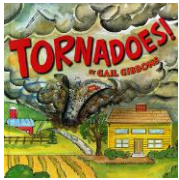


Extreme Weather Read-Aloud Outline

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

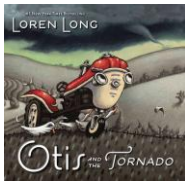
The books below are grouped into fiction and nonfiction sections. Depending on the ages of the children in your Read-Aloud, choose books that would be appropriate. The first two would work with any group.



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 and up

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 about extreme weather

Barn Storm by Charles Ghigna and Debra Ghigna (Ages 4 and up)

This Step into Reading book has rhyming text and presents a comical introduction to cause and effect.

Hurricane! by Jonathan London (Ages 4 and up)

Set in Puerto Rico, this book has vivid imagery and expressive paintings.

Tsunami! by Kimiko Kajikawa (Ages 3 and up)

Can an old, wealthy man watching from his balcony save the villagers below? This book has interesting collage art.

The Magic School Bus Inside a Hurricane by Joanne Cole (Ages 4 and up)

All of the Magic School Bus books are filled with facts and a cute story. They are usually too long for Read-Alouds but kids would enjoy an abbreviated version.

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)

Set during the 2004 tsunami, a baby hippo is separated from its mother and it adopts a new "mother," a 130-year-old male tortoise.

Tornadoes by Seymour Simon (Ages 6 and up)

This award-winning author includes clear, understandable text and diagrams, as well as spectacular photographs.

Hurricanes by Seymour Simon (Ages 6 and up)

Satellite images and photographs make this book very visually appealing.

Forces of Nature by Chana Stiefel (Ages 7 and up)

The Weather Channel photographs and tips are included in this book.

Saving Animals in Hurricanes by Stephen Person (Ages 7 and up)

True stories about keeping animals safe during extreme weather are supplemented with photographs.

Inside Tornadoes by Mary Kay Carson (Ages 8 and up)

Dramatic photos, fold outs and before-and-after images make this book great for older kids.

Tsunami Warning by Taylor Morrison (Ages 9 and up)

This book discusses the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean in text and paintings.

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

This book has amazing photos and detailed text. Pick and choose passages to read with the kids.

Activities

1. Make a 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. Make a cotton ball hurricane. Give each child a piece of blue paper to represent the ocean and 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 land forms 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 transistor radio, non-perishable food like granola bars, a simple first aid kit, etc. Explain how a transistor radio is different than a regular radio. 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. Create 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 does as well. For more information on hurricane names, the naming procedure 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/>.

This article published in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy shows good ways to approach this potentially scary topic with kids. http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/healthy_kids/Getting-the-kids-ready-for-Hurricane-Sandy.html.

Conversation Starters

Have you ever experienced a tornado or a hurricane?

Why are hurricanes more prevalent in the DC area than tornadoes?

What's the best way to stay safe in a tornado? What about a hurricane?

What's the difference between a severe storm watch and a warning?

How long to tornadoes usually last? Hurricanes?