

# Overview

## *Hurricane Katrina*

Readings on different kinds of natural disasters introduce a focus on the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. The accessible but sophisticated novel *Ninth Ward* offers multiple perspectives on tragic events. Students focus on text-based inferencing with the novel and with related non-fiction. A debate on who was responsible for the Katrina disaster requires complex perspective-taking and pulls together students' experience reading varied informational and imaginative genres.

### LITERATURE

*Ninth Ward* (Rhodes) - Novel with magical realist elements describing a New Orleans family surviving the Hurricane Katrina disaster

*Hurricane Katrina—True Books* (Benoit) – Illustrated nonfiction account of Hurricane Katrina's path of destruction across the Gulf Coast

### FLUENCY TOPICS

Hurricane Sandy, preparedness for natural disasters, New Orleans ghosts, voodoo, food traditions of New Orleans, New Orleans architecture, musical heritage of New Orleans

### FOCUS

Literary analysis

- Interrelation of character, plot, setting
- Tracking the development of plot across a novel, focusing on problem/resolution
- Foreshadowing and flashback
- Introducing and commenting on textual evidence

Reading comprehension

- Summarizing, clarifying, predicting and questioning as components of Reciprocal Teaching
- Question-answer relationships (QAR): contrasts between “right there,” “think and search,” “author and me,” and “on my own” questions
- Note-taking from informational texts

Decoding

- Time, negation, and direction prefixes
- Greek and Latin roots
- Noun and verb suffixes

Debate

- Who was responsible for the Katrina disaster: the mayor, the federal government or the citizens of New Orleans?
- Choose a debate on the novel *The Ninth Ward*: Which symbol best represents Lanesha? OR What gives Lanesha strength?

# Unit 1.4