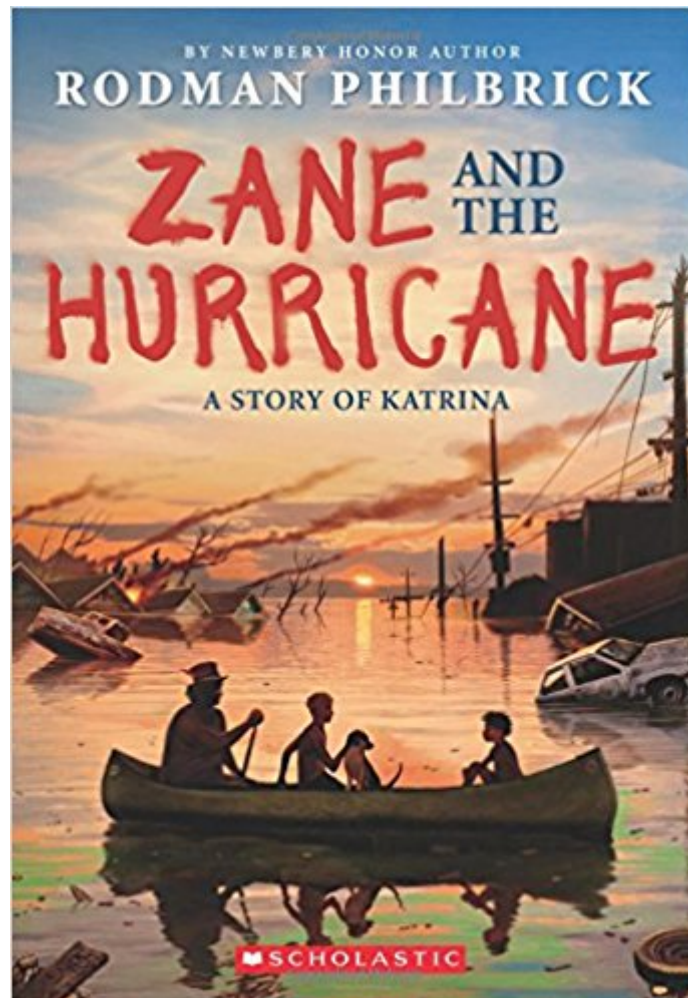




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Zane And The Hurricane: A Story Of Katrina



Synopsis

Newbery Honor author Rodman Philbrick presents a gripping yet poignant novel about a 12-year-old boy and his dog who become trapped in New Orleans during the horrors of Hurricane Katrina. Zane Dupree is a charismatic 12-year-old boy of mixed race visiting a relative in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hits. Unexpectedly separated from all family, Zane and his dog experience the terror of Katrina's wind, rain, and horrific flooding. Facing death, they are rescued from an attic air vent by a kind, elderly musician and a scrappy young girl--both African American. The chaos that ensues as storm water drowns the city, shelter and food vanish, and police contribute to a dangerous, frightening atmosphere, creates a page-turning tale that completely engrosses the reader. Based on the facts of the worst hurricane disaster in U.S. history, Philbrick includes the lawlessness and lack of government support during the disaster as well as the generosity and courage of those who risked their lives and safety to help others. Here is an unforgettable novel of heroism in the face of truly challenging circumstances.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (49 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #12,247 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather](#) #77 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men](#) #242 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

It has been years since I have read *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick, so details of the story are hazy at best. But, my total love of the book has always stayed with me. This fall I was quite excited to hear that Philbrick had another book to be published. *Zane and the Hurricane* takes place

during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana in 2005. Zane has never known his father, who died before he was born. His mother doesn't talk a lot about him and the two met while in the military, so they were not from the same town, and didn't know each other's families. When Zane's mom discovers the grandma who raised Zane's dad is alive and well in New Orleans, she sends Zane to spend some time with her so the two can get to know each other. The visit itself is going well, but a storm is threatening Louisiana and as things progress the storm develops into Hurricane Katrina. Zane's mother is trying to provide assistance from afar, and his great grandmother is doing her best to get them to a safe place, but when Zane jumps out of the church van taking him and his great grandma to safety in order to chase his dog that jumped out the window, the two become separated. That's when things become a little bit scary. There are a lot of struggles Zane must deal with in order to get to safety - more than just Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. On his journey, Zane is befriended by a feisty young girl and an elderly musician, who are also on their way to finding help. Dwindling food supplies, rising flood waters, hospitals unable to provide assistance, and a police presence that was not always helpful depending on the color of a person's skin are just a few of the page-turning problems that Philbrick's characters must overcome.

Unbelievably, August 2014 will mark the nine-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. For those who experienced Katrina firsthand it is likely to feel like it happened just weeks ago, especially as many are still trying to recover. For the millions of us who watched Katrina and its aftermath unfold via our televisions, or at least for myself, the images remain as vivid to me today as the first time I saw them. For us, the stories of Hurricane Katrina exist under the label of contemporary realistic fiction. However, for many young readers, Katrina occurred before they existed or before they had solid memories of the world. For these readers, *ZANE AND THE HURRICANE: A Story of Katrina* is a work of historical fiction. Regardless of the label applied to Philbrick's newest novel, readers will find a realistic, relatable and touching account of Hurricane Katrina from the eyes of two outsiders, Philbrick and Zane. Zane Dupree, the main character in *ZANE AND THE HURRICANE*, happens to be in the worst place at the very worst time. Zane has traveled from New Hampshire to New Orleans to meet the great grandmother he didn't know existed just a short while ago, Miss Trissy. Because Zane's mother is desperate for Zane to build a connection with the paternal side of the family --- Zane's father died before he was born --- she wants to send Zane to New Orleans to meet Miss Trissy immediately. Zane protests to no avail, but is eventually allowed to bring his dog and best friend, Bandit, along for the trip. Miss Trissy and Zane develop an instant connection despite the years and history that separate them. Unfortunately, the two have

very little time to build this relationship before the threats of Hurricane Katrina cause them to flee the city.

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