

Zane and the Hurricane
Discussion Guide
Grades 5-8

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- What do you think is more powerful- human or nature? Why?
- Think of a time when you changed your mind. What caused you to change your mind?
- What are ways to get to know a place you have never been?
- Frontload vocabulary: Chapter1-3 (see vocabulary list)

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Where is Smellyville? Why does Zane call it Smellyville? (Ch.1)
- How's the weather in New Orleans different from it in New Hampshire? (Ch.2)
- What is the "sell-by" date? (Ch.3)
- Why does Zane's mom want both Zane and Miss Trissy to come home? (Ch.4)
- What does the pastor offer to Zane and Grammy? (Ch.5)
- Why does Zane jump out of the minivan? If you were Zane, would you do the same thing? Why or why not? (Ch.6)
- Where do Bandy and Zane end up at? (Ch.7)
- What's the difference between a tornado and a storm? What is coming at the end of this chapter? (Ch.8)
- Why is Zane climbing into the attic? What would you do if you were Zane? (Ch.9)
- While the situation in the attic is bad, do you think it is a good choice for Zane and Bandy to climb there? (Ch.10)
- How has Zane been so far? What advice would you give to him? (Ch.1-10)
- Who are the girl and the man that Zane and Bandy meet? (Ch.11)
- What is the New Olean like after the storm? (Ch.11-12)
- In what way is music important to New Olean? What's the relationship between music and the city? (Ch.13)
- What is Zane afraid of? Do you agree that "Got all we can do to rescue ourselves"? (Ch.14-15)
- Why do people call the local elementary "an unofficial shelter"? Do you think schools are good shelters in natural disasters? Why or why not? (Ch.16)
- Why do Zane, Malvina, and Mr. Tru have to leave this elementary school urgently? (Ch.17)
- Who is Dylan Toomey? Where do they meet Dylan? What is the relationship between Dylan Toomey and Malvina's mom? (Ch.17-18)
- Does Zane regret going along all the way with Malvina and Mr. Tru? What is your evidence? (Ch.11-18)

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- Is the helicopter coming to rescue them? (Ch.20)
- Who are these strange men? What are they doing when Zane, Malvina, and Mr.Tru run into them? Why are these men unwilling to help Zane, Bandy, Malvina, and Mr. Tru leave the city? (Ch.21)
- Does Zane get a chance to talk to his mother? (Ch.22)
- Who is Belinda? Why does Mr. Tru make Malvina and Zane repeat where and how they could find Belinda? (Ch.23)
- Do Malvina and Zane run back for the same reason? Is the thing found by them helpful to Mr. Tru? (Ch.24)
- What may happen in the done since Dylan Toomey is here as well? (Ch.25)
- Where do they choose to hind? Does Dylan Toomey find them eventually? (Ch.26)
- What is the next step for Zane and his friends? (Ch.27)
- Why do people call the New Olean as “the crescent city”? (Ch.28)
- What happens to Bandy and who treats Bandy? What efforts has Zane made to have a dog? (Ch.29)
- When Zane, Bandy, Malvina, and Mr. Tru first met, what is their original destination? Do they finally make it? (Ch.1, 30)
- What are the differences and similarities between Zane and Malvina? Give examples to examples to support your findings. (Ch.1-30)

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- How many stages would you divide Zane’s experience into? What are your theories?
- Do you think Zane is different from the boy that he used to be before the hurricane? What evidence can you find to support your ideas?
- What self-saving skills have you learned from Zane’s experience? List at least 3 of them.
- As we read, New Orleans had not recovered from the hurricane even after one year. What can we do to help people and places influenced by natural disasters?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.