

# The New Orleans Flood Disaster

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Graphic Organizer (before and during reading)

As you read, add what you learn about hurricanes to the organizer below. Sketch your impression of what a hurricane is like.

Introduction:	Sketch:
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Jot down Elmer's thoughts about the following:

	Elmer's thoughts
Katrina Strikes	
In the Attic	
After the Storm	
The Investigation	

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Multiple Intelligences  
Intrapersonal

Many residents tried to flee from New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina struck. During disasters, people often take special things that cannot be replaced, such as photos, medals, trophies, and gifts that people have given them. If you knew a terrible storm was approaching and you had time to pack and leave town, what would you take? Draw and label your special things in the box. On the lines underneath, write your reasons.



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## 🔍 Code Breaker

Think about the words below and what they might mean. Reread the sentence/s containing these words. Predict what they mean and then check your dictionary. Record your responses below.

Word	My prediction	Dictionary meaning
Superdome (page 4)		
supplies (page 8)		
evacuate (page 9)		
torrent (page 10)		
vulnerable (page 11)		
looters (page 14)		
toxic (page 16)		
departed (page 20)		
unconscious (page 23)		
community spirit (page 23)		

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## ☐ Meaning Maker

Can you imagine what it would be like to be in a hurricane? Use the book to help you to build a picture of what it would look like, sound like, and feel like to be hit by a hurricane like Katrina.

Looks like

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Sounds like

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Feels like

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Text User

Find the information from the book to complete the table below.

Hurricane	Category	Wind speed	Side effects (flooding, power loss, etc)	Loss of Life
Katrina				

Think of positive and negative things that occurred as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Positive	
Negative	

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

● Text Critic

This book is presented as an interview with a person who recounts his experiences during Hurricane Katrina. It is a nonfiction book. Does this mean we should be able to believe everything in the book is true and accurate?

1. What was your first impression of this book when you saw the cover?

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2. Did you think that this book would give facts about hurricanes that are correct? Why or why not?

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3. Do you think the author simply presented the facts in this book? Explain.

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4. Did you get the feeling that the author liked, disliked, or was afraid of hurricanes?

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5. Which word in the title makes a statement about hurricanes?

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6. In what ways could an interview present information that might not be accurate?

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7. Do you think readers of this book will be inspired to learn more about hurricanes or other natural disasters? Explain.

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8. Do you think Elmer's account of his experiences would be similar to that of other people? Explain.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recount (Disaster)

You learn a lot about what happened during Hurricane Katrina from reading the words, but you also need to read the pictures, maps, and diagrams. Find these pictures, maps, and diagrams in the book and examine them carefully to gather information.

Feature	What it helps me understand about Hurricane Katrina
Photo: Title page	
Photo: Louisiana Superdome (page 4)	
Photo: View of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina (page 5)	
The Saffir-Simpson Scale (page 7)	
Diagram: Cross-Section of New Orleans (page 14)	
Photo: Coast Guard helicopter (page 19)	
Diagram: Failure of the Levees (page 26)	





