

Name:

I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005



LITERARY-ELEMENT ACTIVITY AND CONTEXT REVIEW

THEME: One of the themes of this book is learning to rely on yourself, also known as self-reliance. Answer the questions below to explore how the author develops this theme.

1. What do you think Akivo represents to Barry? Why is this important to him?

2. What happens to Barry's drawing of Akivo?

3. What does Barry learn about himself during the hurricane? How does he learn this?

4. How does Akivo look different when Barry draws him again in New York City? Why is this important?

CONTEXT REVIEW: Use the information at the back of the book to answer the questions below.

1. What happened when the levees failed?

2. Why were many people unable to evacuate New Orleans?



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LITERARY-ELEMENT ACTIVITIES

I SURVIVED HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

GRAPHIC NOVEL 101

WHAT'S A GRAPHIC NOVEL?

A book in which the illustrations and the text work together to tell the story. To understand what's happening, you have to read the text and study the pictures.

HOW DO I READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL? On each page, start with the top row and read left to right, then repeat all the way down the page. In other words, zig-zag your way from the top left to the bottom right.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- There are many kinds of text in a graphic novel, like speech bubbles and narration boxes.
- There are illustrated words that provide sound effects, like "WHOOOSH," "CREAK," and "AAAAAIIIIIEEEEEEEE."
- The illustrated boxes on the pages are called panels.

GRAPHIC NOVEL QUESTIONS: Below, analyze how three illustrations in the book offer information that is important to understanding the story.



1. What do you notice about the last panel on page 43, when Dad is turning the car around?



2. Why does the illustrator use a whole page for the illustration on page 53?



3. How does the illustrator convey how Barry is feeling on page 111?



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ANSWERS

LITERARY-ELEMENT ACTIVITIES:

THEME:

- 1. Akivo represents courage to Barry. This is important to him because he doesn't feel like he has courage.
- 2. It gets ruined inside Barry's house during the hurricane.
- 3. Barry learns that he does have courage, because he takes care of himself and Cruz.
- 4. Akivo now looks a little like Barry, which shows that Barry now thinks of himself as having courage.

CONTEXT REVIEW:

- 1. Billions of gallons of water gushed into New Orleans, causing flooding and trapping tens of thousands of people.
- 2. Many were unable to evacuate because they didn't have cars or couldn't afford the costs, or were too old or sick to make the trip.

GRAPHIC NOVEL QUESTIONS:

- 1. There is no one in the other lane. In other words, everyone is leaving New Orleans; only the Tuckers are heading back.
- 2. The illustrator uses a whole page to show the water coming into the house and knocking Barry off his feet because he wants readers to realize that it's an important moment in the story and to feel how scary it must have been for Barry.
- **3.** The illustrator shows Barry and Cruz looking small and alone on the roof as they gaze out at the flooded neighborhood, which is how Barry is feeling—small and alone.