

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

### I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005



# CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Abe and Barry aren't friends anymore? Why does Abe try to scare Barry?

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2. What kind of relationship do Barry and Cleo have? How do you know?

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3. When he and his family are trying to get to the highway, Barry wonders what would happen if they're still stuck in traffic when the storm hits. Why is this a scary possibility?

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4. How does listening to the news when they get back to their house help the Tuckers make an important decision about going to the Superdome later?

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5. How does Gramps help the Tuckers even though he's not in the attic with them?

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## CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

6. In what ways is Barry brave when he first falls off the roof of his house and lands in the water, getting separated from his family?

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7. How is finding Cruz good for Barry?

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8. Why do you think the helicopter doesn't rescue Barry and Cruz?

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9. Why is Barry afraid to be left at the St. Claude Avenue Bridge?

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10. What "powers" did Barry discover when he was in the flood?

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**ESSAY ASSIGNMENT:** Answer the organizer questions on the next page to help you write a three-paragraph essay about problems that Barry had to solve on his own, and how problem-solving helped him gain confidence.

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## CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

### THREE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY ORGANIZER FOR *I SURVIVED HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005*

Answer the questions below to brainstorm ideas for your first paragraph, which will be your introduction:

How would you describe Barry at the beginning of the book? Does he have confidence in himself? What does he wish he had?

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For your second paragraph, list two problems that Barry had to deal with on his own, and how he solved them:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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Next, answer the questions below to help you write a concluding paragraph.

How does Barry see himself at the end of the book? How do you know?

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Now, write your essay on the back of this page or on a computer using your answers above.

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## ANSWERS

### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Abe is angry about his dad going away, and being mean to Barry might be a way for him to express or deal with his anger.
2. Barry and Cleo are close, and Barry looks out for her. His mother asks him to work some of his "Barry magic" on Cleo, and Barry always gets a soft feeling in his heart when he looks at Cleo.
3. It's scary because they would have a difficult time getting out of traffic and away from the flooding and high winds.
4. They hear that there are already ten thousand people at the Superdome—with thousands more lined up around the building—before the storm hits. Later, when they're together again, they decide to go to Lightning's, not to the Superdome.
5. Forty years ago, Gramps stored an ax in the attic and made sure Dad knew about it because Gramps was sure there'd be another bad storm.
6. After falling in the water, he grabs the trunk of a tree and climbs up; he protects himself from the floating house; he goes into the house to rescue Cruz.
7. Having Cruz with him helps Barry to feel less alone, and helping Cruz gives Barry something to focus on besides the fact that he can't find his family.
8. Maybe because the pilot couldn't land, or already had other people in the helicopter, or was supposed to be gathering information for a rescue operation.
9. Because there are hundreds of people on the bridge and no rescue workers, and the people there are being taken to the Superdome, which Barry knows had huge crowds even before the storm hit and doesn't allow pets.
10. He discovered that he's strong and brave and can rely on himself, and that he can even take care of others, too.

**ESSAY ASSIGNMENT:** Answers will vary but should include the idea that at the beginning of the book, Barry wishes he had the courage to tell Abe off. At the end of the book, he feels strong, and like he discovered his own powers in the flood.