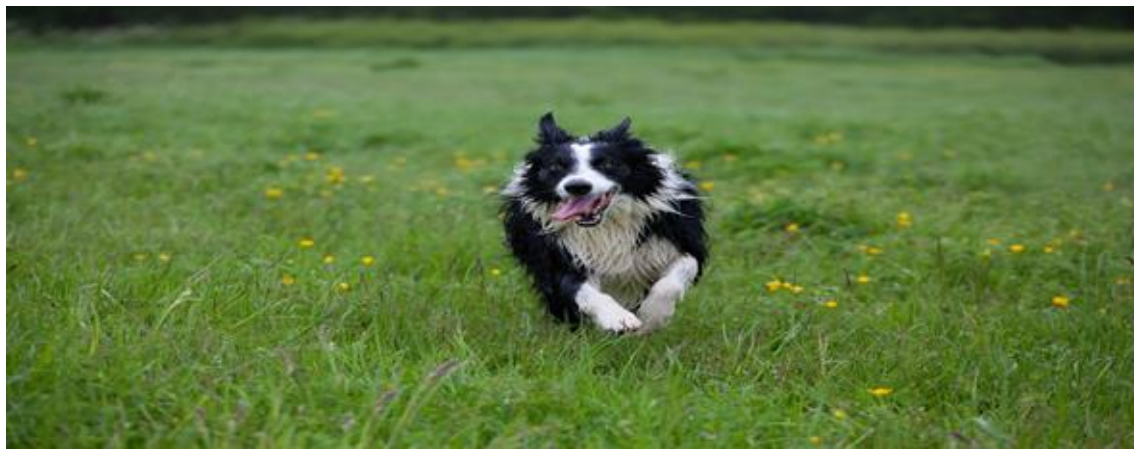



The Star of the Storm



Written by Teresa Taylor



Burt has a dog. She is a girl with lots of fur. She likes to run and chase the sheep.

She was born next to a fern plant. 
So Burt gave her the name Fern.



Burt and Fern live on a huge farm. The farm is called Gold Star Farm. They keep a herd of sheep on the farm. Fern takes care of the sheep. She makes sure they do not get hurt or lost.



One day a strong storm was on track to hit Gold Star Farm. Fern made sure the herd of sheep had a safe spot to hide.



Burt and Fern had just fed a horse in the barn when they heard the first sounds of the storm. The wind started to whirl the corn and tall grass. Fern and Burt felt the force of the wind burst into the barn.



The sky turned dark and hard rain came. Burt saw a spark of light hit the corn field. He held onto the horse with a firm grip.



Burt got a cord from his shorts. He tied the cord to Fern's neck band. Burt held onto Fern with a firm grip.



Fern held her nose up. She took a hard look north. She could tell the storm was close. She let out a sharp bark, did a twirl, and started on the path home.



Fern pulled Burt down the path and through the yard. Fern was brave and strong. She made her way home in the blur of the storm. Burt told Fern, “You are a smart girl!”



When they got to the porch, the storm was passing fast. Fern ran back in the yard to check on the sheep.

Fern was Burt's lucky charm that day. She was the *Star of the Storm!*

Facts about Storms

- *Thunderstorms happen when hot and cool air come together.
- *A thunderstorm can produce rain, lightning, hail, tornadoes, and even floods.
- *Storms usually move 12 miles an hour but some can be as fast as a car moving 40-50 miles an hour.
- *Animals (such as dogs) can often sense when a storm is getting close by the change in the air temperature and pressure. They often bark, hide, or cuddle during storms.
- *You can count the seconds between lightning flashes and the sound of thunder. Divide that number by 5 and it tells you how many miles away the storm is located.

15 seconds apart = 3 miles away.

Green r-controlled words

Burt	sharp	firm
Fern	bark	smart
her	twirl	girl
fur	cord	arm
star	shorts	blur
farm	blur	North
herd	porch	storm
yard	charm	corn
barn	dark	hurt
start	turn	first
whirl	hard	fern
born	burst	spark

Green level
R-controlled vowels

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