

Overview

Disaster Strikes!

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 nonfiction. 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?