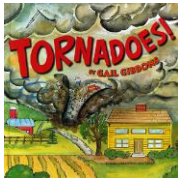




Extreme Weather Read-Aloud Outline

Kids love to learn about the force of nature, as shown in tornadoes, hurricanes and tsunamis. Indulge kids' love of facts at their fingertips by helping them absorb facts from the nonfiction books listed below.

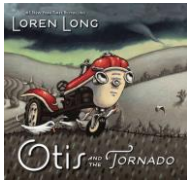
The books below are grouped into fiction and nonfiction sections. Choose books that would be appropriate based on the ages of the children in your Read-Aloud.



Tornadoes! by Gail Gibbons (nonfiction)

Ages 6 and up

Gibbons is known for her ability to explain complex scientific concepts in clear text that even young children can understand. The illustrations in this book are detailed and colorful.



Otis and the Tornado by Loren Long (fiction)

Ages 4 to 6

Otis is a tractor, who is good to all creatures on the farm. The bull is a bully, but he is scared when a tornado approaches. This book has a happy ending after a scary experience.

More fiction books about extreme weather

Tsunami! by Kimiko Kajikawa

Ages 5 and up

Barn Storm by Charles Ghigna and Debra Ghigna

Ages 5 to 8

Hurricane! by Jonathan London

Ages 4 to 8

Hurricane by David Wiesner

Ages 4 to 8

The Magic School Bus Inside a Hurricane by Joanne Cole

Ages 6 and up

More nonfiction books about extreme weather

MAMA: a true story, in which a baby hippo loses his mama during a tsunami, but finds a new home and a new mama by Jeanette Winter

Ages 4 and up

Tornadoes by Seymour Simon
Ages 6 and up

Hurricanes by Seymour Simon
Ages 6 and up

Forces of Nature by Chana Stiefel
Ages 7 and up

Saving Animals in Hurricanes by Stephen Person
Ages 7 and up

Inside Tornadoes by Mary Kay Carson
Ages 8 and up

Tsunami Warning by Taylor Morrison
Ages 9 and up

Hurricanes, Tsunamis and Other Natural Disasters by Andrew Langley
Ages 10 and up

Activities

1. Tornado in a plastic bottle. This link shows two methods. Pick the one that works best for you. <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Tornado-in-a-Bottle>



2. Cotton ball hurricane. Give each child a piece of blue paper to represent the ocean. Use cotton balls to create an image of a hurricane. Stretch out the cotton to create the edges of the hurricane. Don't forget the eye of the hurricane in the middle. Explain why the hurricanes are formed in this way by referring to the books on hand. Some kids may want to add landforms to their image.
3. Storm emergency kits. Bring in an emergency kit and discuss the contents. You might include a flashlight, extra batteries (the right size for your flashlight), water, a wind-up radio, nonperishable food, a simple first-aid kit, etc. Explain why each item would be useful in a storm emergency. Ask kids to help create a list of what they would include in their emergency kit so they can ask the staff at that site to create one. Here's a basic supply list to get you started: <http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit>.
4. Your own list of hurricane names. Start with a name beginning with the letter "A." Think of names that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Hurricane names alternate between male

and female names, so make sure your list also includes both. For more information on hurricane names, the naming procedures and fun facts, check out The Weather Channel's hurricane-naming page.

http://www.weather.com/outlook/weather-news/hurricanes/articles/hurricane-names_2010-05-24.

More information about severe weather

The Weather Channel hurricane page: http://www.weather.com/outlook/weather-news/severe-weather/articles/hurricane-main_2010-05-21

For information about other severe weather events, check out The Weather Channel's weather encyclopedia: <http://www.weather.com/encyclopedia/>.

Conversation Starters

1. Have you ever experienced a tornado or a hurricane?
2. Why are hurricanes more prevalent in the DC area than tornadoes?
3. What's the best way to stay safe in a tornado? What about a hurricane?
4. What's the difference between a severe storm watch and a warning?
5. How long to tornadoes usually last? Hurricanes?