DISASTER and SURVIVAL

**Genres**
- Fiction by Roland Smith
- Narrative Nonfiction
- Informational Text
- Infographic
- America the Extreme
- Interview
- Wild About Weather
- Poetry by Rebecca Kai Dotlich
- Debate
- Refusing to Flee
- First-Person Account
- After the Tornado
- Drama
- I Survived Hurricane Katrina
- Video

**Theme**
- 1

**State Standards**

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Common Core Reader

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SCHOLASTIC

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STORYWORKS®

COMMON CORE READER

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10 GENRES
1 THEME
I SURVIVED
HURRICANE
KATRINA

Eleven-year-old Barry never thought he was brave. But when the storm of the century strikes New Orleans, Barry must find the courage to survive.

By Lauren Tarshis, from her book series “I Survived”

Scene 1

N1: It is August 28, 2005, New Orleans, Louisiana.
N2: The Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood.
N3: Barry Tucker and his best friend, Jay, are sitting on Barry’s front porch.
N1: They see Abe Mackay and his killer dog, Cruz, down the block.
Barry: Hide! That dog can kill a person with one bite!
Jay: That can’t be true.
N2: Barry wishes he weren’t so scared of everything.
N3: Barry’s dad appears at the front door.
Dad: That hurricane’s getting nasty. Come and pack up, Barry. We’re leaving town.
Barry: Where are we going?
Dad: Houston. To your cousins’.
Jay: Are you serious? There hasn’t been a major hurricane in New Orleans in 40 years.
Dad: There’s a mandatory evacuation.
N1: Through the open door, they hear the news playing on the radio.
Radio Announcer: That’s right. This storm is a monster. Get out while you can!

Scene 2

N2: Barry tries to stay calm as he helps his little sister, Cleo, pack a bag.
Radio Announcer: Hurricane Katrina is now a Category 5 storm, folks. Winds 175 MPH.
Dad: They’re opening up the Superdome stadium for folks without cars. I’m sure everything will be fine.
N1: Through the open door, they hear the news playing on the radio.
Radio Announcer: Hurricane Katrina is now a Category 5 storm, folks. Winds 175 MPH.

CHARACTERS

*Narrators 1, 2, 3 (N1, N2, N3)
*Barry Tucker: an 11-year-old boy
Jay: Barry’s best friend
Dad: Barry’s dad
Radio Announcer
Mom: Barry’s mom
Newscasters 1 and 2
Dog Owner
Nell: a helper
Woman
Boy
*Photo-Caption Reader: reads captions

*Indicates large speaking role
Scene 3

N2: A strange whooshing sound jolts Barry awake.
N3: He stands up as the front door flies open.
N1: A wave of water sweeps into the house, knocking Barry off his feet.
Barry: Daaaaaad!
Dad: I’m coming! Grab my hand.
N2: Dad splashes through the water, pulling Barry toward the staircase.
Dad: Hurry! The water is rising fast.
N3: They run up the stairs and see Mom carrying Cleo.
Mom: Did the levee break?
Dad: I hope not! But it looks like the Mississippi River is flooding the whole neighborhood.
Barry: Could all that water really come into our house?
N1: Water begins to rise up their stairs.

Scene 4

N3: Barry struggles to stay afloat.
N1: Sharp pieces of wood and metal smack and scrape him as they fly by.
Barry (screaming): Dad! Mom! Cleo!
N2: The wind screams back at him.
N3: Barry is shocked to see a house floating toward him. He reaches up and grabs hold of a window frame, careful of the jagged glass.
N1: He climbs in, relieved to be out of the flood.
But then he hears ferocious barking.
N2: Barry realizes that he’s in Abe’s house.
Barry (to himself): That’s Abe’s killer dog! I have to get out of here!
N3: But then Barry hears a whimpering howl.
The dog sounds terrified, not deadly.
N1: Barry hesitates, fighting his fear.
N2: He has nowhere to go. And besides, the dog needs help.

Scene 5

N2: The helicopter winds have stirred up the water. The house starts to rock violently.
N3: Barry hears a loud splash. Cruz has fallen into the water.
Barry: OK, Cruz! I’m coming!
N3: Barry wades through the water and climbs up the tilting stairs.
N1: Cruz’s leash is tied to Abe’s bed. Barry cautiously unbooks it.
N2: Cruz leaps up and licks Barry’s chin.
Barry: You’re not really a killer dog, are you?
N3: Cruz nuzzles Barry’s leg. Barry puts his head.
N1: Suddenly Cruz bounds over to the edge of the room, where the side of the house has been ripped away.
N2: Barry follows and looks into the sky.
Barry: It’s a helicopter! Cruz! We’re being rescued!
N3: Barry wades through the water and climbs up, relieved to be out of the flood.

Suffering at the Superdome

For those unable to leave New Orleans, the Superdome was the only place to find shelter. More than 20,000 people suffered for days in extreme heat and filthy conditions with little food or water.
Barry: I know. That was scary. But we’re OK.
N3: But they aren’t OK. The water is filled with toxic chemicals. It stings their skin.
N1: Barry sees an upside-down car poking through the water. He kicks toward it as hard as he can, towing Cruz.
N2: They scramble onto it. Barry hears a distant whistle. 
Barry: At least we’re together, Cruz.
N1: Just little boats, like Nell’s, letting people off and heading back out into the water.
N2: Nell reaches down and pets Cruz, who is snoozing at his feet.
N3: Barry holds on to them tightly.

Reading & Reflecting
Answer the questions below using text evidence from “Wind” and I Survived Hurricane Katrina. Go back and reread sections as necessary. Continue on a separate sheet of paper if you need more room.

1. Explain what Annie and Barry each learn about themselves as a result of a hurricane.

2. Describe the role family and community play in each story. Think about who gives and who receives help to survive the hurricanes.

You Write It!
Imagine Annie and Barry become pen pals. Compose a letter from Annie to Barry, in which she shares her experience in the storm. Then write Barry’s response. In both letters, the characters should explain who and what helped them make it through the disaster.