



Pushing the Limits of Community Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

Through this theme, you'll explore the importance of community in the face of large-scale challenges like natural disasters, pandemics, and climate change. As individuals, how vulnerable are we against these dangers? Chances are, we stand a better chance of surviving as a unified force. So people are coming together, maximizing their capabilities as a community to - literally - weather the storm.

A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge

Josh Neufeld, Nonfiction graphic novel. A stunning graphic novel that makes plain the undeniable horrors and humanity triggered by Hurricane Katrina in the true stories of six New Orleanians who survived the storm.

A.D. follows each of the six from the hours before Katrina struck to its horrific aftermath. Here is Denise, a sixth-generation New Orleanian who will experience the chaos of the Superdome; the Doctor, whose unscathed French Quarter home becomes a refuge for those not so lucky; Abbas and his friend Mansell, who face the storm from the roof of Abbas's family-run market; Kwame, a pastor's son whose young life will remain wildly unsettled well into the future; and Leo, a comic-book fan, and his girlfriend, Michelle, who will lose everything but each other. We watch as they make the wrenching decision between staying and evacuating. And we see them coping not only with the outcome of their own decisions but also with those made by politicians, police, and others like themselves—decisions that drastically affect their lives, but over which they have no control. - *goodreads.com*

- How do different characters respond to news of the hurricane's approach?
- What were the similarities and differences between the experiences of those who chose to stay and those who chose to evacuate during the storm?
- Do you think people were being materialistic when leaving precious objects behind—or are there ways in which things can be our “friends”? Are there objects in your life that fill this role of “friends”?
- Why would social psychologists have an interest in studying natural disasters and the people that experience them?

