

## **A Place Where Hurricanes Happen**

Renee Watson



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Natural and man-made disasters are becoming more commonplace in children's lives, and this touching freeverse picture book provides a straightforward account of Hurricane Katrina. In alternating voices, four friends describe their lives before, during, and after the storm and how, even though the world can change in a heartbeat, people define the character of their community and offer one another comfort and hope even in the darkest hours.

Adrienne, Keesha, Michael, and Tommy have been friends for *forever*. They live on the same street—a street in New Orleans where everyone knows everybody. They play together all day long, every chance they get. It's *always* been that way. But then people start talking about a storm headed straight for New Orleans. The kids must part ways, since each family deals with Hurricane Katrina in a different manner. And suddenly everything that felt like home is gone.

Renée Watson's lyrical free verse is perfectly matched in Shadra Strickland's vivid mixed media art. Together they celebrate the spirit and resiliency of New Orleans, especially its children.



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