

A Place Where Hurricanes Happen



by Renée Watson ✦ illustrated by Shadra Strickland

Resource Guide 2011



The 
Kids Read
A Place Where
Hurricanes Happen **Too!**

Discussion Questions

On the first page of the story it says “New Orleans is a place where hurricanes happen, but that’s only the bad side.” What are some of the things, good and bad, that happen in your town?

Tommy was told he could only bring two of his favorite things to Houston with him. If you had to leave home and could only bring two things, what would you bring?

Keesha had to wait a very long time at the Superdome for the buses to arrive. What do you do to pass the time when you have to wait a very long time for something? Have you ever been stranded, like Keesha, for a very long time?

After Hurricane Katrina, Michael and his family had to move into a trailer. Have you ever moved? What was different about your new home?

On the last page of the story it says, “We’re from New Orleans. We’re from a place where people are tough.” What does it mean to be tough? How do you know if a person is tough?



The Kids Read, Too! Programs

☞ **Register for programs** by calling or stopping by the host library. Programs with online registration are noted with a **ℵ**. Registration starts **February 1**. Some programs may have limited space. Patrons are welcome to attend any program.

The Kids Read, Too! Book Party

We are having a Book Party and you’re invited! Come explore the book *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen* and the rich culture of New Orleans through games, food, music, and more!

- Monday, March 14, 7 – 8:30 p.m. ☞
Woodridge Public Library
- Wednesday, April 13, 4 – 5:30 p.m. ☞ℵ
La Grange Public Library
- Saturday, April 16, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ☞ℵ
Hinsdale Public Library
- Wednesday, April 18, 4 – 5:30 p.m. ☞ℵ
La Grange Park Public Library
- Wednesday, April 20, 4 – 5:30 p.m. ☞ℵ
Lisle Library District

Kidworks Touring Theatre Co. Presents “The Music, Traditions, and Stories of New Orleans”

Bring the music, traditions, and stories of New Orleans alive in a hands-on program introducing children to its people, culture, and historic events. Beat the Djembe drum, dance at Congo Square, eat Cajun food, and survive a hurricane! Children will use costumes and theatrics to play an active role in re-creating the story *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen*. For kids in Kindergarten and up.

- Monday, March 14, 7 – 8 p.m. ☞ℵ
The Community House
229 Symonds Drive, Hinsdale, IL
(Co-sponsored by Hinsdale Public Library and
Thomas Ford Memorial Library)
- Sunday, March 20, 2 – 3 p.m. ☞ℵ
La Grange Public Library
- Saturday, April, 2 – 3 p.m. ☞
Woodridge Public Library

The Kids Read, Too! Science Workshop

What are hurricanes? Why don't we have hurricanes in Illinois? Learn about these fierce storms and other types of weather in this hands-on, inquiry-based science workshop for kids.

- Saturday, March 19 ☞☜
10 – 11 a.m. or 1 – 2 p.m.
Lisle Library District
- Sunday, April 10, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ☞☜
La Grange Public Library
- Saturday, April 16, 1 – 2 p.m. ☞☜
Westmont Public Library

Afternoon @ the Movies

Disney's *The Princess and the Frog*

Drop in for this big screen showing of Disney's retelling of the classic princess tale set in New Orleans. Fresh popcorn will be served. Rated G. For families and kids of all ages.

- Monday, March 21, 4 – 5:45 p.m. ☞☜
La Grange Park Library
- Wednesday, March 30, 2 – 3:45 p.m. ☞☜
Indian Prairie Public Library
- Thursday, March 31, 2 – 3:45 p.m. ☞☜
La Grange Public Library
- Friday, April 1, 1:30 – 3:15 p.m.
Thomas Ford Memorial Library
- Tuesday, April 12, 4 – 5:45 p.m. ☞☜
Lisle Library District

Mask Making Workshop

Make a Mardi Gras-inspired mask with master mask maker Jeff Semmerling. Fanciful masks are important components of Mardi Gras celebrations. Tragically, since Hurricane Katrina, much of New Orleans' original mask art has been lost and many mask makers are no longer working. Jeff has been working on reviving this almost-lost art. We'll work with colorful card stock to make elaborate bird masks, each unique to its creator. For kids in 1st grade and up.

- Wednesday, March 23, 4 – 5 p.m. ☞☜
Thomas Ford Memorial Library

Learn More about Hurricanes

Nonfiction Books for Kids

Gibbons, Gail. *Hurricanes!*
Learn how hurricanes are formed, how they are named and classified, and what to do if a dangerous storm is on the way.

Treaster, Joseph. *Hurricane Force: In the Path of America's Deadliest Storms*

Describes how violent storms and hurricanes are formed and notes some of history's greatest storms to hit the U.S. such as Hurricane Katrina.

Fradin, Dennis B. *Hurricane Katrina*

Covers Hurricane Katrina as a watershed event in U.S. history, influencing social, economic, and political policies that shaped the nation's future.

Websites for Kids

FEMA for Kids: The Disaster Area
www.fema.gov/kids/dizarea.htm

The National Weather Center's National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

The Space Place: Hurricanes
spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/goes/hurricanes

Weather Wiz Kids: Hurricanes
www.weatherwizkids.com/weather-hurricane.htm

Participating Libraries

Clarendon Hills Public Library

7 N. Prospect Avenue
Clarendon Hills • (630) 323-8188
www.clarendonhillslibrary.org

Downers Grove Public Library

1050 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove • (630) 960-1200
www.downersgrovelibrary.org

Hinsdale Public Library

20 E. Maple Street
Hinsdale • (630) 986-1976
www.hinsdalelibrary.info

Indian Prairie Public Library

401 Plainfield Road
Darien • (630) 887-8760
www.ippl.org

La Grange Public Library

10 W. Cossitt Avenue
La Grange • (708) 352-0576
www.lagrangelibrary.org

La Grange Park Public Library

555 N. La Grange Road
La Grange Park • (708) 352-0100
www.lplibrary.org

Lisle Library District

777 Front Street
Lisle • (630) 971-1675
www.lislelibrary.org

Thomas Ford Memorial Library

800 Chestnut Street
Western Springs • (708) 246-0520
www.fordlibrary.org

Westmont Public Library

428 N. Cass Avenue
Westmont • (630) 969-5625
www.westmontlibrary.org

Woodridge Public Library

3 Plaza Drive
Woodridge • (630) 964-7899
www.woodridgelibrary.org

Text by Lindsey Dorfman, Lisle Library District

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The Kids Read, Too! Committee

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*Sub-committee Chairperson

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