

Mardi Gras Almost Didn't Come This Year

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

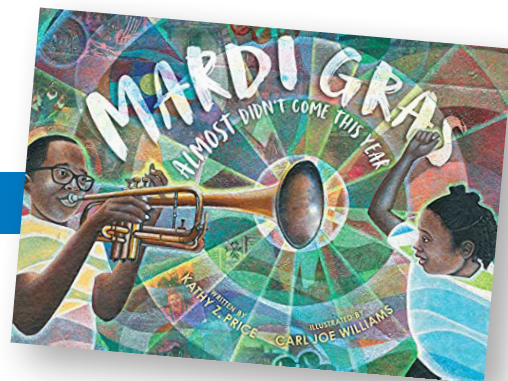
Themes: Community, Family, Perseverance

Grade Level: Pre-school to 3rd grade

Book Brief: Six months after Hurricane Katrina a brother and sister are still hoping their parents will rebuild their home and things will return to normal, at least enough so Mardi Gras will return.

Author:
Kathy Z. Price

Illustrator:
Carl Joe Williams



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: What kinds of celebrations does your family enjoy? Reminisce about family traditions and talk about why they're important.

While reading, make summarize: Stop often to summarize the action, because some of the vocabulary may be unfamiliar and the text is presented in a unique way.

After reading, ask questions:

- Why did the kids think Mardi Gras might not come that year?
- What was sad and stressful about the family's situation after the storm?
- Why was Mardi Gras important? What did the celebration do for the family?
- What part of the Mardi Gras celebration looks like the most fun to you?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

DOOR FLOAT

Materials: construction paper, coloring supplies, beads, toys, scissors, glue, tape

Mardi Gras in New Orleans is famous for parade floats and, in the era of COVID-19, porch floats. Go one step further and create a door float in your home. Pick a door to decorate and use paper, beads, toys and other materials to create a festive "float." (Optional: Make it a contest. Challenge family members to compete to decorate the best Mardi Gras door in the home.)



CREATE A GO LIST

Sometimes being prepared for the possibility of a storm or other natural disaster is comforting. Discuss the types of weather that are common to your region and tell your child how you are prepared to handle them. Then, pick a few things from around your house that could bring comfort if you are scared, worried, or want to feel a little extra joy.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PERSEVERANCE:

- **Blizzard (2014)**
- **When the Storm Comes (2020)**
- **Hello, Tree (2021)**