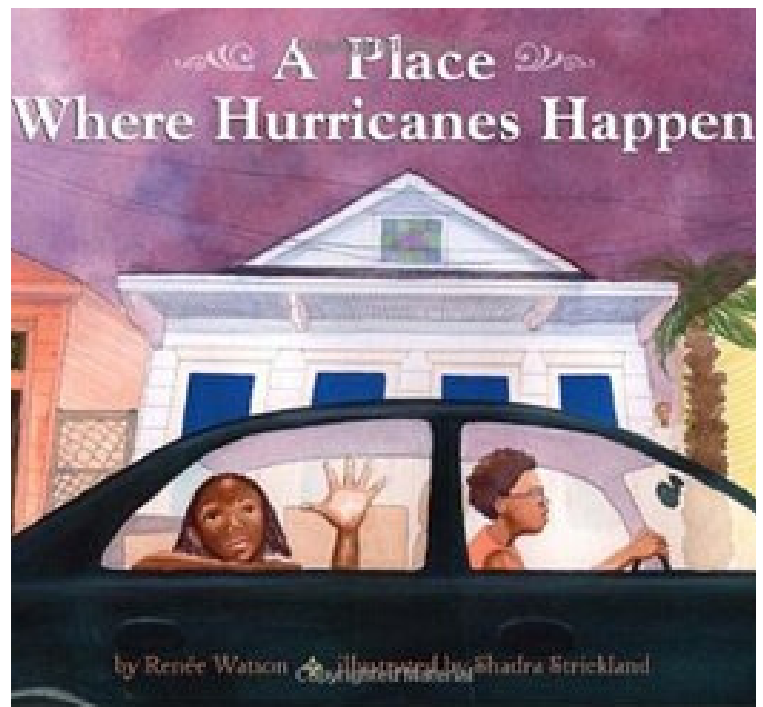




A PLACE WHERE HURRICANES HAPPEN

RENEE WATSON

This book tells the stories of four children who were neighbors and, more importantly, friends in New Orleans. They all had different experiences of Hurricane Katrina. Students meet them before the hurricane and connect with their universal stories, only to then see what truly happens to individuals when hurricanes happen.



Questions:

1. Do you have friends in your neighborhood that you play with? Do you like playing hide-and-go-seek? What games do you play with your neighborhood friends?
2. Are you the oldest or the youngest in your family? If you're the oldest, do you sometimes have to look out for your younger siblings? If you're the youngest, do your older siblings keep an eye out for you?
3. Have you ever had a friend who was much, much older than you, like Mrs. Johnson? Did Michael enjoy spending time with her?
4. What's your favorite food? Do you help your mom cook when she is making that food?
5. Do you ever have trouble sleeping? How does it make you feel?
6. Do you have a collection of anything, like Keesha collects teddy bears?
7. When your friends are all busy and you don't have anything to do, what do you like to do? Do you have a special place you like to do it?

You have a lot of things in common with the kids in this story. Do you think there are other things you might have in common?
(cont.)



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Questions:

1. How would you feel packing up your things? Would it be hard to decide what to take and what to leave behind?
2. How would you feel sitting in traffic for so long? Why do you think the traffic is so bad? Why is everyone leaving?
3. How does Michael feel seeing all the damage that the storm is doing? How does he help himself feel better? Why would holding tightly to his sister help him feel better?
4. Keesha had to stay in the Superdome for a while. How do you think she felt staying there? How do you think she felt waiting for the buses?
5. Keesha collects teddy bears, and decides to give one to a woman who gives her water. Do you think it will be hard for her to choose a teddy bear to give up?
6. How do you think that Michael felt when a rescue team came and saved him? Now that he gets to come back to his home, how do you think he feels to see everything is destroyed? How do you think he felt when he heard that Mrs. Johnson, who used to give him tea and do puzzles with him, is gone forever?
7. How do you think Tommy feels when he is stuck sleeping on a floor in another city for months? How does he feel when he sees what happened to his home on TV?
8. All of Keesha's teddy bears were destroyed in the hurricane. How do you think Keesha felt when she came home and they were all gone?
9. How do you think that Tommy and Adrienne felt coming back to New Orleans? Why is there no traffic coming into New Orleans?
10. How do you think the kids felt when they were all back together? Why did they hang the picture Michael drew?
11. How did they feel a year later? Was everything back to normal or were things still different?
12. Do you think that for those kids it's worth living in New Orleans, where hurricanes sometimes happen?