though, we saw the dark clouds on the horizon and smelled the rain in the air. It seemed like a long-lost friend returning. We threw open the doors and windows in welcome.

1. Explain what the writer means by the words *dry winds swept the plains*. Include what the writer is comparing the winds to and how the winds are like that thing.

When the family sees that rain is coming, it seems to them "like a long-lost friend returning." What does this mean?
