

# Phoenix And The Town Power Outage

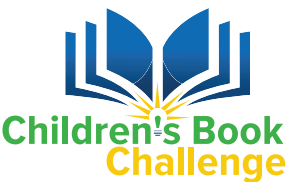


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and Ali Chapman***

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*Phoenix and the Town Power Outage* by Harper Rowe and Ali Chapman was selected as one of two winners of the 2024 Children's Book Challenge—an educational initiative of The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. The competition

challenges fourth- and fifth-grade students to write and illustrate stories that focus on how electricity has impacted their lives, communities and the history of our state.

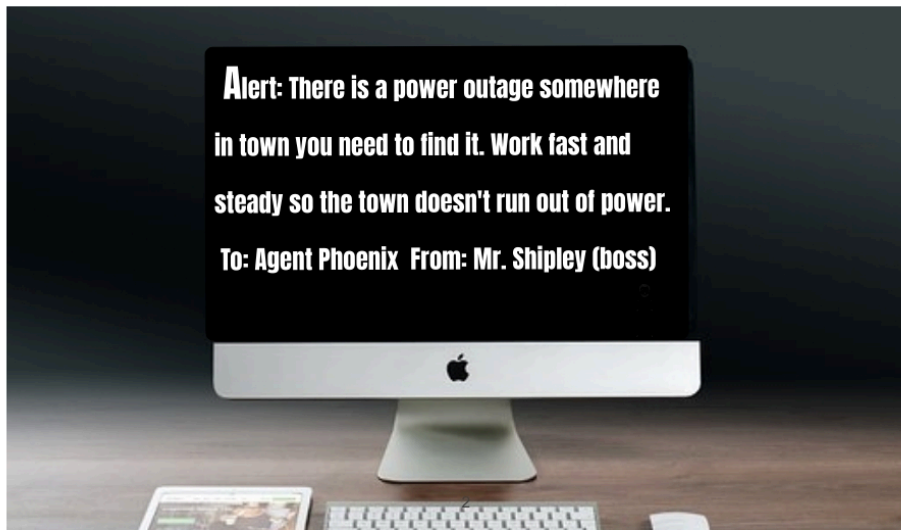
South Carolina's electric cooperatives have been committed to powering rural communities since 1938. Since their founding, the Seven Cooperative Principles have included a commitment to education, concern for their communities, and attention to the future of young people. Those same ideals guide co-ops today. By inspiring students to learn about the history of electricity in our state, S.C.'s electric co-ops hope to spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's energy leaders.



To learn more about the Children's Book Challenge, visit **[enlightensc.org/book](https://enlightensc.org/book)**.

**Dedicated to our Enrichment teacher for helping us work the kinks out of our writing process and also to our moms for pushing us to keep going when times get tough.**

Phoenix was in the middle of paying bills and doing her daily work when all of a sudden she got a unrecognizable alert. She read the alert, jumped up, and said, "Time to get to work!" And she was off!



She was about to leave and gather all her equipment. Since it was mid-winter she brought the fire can. The fire can had worked on multiple events. The fire can can hold heat once it gets to a certain temperature, kind of like a torch.





she walked out of her office when she was stopped by a group of her co-workers. "Where are you going?"

"I'm going to figure out this power outage. Have you guys heard about it?" asked Phoenix.

"Yeah, I've already gotten 7 calls about it."

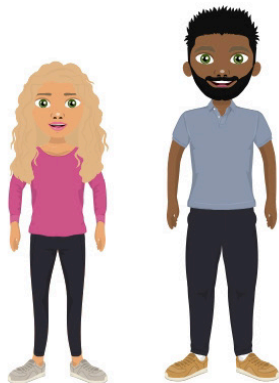
"Well I'm going to figure it out," she said confidently and walked out the door. She hopped into her car and drove roughly about 20 minutes.

Once Phoenix got there, she found Jacob who worked at the power plant. He told her she needed to go to the transformer and try to burn off the ice there. He also said that he thought the blockage or freeze was farther away because no one at the power plant was complaining about the power not working.

"Thanks for letting me know!" said Phoenix, as she hopped back in her car.

"You're welcome! And good luck!"

Phoenix waved and started her engine.





As Phoenix drove, she noticed that the power lines looked fine but there must have been something at the transformer. As she got closer to the transformer, she saw about 2 linemen trucks.



When she got to the transformer, she saw the linemen working on the lines. "Is the outage here?" she asked, standing by their truck.

"Yes, and we are trying to fix it now. The lines froze over last night."

"OK, well I think we should drive to a local neighborhood to check their power," said Phoenix.



As Phoenix and the linemen all drove to the first house, Phoenix had her fingers crossed that this would work. They talked to the homeowner, Mary. Mary and her family had lost power for the entire day besides the last 5 minutes. Phoenix flipped the light switch on and off and there was no flickering or delays so they headed to the next house.



As they arrived they flipped the light switch just like last time. There was no delay or flickering so they were on to the next house.



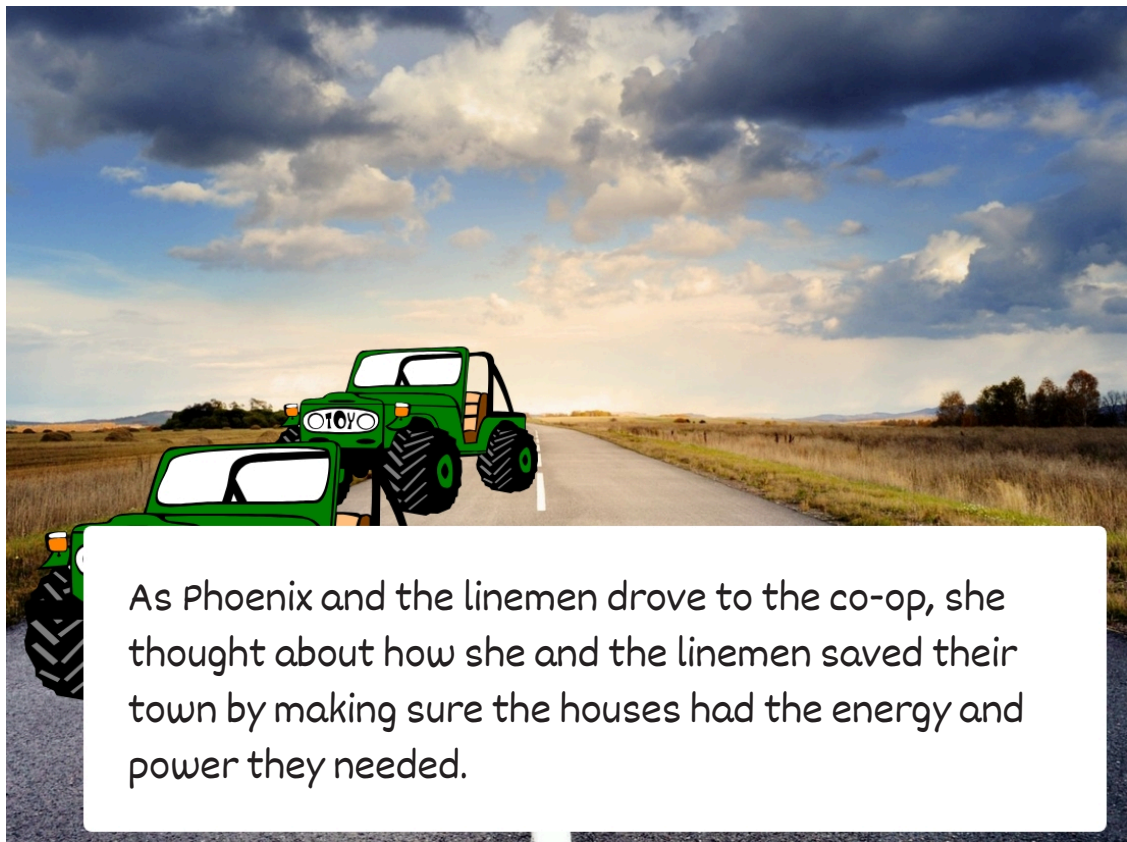




As Phoenix flipped the light switch it worked just fine, but the owner of the house asked how they fixed it. Phoenix simply said they just used a tool that shoots fire to melt off the ice on the power lines.

At the last house, Phoenix flipped the lights and they flickered once. She got worried but after flipping it 7 more times there was no flickering. After they left this house, they headed back to the co-op.





As Phoenix and the linemen drove to the co-op, she thought about how she and the linemen saved their town by making sure the houses had the energy and power they needed.



When the linemen and Phoenix got to the co-op, they rushed inside to tell Mr. Shipley about their achievement they accomplished today.

"Mr. Shipley! We fixed the power outage." Phoenix exclaimed.

"Oh really? How did you do it?" Mr. Shipley asked.

"Well, let me walk you through how we did it," Phoenix exclaimed.



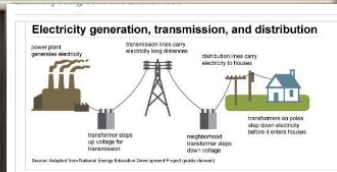
"First, we went to the power plant. At the power plant we met Jacob and he told us there was no problem here! So, I went to the transformer," Phoenix said to Mr. Shipley.





"Once I got to the transformer, I saw the linemen working and they were using the fire can to burn the ice off the power line. So then we drove through the neighborhood to talk to homeowners while inspecting the power lines," Phoenix told Mr. Shipley.

"Great job, Phoenix. I am VERY proud of you! I don't know what the town would have done without you, the linemen, and your co-workers," said Mr. Shipley.



# ***LINEMEN***

JACOB, PHOENIX, MR.SHIPLEY



## Authors' Note

We are 5th graders at Reuben Elementary School in Newberry. Our teacher, Mr. Kevin Boozer, Media Specialist, advised us.

Ali: I love dancing on the competition team. This is my ninth year dancing and it's my third year on the competition team. I have three siblings—two older, one younger. Harper and I have been friends since daycare (ask our moms).

Harper: I love dancing on the competition team. I have been dancing for seven years. I am the second oldest of seven kids. I love riding my four-wheeler and hanging out with my friends.



Harper Rowe, left, and Ali Chapman

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<https://www.enlightensc.org/book/> for background on the contest.

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### Images:

Images came from [www.photosforclass.com](http://www.photosforclass.com) or from StoryJumper and Pixabay.

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