

# Eye of the Storm

Mandy Loader

## Before reading

1. Look at the front cover and read the blurb on the back cover. What sort of story is this?
2. If you don't know the word 'hurricane', check it in your dictionary.
3. Look at the maps on pages 4 and 5. What do you know about Florida and Miami?
4. Read the contents and the characters on pages 3 and 4. Can you say what will happen in the story?
5. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

## Check your reading

### CHAPTER 1

1. Write the correct names. Who ...
  - a thought men should be patient, quiet and say nothing?
  - b was impatient and did not think before he spoke?
  - c thought it was important for a man to be able to feel pain without talking about it?
  - d was kind, honest and helpful?
  - e was loud and noisy?
2. Which sentences are correct? Tick (✓) if the sentences are correct. Rewrite the other sentences so that they are correct.
  - a Ikemi's mother and father were both Japanese.
  - b Ikemi was born in America.
  - c Hiru did not want his daughter to date any men.
  - d Ikemi felt that she could not go against her father.
  - e Ikemi was happy to do what her father wanted.
  - f Max agreed with Hiru's ideas.

### CHAPTER 2

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
  - 1 Ikemi's father was more important to her than Max,
  - 2 Ross asked Max if he needed help
  - 3 Ross said that flying a hurricane hunter
  - 4 Everyone listened to the weather forecast
  - 5 Ikemi decided it was too soon to start worrying about her father,
  - a was both fun and frightening.
  - b who had gone out fishing in his boat.
  - c and that hurt Max badly.
  - d but Max said that he was OK.
  - e but Ross didn't think the hurricane would hit Miami.
2. Look at the words in italics. Who or what is *he*, *them*, etc?
  - a For a long time, Ikemi was the only person *he* could talk to.
  - b The pain and the anger he felt kept *her* near to him.
  - c The bite of a fish on the end of his line made *him* forget his pain.
  - d He respected *them* because they were brave, they were clever.
  - e She was not a thing to catch and put in a small glass bowl.

### CHAPTER 3

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
 

In Antigua, people had to ...

  - 1 lift their boats out of the water
  - 2 put shutters in front of their windows
  - 3 put gas in their cars because
  - 4 put water in their bathtubs because
  - 5 move to a safer part of the island
  - a to stop the glass breaking.
  - b and tie them to the ground.
  - c there might be no more fresh water for days.
  - d if they lived close to the sea.
  - e the storm might destroy the gas stations.

2. Complete the summary.

Hurricane Irene first hit the island of <sup>1</sup>....., where more than <sup>2</sup>..... people died. The weather forecast said the hurricane would hit Florida in <sup>3</sup>..... hours. Ikemi drove to the <sup>4</sup>..... but her father had not returned. At sea, Hiru decided to come back, but the <sup>5</sup>..... did not start. He tried to call Ikemi on his cell phone, but there was no <sup>6</sup>..... He had to stay at sea and <sup>7</sup>..... on the engine.

### CHAPTER 4

1. Complete the sentences with time phrases from the story.
  - a Hurricane Irene was only ..... away from the coast of Florida.
  - b Hiru had been out fishing for ..... and did not reply to Ikemi's radio call.
  - c Max said he would help Ikemi and he arrived at the marina in .....
  - d Max drove to the flying school but it took .....
  - e Max went into the building and came back ..... with some keys.
  - f ..... they arrived at the beach where the *Manatee* was kept.
2. This is Hiru's story. Put the sentences in the order that they happened.
  - a Then he sent out a Mayday message but there was no reply.
  - b He began to pump out the water but he was tired and had not eaten.
  - c After hearing the hurricane alert, he realised why there was no reply.
  - d But when he tried to start the engine, it didn't work.
  - e The only way he could stay alive was to keep pumping out water.
  - f He had worked on the engine for most of the night.
  - g The storm became worse and waves broke over the boat.

## CHAPTER 5

1. Complete the following sentences with one of these verbs: were / smashed / blown / broken / washed / destroyed
  - a Any boats in the water had been ..... to pieces.
  - b All the houses on the coast had been .....
  - c A farmer's pineapples had been ..... away.
  - d Roofs of buildings had been ..... off.
  - e All the telephone lines ..... down.
  - f In Richard and Elaine's kitchen, every plate had been .....

2. Find and correct the mistakes in this newspaper story.

Hurricane Irene cut through Nevis early this morning. About 20,000 people have left their homes. Tourists also had to leave their homes on Varadero Beach.

Irene is a category five hurricane with winds of up to 294 kilometers an hour. Irene is now heading for the northern tip of Florida. 450,000 people have left the Florida Keys over the past three days.

## CHAPTER 6

1. Match the questions and answers.

- 1 Why aren't there any seats here in the back?
- 2 Now, where do you think your father might be?
- 3 Max, are you sure you can fly this thing? What happens if we fly into the hurricane?
- 4 Are you ready? Are you going to be OK?
- 5 How can we find a little boat in this weather when we don't even know where it is?

- a Don't worry. We'll find him.
- b The plane was used as an air ambulance up and down the Keys.
- c I'll be fine ... and Max ... thank you.
- d ... he sometimes goes up the coast, towards Boca Raton. He goes where the fish are ...
- e Don't worry ... Ross Peters taught me to fly the *Manatee*.

2. Is the author describing the wall or the eye of the hurricane? Write 'wall' or 'eye' after the sentences.

- a bright sunshine.
- b calm and peace.
- c biting rain.
- d screaming, killing winds.
- e warm, blue sky.

## CHAPTER 7

1. Write the correct names in the sentences: Hiru, Ikemi or Max.
  - a On the *Elizabeth*, ..... was now feeling tired and cold.
  - b ..... decided to make one last Mayday call.
  - c ..... replied to the Mayday call from the *Manatee*.
  - d ..... fired a signal flare.
  - e ..... saw the flare in the sea below.
  - f ..... ordered the plane to return and leave him.
  - g ..... refused to return to the coast.
  - h ..... dropped the life raft from the plane.
2. What do you think will happen in Chapter 8? Tick (✓) or cross (✗) the boxes.
  - a The *Manatee* will crash, but Ikemi and Max will live.
  - b The *Manatee* will land safely and pick up Hiru.
  - c The *Manatee* will fly Hiru back to the coast.
  - d Hiru, Ikemi and Max will get in the life raft, which will be blown to the coast.
  - e Hiru won't change his ideas about Max.
  - f Hiru will change his ideas about Max.

## CHAPTER 8

1. Look at Chapter 7, exercise 2 again.
  - a Write No next to the sentences that didn't happen in Chapter 8.
  - b Write Yes next to the sentences that did happen in Chapter 8.
2. 'His night in hospital had also given him some time to really think about things, and especially about Ikemi.' (page 57.) What decisions do you think Hiru made?
3. Read the conversation between Hiru and Max (page 57). What do you think the conversation means?

## After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Ikemi couldn't go against her father's wishes. Have you ever gone against your parents' wishes?
2. What is the worst weather you have seen?
3. What new information have you learnt about Florida?
4. Ikemi (Japanese-American) and Max (all-American) are from different family backgrounds. Is it possible to marry someone from a different family background?
5. Imagine a year has passed. What do you think is happening in Hiru, Ikemi and Max's lives now?
6. After the story finishes, everybody goes to a sushi bar. Write the conversation between Ikemi, Hiru and Max.
7. Think of five adjectives to describe each of these characters: Hiru, Ikemi and Max.
8. Write a letter to the author, Mandy Loader. Say what you liked or didn't like about *Eye of the Storm*.
9. Make your own activities for other students to do. E.g. Write some 'Who said ...?' questions.