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Author: Lisa Rajan
Illustrator: Alessia Trunfio (Astound)
Reading ideas author: Clare Dowdall
Reviewers: Gp Cap Gordon Bettington, Sqn Ldr Stuart Lockyer,
First Officer Alex Thomas
Development editor: Alison Sage
Product Manager: Sarah Thomas
Product Developer: Natasha Paul
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Chapter 3

All of a sudden, bright light filled the cockpit – lightning! The crash of thunder that followed made Tara jump. Raindrops began smacking at the windscreen. Her heart beat faster. They were flying right into a huge storm.





It was over the island ahead, exactly where they were supposed to land. She could see that buildings were torn down and roads were flooded.

This was very worrying. The storm was strong enough to rip up trees and blow houses down. What would it do to a plane with a new pilot at the controls?

Tara needed help.

She asked Ayesha and Ortez, "What should I do?"

“Should I try to fly above the storm?” Tara tried to remember how to take the plane higher.

“Or maybe I should fly straight through it?” But the plane was already bouncing about in the strong winds.

Tara gripped the controls.

“Should I steer the plane around the storm?” That felt like the right decision.

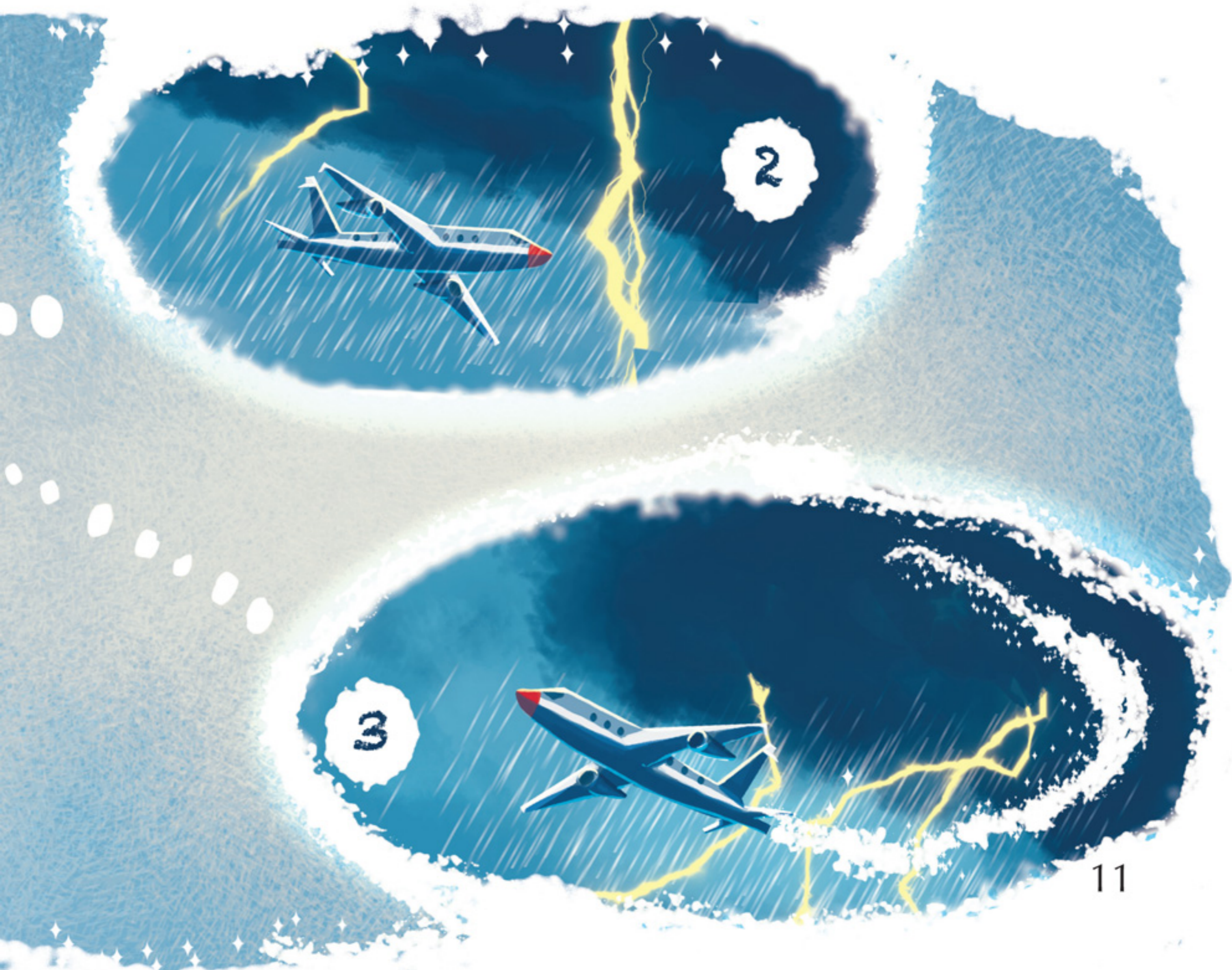


“Most pilots would go above a storm, if it’s small ...”
started Ortez.

“... But this storm is massive. And we were about to land,”
finished Ayesha. “We might be flying too low to get above
the storm in time.”

Tara thought hard about her choices. She had to get it right.
The crew and the passengers in the cabin were all counting
on her.

She made up her mind.





Tara smiled at Ayesha and Ortez. "I'm going *around* the storm. We might not get above it in time, so that will be the safest way."

Tara turned the wheel and headed away from the storm.

"Set a new course, please, Ortez. Let's head west."