



MARVELOUS CORNELIUS

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Cornelius is a garbage man in the amazing town of New Orleans, going about his day and doing the best job he can, cleaning the city and entertaining the people he sees. When Hurricane Katrina hits, Cornelius is nervous that he won't be able to clean up the mess and bring back his beautiful city.



Questions:

1. Talk about the quote at the beginning of the book. How do you feel when you do a really good job at something? How do you think others feel when you do a good job at something that is helpful to them? Do you always remember to thank people who do a great job at things that are helpful to you?
2. Do you ever see the garbage men on your street? Do you say hello or thank you to them? How would they feel if you said thank you?
3. How do you think Cornelius felt when he heard the children cheering for him? How would you feel if people cheered for you?
4. How does Cornelius feel at work? Do you think that he has more fun by doing fancy and silly things while he works? Is work always fun?
5. Why do the people dance with Cornelius when they see him dancing in the street?
6. How do you think people felt when the storm came? How would you feel if there was that much water and everything washed away?
7. How does Cornelius feel when he sees the garbage and dirt left behind by the hurricane? Does he give up? What does "his spirit and will were waterproof mean"?
8. How would Cornelius feel when people from New Orleans start to help clean up? How do they all feel when people come in to help from other places?
9. Why should you never give up, even if something seems impossible?

ACTIVITY: Write letters or make art to thank the janitors at your school for all their hard work. Challenge students to help clean up when they can- pick up garbage around the classroom or the lunchroom after everyone has finished eating. Brainstorm other ways they can help keep their school clean.