

I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005

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In the book “I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005” by Lauren Tarshis, Barry, an eleven-year old boy, is drawing a picture of his fictional superhero, Akivo, for a comic book competition at his school with his friend Jay. Just then, Barry’s dad tells Barry that they are leaving New Orleans in an hour and are heading to Houston due to the hurricane, and he tells Jay that he is headed to Birmingham. Barry doesn’t want to leave his friend Jay and his town, but he knows that it’s the only choice that he has. Barry and his family then hear on the radio that Hurricane Katrina is now a Category 5 storm. This worries Barry a little bit. Then, they start driving to Houston and stop by the house of Barry’s uncle, Uncle Dave. However, Uncle Dave is planning on staying in New Orleans to keep an eye on the city and help anyone. They continue to drive to Houston when all of a sudden, Cleo, Barry’s little sister, begins to feel sick. As a result, Barry’s family drives back to their house in New Orleans. Their next plan is to drive to the Superdome, but there were already over ten thousand people there. Meanwhile, at night, Barry and his dad were watching TV when they heard noises outside. Barry was worried that a hurricane was coming, but his dad remained calm. Eventually, Barry asked his dad what kept him so calm at times, in which his dad responded by saying that he listens to a song called “Blueberry Hill”. The next day, Barry wakes up, only to hear a whooshing sound outside. Then, Barry realizes that his house is flooded and that there is a flood outside. Right after, he and his family run upstairs and head onto the roof. However, soon, a strong wind heads towards Barry and his family, which causes Barry to fall off the house and into the flood.

Barry manages to grab onto a tree, but he isn’t able to see any of his family members. However, he sees Cruz, his neighbor’s dog. He and Cruz manage to make it to safety at his neighbor’s house and see a helicopter. Barry tries to get the helicopter’s attention, but he is unable to do so. Then, he sees someone on a boat, who sees Barry and Cruz. She saves Barry and Cruz and then introduces herself as Nell. Nell tells Barry that they will go to the St. Claude Avenue Bridge. On the way to the bridge, many people call for help, in which Nell responds by saying that she will come back to save them. Once they get to the bridge, Barry stays at the bridge while Nell goes back to save more people. Barry then reunites with the rest of his family. At New York City (where Barry’s new home is), many people want to know from them about Hurricane Katrina. Not only that, everywhere on the news, people were talking about Hurricane Katrina.

There were many things that I liked about this book. One thing I liked was how even though the story was fictional, it was based off of the tragic event of Hurricane Katrina. I also liked how the book gave some facts about Hurricane Katrina and an idea of what people did to stay safe during Hurricane Katrina. I would recommend this book to ages 7+ since this book may be hard to understand for those who may not be familiar with hurricanes. However, I would definitely recommend this book to someone else.

Recommended Titles:

I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944 by Lauren Tarshis

I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001 by Lauren Tarshis

I Survived the Attack of the Grizzlies, 1967 by Lauren Tarshis