

# I SURVIVED

## BOOK CLUB

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005



# READ-ALoud

Assign roles to your family and friends for this read-aloud from *I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005*. Barry and Cruz are out of the water and sitting on a roof, hoping for some help...

### CHARACTERS:

Narrator	Man
Barry	Dad
Nell	Cleo
Woman	Mom

**Narrator:** As Barry and Cruz sit on the roof, the sun goes down, draining the light from the sky. Whenever a boat passes, Barry calls out, but no one can stop for them. Soon, he grows tired, and looks up at the stars in the sky.

**Barry:** Cruz, did I tell you I created a superhero named Akivo with my friend, Jay?

**Narrator:** Cruz listens, ears perked, as Barry points at a star.

**Barry:** That's Akivo's star. It's called Beta Draconis, and it's the source of his super powers. He has huge muscles, hawk wings, titanium armor, and eyes that can see through walls. Cool, right?

**Narrator:** The exhausted dog settles next to Barry, resting his head on Barry's leg as Barry talks, which makes them both feel better.

**Barry:** There are trillions and trillions of stars in the universe, more than all the grains of sand on every beach and desert on earth.

**Narrator:** As the stars watch over them, more boats pass by. Barry and Cruz ignore them, but soon one comes closer and closer, and Cruz lifts his head, alert. Barry is afraid to hope...and then a woman drives her small yellow raft right onto the roof, stopping just a few feet from them.

**Nell:** Well, look at you, you brave soul.

**Narrator:** Barry is sure he's imagining things as the woman steps out of her boat and wades up to him in tall rubber boots.

**Nell:** I'm Nell. Who are you?

**Barry:** I'm Barry. This is Cruz.

**Nell:** Are you two alone? Where's your family?

**Narrator:** Barry's eyes fill with tears as he looked at the endless water all around them and shrugs. Nell puts her hands on his shoulders.

**Nell:** How about we get you and Cruz out of here? Sound like a plan?

**Narrator:** Barry nods, and he and Cruz climb into the boat after Nell. She hands Barry a big bottle of water, which he shares with Cruz. As they drink, he thinks about Nell calling him "brave." Is she right? He certainly doesn't feel brave at the moment.

**Nell:** I'm taking you to the St. Claude Avenue Bridge, where people will help you.

**Narrator:** Barry feels a flash of hope.

## READ-ALoud (CONTINUED)



**Barry:** Really? Are there beds and food? And rescue workers?

**Narrator:** Before Nell can answer him, a voice comes out of the darkness.

**Woman:** Help us, please! We've got a baby here!

**Nell:** I'll be back for you, I promise! Just hang on!

**Narrator:** Nell turns to Barry.

**Nell:** Thousands are stranded here in the Lower Nine. I've already picked up more than thirty people. It's going to be a long night but there are a lot of us out here in our boats, which is good. And look—we're at the bridge.

**Narrator:** Barry looks up to see the big rusty steel bridge. There are hundreds of people huddled together on the ground or wandering around, but no flashing lights or tents. Panic boils up inside him.

**Barry:** Are you really going to leave us here?

**Nell:** You'll be okay, Barry. They're bringing people from the bridge to the Superdome. Someone will help you there.

**Barry:** But I...I can't bring Cruz into the Superdome.

**Narrator:** Just then a man dashes over to Nell.

**Man:** Please, I'm trying to find my grandmother! She's out there, all alone, up on her roof. I need to get to her!

**Nell:** I'll take you.

**Narrator:** Barry looks at the panicked man and knows he has to get out so Nell can help other people like she helped him. She leans over and takes his face in her hands.

**Nell:** You're strong, Barry. You've been strong today, and you're going to keep being strong. I can see it in your eyes.

**Narrator:** And then she lets him go. His whole body shakes as he gets out of the boat, Cruz following him. Nell's words echo through his mind...*you're strong...you're strong...*

**Barry:** Is she right, Cruz? How can someone who can't stop shaking be strong?

**Narrator:** Together, they stand on the bridge, looking at all the people. Then, to ease his panic, Barry gazes up at Beta Draconis again. And as he does...

**Dad:** Barry?! Barry!

**Narrator:** Barry turns to see his father running toward him. Suddenly, his whole family is wrapping their arms around him.

**Cleo:** We found you!

## READ-ALoud (CONTINUED)

**Mom:** It's a miracle! I can't believe it!

**Dad:** Son, I jumped into the water after you but the current was too strong and I had to go back! I'm so sorry I lost you.

**Mom:** He called your name so many times, he lost his voice.

**Barry:** It's okay, Dad. I'm okay, see? I'm okay.

**Dad:** How did you—? Are you sure—

**Narrator:** His father can't seem to find the words and instead pulls Barry into another hug. Cruz pushes his snout against Barry's hand.

**Mom:** Who's this? Isn't this Abe's dog?

**Barry:** Yeah, this is Cruz. Turns out he's not a killer. I saved him. And he saved me, too.

**Mom:** Well, I think that makes him part of the family **now**, doesn't it.

**Barry:** What happens to us now?

**Dad:** We're not sure yet. But the important thing is, we got you back and we're all together.

**Mom:** That makes us very lucky.

**Narrator:** Cleo takes Barry's hand.

**Cleo:** Were you brave?

**Barry:** I think so, Clee.

**Narrator:** As he looks at his family's grateful smiles, Nell's words ring through his mind, becoming his own. *I am strong...I am strong...* ■