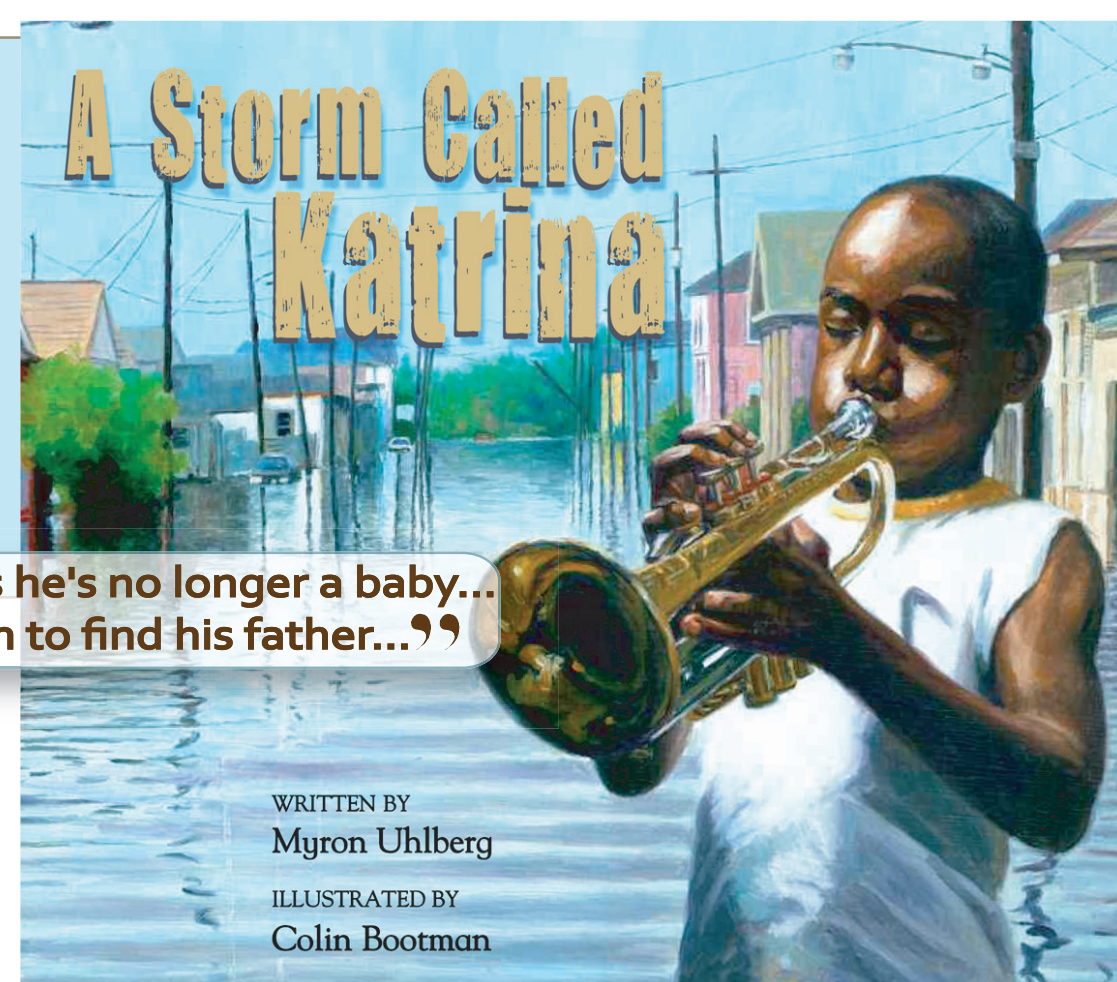


## THEMES addressed in the book:

Hurricanes  
New Orleans  
Storms/Natural Disasters  
Family/Community  
Human Rights  
U.S. History  
Musical Instruments  
Survival/ Emergency Evacuation Plan



*A moving story of the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the people of New Orleans, as seen through the eyes of a ten-year-old boy...* Louis Daniel hates it when Mama treats him like a baby. But when Hurricane Katrina blows through the Gulf Coast on a fateful August night, Louis feels like a little kid again. With no time to gather their belongings - except Louis's beloved horn - Daddy leads the family from their home and into an unfamiliar, watery world of floating debris, lurking critters, and desperate neighbors heading for dry ground. Taking shelter in the already-crowded Superdome, Louis and his parents wait...and wait. Conditions continue to worsen and their water supply is running out. When Daddy fails to return from a scouting mission within the Dome, Louis knows he's no longer a baby. It's up to him to find his father - with the help of his prized cornet.



“Louis knows he's no longer a baby... It's up to him to find his father...”

WRITTEN BY  
Myron Uhlberg

ILLUSTRATED BY  
Colin Bootman

ISBN: 978-1-56145-591-1

Hardcover: \$17.95

Age: 7-11 / Grades: 3-4

Reading Level Fountas & Pinnell Level: O

**A Storm Called Katrina**  
Written by Myron Uhlberg  
Illustrated by Colin Bootman

## Classroom Book Discussion Questions

1. Where did the story take place?
2. Why did the family have to leave their home?
3. What did Louis Daniel take with him before leaving his house?
4. What did Louis see in the water when his family was on the makeshift raft?
5. What was he most afraid of during this time?
6. What did he see as the raft floated on the water?
7. What do you think the dog was thinking when it saw Louis's family floating on the water?
8. Where were people going for safety?
9. Was it a safe place? In what ways was it not safe?
10. Why couldn't Louis sleep at the Superdome?
11. How was Louis able to help his dad find him and his mom?
12. How do you think Louis felt when he saw his dad?
13. Did the family stay or leave town?
14. If you were Louis would you want to stay or leave?
15. What do you think happened to the family after this story?

## Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans

Some people think that the New Orleans levees were high enough but not strong enough. Instead of overflowing, they probably collapsed due to the increased water pressure.

The majority of the damage in New Orleans was due to levee failure. Up to 80% of the city of New Orleans was flooded with **up to 20 feet of water**. The Mississippi coast suffered catastrophic damage from storm surges and high winds. A surge of 24 to 28 feet was measured along the Mississippi coast with the highest near Pass Christian at 27.8 feet. The storm surge went inland for about six miles, but up to twelve miles along the rivers.

The famous French Quarter in New Orleans dodged the massive flooding experienced in other levee areas. Most of the city's levees designed and built by the United States Army Corps of Engineers broke somewhere, including the 17th Street Canal levee, the Industrial Canal levee, and the London Avenue Canal floodwall. These breaches were responsible for most of the flooding.

Oil refining was stopped in the area, increasing oil prices worldwide.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed thousands of acres of forestland in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, with **1.3 million acres of forestland destroyed** in Mississippi alone.

Clean ocean water washed onto the shores of Louisiana and into New Orleans, but quickly became very foul when it was exposed to raw sewage.

## General facts about Hurricane Katrina

Katrina formed in the central Bahamas and moved northwest. It first made landfall in south Florida on the Broward/Miami-Dade county line as a category 1 hurricane.

The storm surge caused major or catastrophic damage along the coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

As Hurricane Katrina moved over the Gulf of Mexico, it strengthened into a category 5 hurricane with top winds of 175 mph. Katrina weakened into a category 3 hurricane as it made landfall near Buras, LA. It briefly passed over the Gulf of Mexico waters again and made its last landfall on the Mississippi/Louisiana border— **New Orleans's wind damage was comparable only to a category 1 or 2 hurricane.**

On Monday, August 29, 2005 – Katrina made landfall in New Orleans.

By August 31, 2005, 80% of New Orleans was flooded, with some parts under 15 feet (4.5m) of water. People started to raid shops for food and water.

As conditions worsened and flood waters continued to rise, on August 31, Governor Blanco ordered that all of New Orleans, including the Superdome, be evacuated. The area outside the Superdome was flooded to a depth of three feet (1 m), with a possibility of seven feet (2.3 m) if the area equalized with Lake Pontchartrain. Governor Blanco had the state send in 68 school buses on Monday to begin evacuating people.

Hurricane Katrina was the costliest hurricane in U.S. history, with \$75-80 billion in estimated damages.

It's possible that **up to 100,000 people stayed behind** even though the governor had ordered the evacuation of the city. People stayed for a variety of reasons, but most were unable to leave because they did not have vehicles or enough money to organize travel. Many residents were too elderly or infirm to travel. Among those left behind in the path of the category 4 hurricane were the city's weakest and most vulnerable inhabitants.

## More facts about Hurricane Katrina and Other Hurricanes

Katrina was the **largest hurricane of its strength** to approach the United States in recorded history.

The Atlantic Ocean's hurricane season peaks from mid-August to late October and averages five to six hurricanes per year.

Many of today's big hurricanes, including Katrina, are not formed in the deep tropics like other past legendary hurricanes, but much closer to the States.

2005 had three of the six strongest hurricanes on record: Wilma 882 mb (millibar: a metric measurement of air pressure) (1st), Rita 895 mb (4th), and Katrina 902 mb (6th).

The year 2005 had three of the six strongest hurricanes on record: First: Wilma at 882 mb (millibar: a metric measurement of air pressure); fourth, Rita at 895 mb (4th); and sixth, Katrina at 902 mb (6th).

Hurricane Katrina was the **sixth strongest hurricane ever recorded** and the third strongest hurricane ever recorded to make landfall in the U.S.

# Fact Sheet and Discussion Guide

## Superdome Facts

Evacuees were brought to the Superdome, one of the largest structures in the city, to wait out the storm or to await further evacuation. Many others made their way to the Superdome on their own, hoping to find food, water, shelter, or transport out of town.

On August 29, Katrina passed over New Orleans with such force that it ripped two holes in the Superdome roof. On the evening of August 30, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, of the Louisiana National Guard, said that the **number of people taking shelter in the Superdome** had risen to around **15,000 to 20,000** as search and rescue teams brought more people to the Superdome from areas hard-hit by the flooding.

## Website Sources:

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[dsc.discovery.com/news/video/hurricanegallery.html](http://dsc.discovery.com/news/video/hurricanegallery.html)

## Charity organizations:

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
[www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)

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