

Dark Water Rising

By: Marian Hale

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Genre: Historical Fiction

Setting: Galveston, Texas, 1900

SUMMARY: Seventeen year old Seth is tired of arguing with his father about his future. His father wants his sons to become doctors and moves the entire family to Galveston, Texas in 1900 to take advantage of the opportunities for his children's education. Seth wants to become a carpenter like his father, but no arguments sway the older man. Not until the aftermath of the Hurricane, the one that swept away whole families, homes, and most of their new home of Galveston. It is through Seth's quiet courage and carpentry skills that a home is kept standing and his father can work on a bridge bringing rescue materials to the stricken city.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Marian Hale knew that she wanted to be a writer after her sixth grade teacher gave them a short story writing assignment. She particularly likes to write books which cover stories of families, how they interact, and how they endure hardships together. Ms Hale currently lives in Rockport, Texas.

For more information, please visit the publisher's author website at:

<http://us.macmillan.com/author/marianhale>

Other books written by the author:

The Truth About Sparrows

SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:

Blown Away! By Joan Hiatt Harlow

The Great Storm: The hurricane Diary of J.T. King, Galveston, Texas by Lisa Waller Rogers

The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis

Terror from the Gulf: A Hurricane in Galveston by Martha Tannery Jones

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (If question is related to a specific chapter, chapter is in parenthesis following question)

1. According to statistics, Galveston, Texas is hit with a hurricane every three years. Why do you think people live in areas that are frequently hit by these severe tropical storms?
2. Why do you think Seth's father was determined that his son become a doctor?
3. Was it unfair of Seth's Dad to expect him to go to college? Why would you see this as fair or not? How would you have handled this situation?
4. Why does Seth's family move to Galveston?
5. What goal did Seth set for himself when the family moved to Galveston? How was he able to accomplish that goal in the midst of disaster?
6. The way Seth, Zach & Josiah work together was almost like magic – they were in the “zone”. Have you ever experienced something like this or heard of others who did? How did these 2 days impact Seth?
7. Did the people of Galveston have warning of the hurricane? How did they protect themselves?
8. What was surprising about the way the people behaved when the storm began?
9. How did the people respond after the storm? What were the difficulties the survivors faced?
10. After the storm, Thomas and Ezra insist on keeping Seth and Josiah close to home? Why?
11. What does martial law mean and why does it scare citizens?
12. Why does it take so long for supplies to reach Galveston after the storm?
13. Why does Seth's father go to work on the bridge and instead of keeping Seth to help with building the bridge, send him home to his mother? What message did the father send with Seth?
14. Does Seth forgive his father for ‘running off’? Why or why not? Are he and his father the same people they were before the storm?
15. Using examples, describe Seth's relationship with Joshua.
16. Why doesn't Josiah call Seth by his first name? Why does he refuse to when Seth asks him to?
17. Why is it left to Seth to repair his uncle's home?
18. Who is Sarah Louise Ellison? What does she mean to Seth? What does she symbolize?
19. Are Uncle Nate and Ben ever located? Why do Seth and the rest of the family stop searching for them?
20. What happens when the city tries to dump the bodies of the men into the ocean?
21. What parallels can you draw between this storm and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita? Do the events of those two hurricanes show a significant change in how vulnerable communities are affected by hurricanes in the last 100 years? Why or why not? Think about the aid in recovery, the work, the structure of the cities and how race factors into the equation.

22. Using three examples from three different parts of the novel, describe the relationship between Seth and his father.

LITERARY LINKS:

Language Arts (List each and Indiana Academic Standards Grades 6-8 addressed by each):

8.2.3 Using three days of articles from the San Francisco Newspaper to compare and contrast the events as described by the author in the book. As you read the articles, do you find any names that were mentioned in the book? Based on the comparison and using examples, detail how accurate you feel the author and the newspapers portray the events following the hurricane.

San Francisco Article September 10, 1900

<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/ndnp:763361/display.html?n+1&scope=fulltext&pageNum=1¤tSort=&mode=list>

San Francisco Article September 12, 1900

<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/ndnp:763429/display.html?n=0&scope=fulltext&pageNum=1¤tSort=&mode=list>

San Francisco Article September 14, 1900

<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/ndnp:763503/display.html?n=2&scope=fulltext&pageNum=1¤tSort=&mode=list>

Mathematics (List each and Indiana Academic Standards Grades 6-8 addressed by each):

Science (List each and Indiana Academic Standards Grades 6-8 addressed by each):

6.3.2

Research Hurricane Katrina. Compare and contrast the two hurricanes. Present your findings.

Research another disaster that has hit the U.S. Compare and contrast the two.

Research the weather patterns that cause hurricanes

Galveston 1900 Hurricane <http://www.1900storm.com/>

Photographs <http://www.familyoldphotos.com/tx/coll/galveston-1900hurricane.htm>

Tracking the storm <http://www.islandnet.com/~see/weather/events/1900hurr.htm>

Social Studies (List each and Indiana Academic Standards Grades 6-8 addressed by each):

Galveston, Texas 1900

http://economistsview.typepad.com/economistsview/2005/09/the_galveston_h.html

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