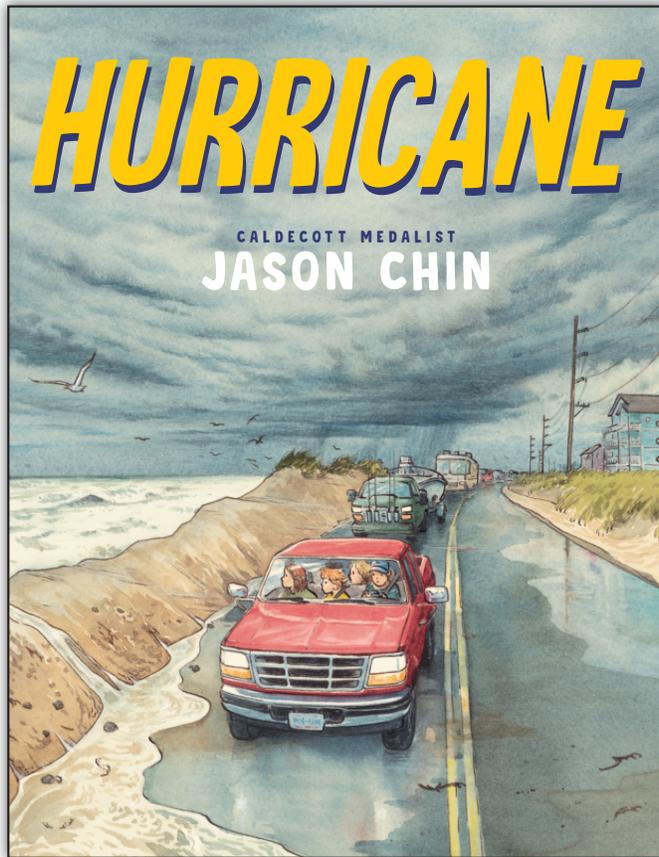


# HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Neal Porter Books

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## *Hurricane*

by Jason Chin

★ “Impeccably crisp.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ “Deeply empathetic, brilliantly illustrated, and chock-full of information.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Caldecott and Sibert Medalist Jason Chin charts the thrilling saga of an island community’s brush with a Category 3 hurricane, and the cutting-edge science that helps them prepare.

It’s a beautiful day on Hatteras Island, North Carolina. But while all seems calm now, a hurricane is barreling across the Atlantic, and everyone is wondering when it will hit the U.S. coast. And where.

Night and day, meteorologists use satellites to monitor the storm. Brave pilots fly directly into the tempest, dodging lightning bolts to gather crucial data. Back on the island, families board up windows, drag furniture upstairs, and stock survival kits to prepare for what may come.

From its dramatic opening, *Hurricane* alternates between striking maps charting the hurricane’s progress and daily life on the island.

*Hurricane* is at once a fascinating view into a natural disaster and a reassuring survey of the tools we use to mitigate the damage. As climate change makes hurricanes ever more destructive, this engaging and rigorous book is perfect for classrooms, and for families making their own safety plans.

Jason Chin, winner of the Caldecott Medal for *Watercress* by Andrea Wang and the Sibert Medal for *Life After Whale* by Lynn Brunelle, combines breathtaking artwork and clear, compelling text to make *Hurricane* a gripping read for all ages. At the end, find even more information about hurricanes, with visual aids for deeper understanding.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Setting is where a book takes place. Take a close look at the cover of the book and discuss the setting. Note the color of the sky. What is about to happen? Where is the traffic going? What do you think people are leaving behind?
- Nonfiction relates facts. Fiction tells a story. How is this book both nonfiction and fiction? Why are the facts in the book important? What is the story?
- Explain why hurricanes are considered “the most powerful storms on Earth.” Point out the eye or the center of the storm on the first double-page spread. Follow the eye as the storm moves toward land. What is a “wind field”? How does this affect towns not in the eye of the storm?
- What is a meteorologist? Why are the crews that fly into the eye of a storm called “Hurricane Hunters”? How many people are on the planes? What information are they gathering? How do they help meteorologists? Explain the difference between a hurricane warning and a hurricane watch. Why is it important for people in coastal areas to listen to the advice of those who track storms?
- Follow the story of the residents of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. How do they prepare for the storm? When do they know it’s time to leave? In what way do the illustrations reveal the approaching storm? How does Chin create wind and rain? How do the colors change as the storm arrives and leaves? Discuss how neighbors help one another with cleaning up.

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

## ABOUT THE CREATOR

Photo credit: Deindre Gill



**Jason Chin** is a celebrated author and illustrator of children’s books. He is a winner of the Caldecott Medal for his illustrations in Andrea Wang’s *Watercress*, a Newbery Honor book and APALA Award winner; and with author Lynn Brunelle, a winner of the Sibert Medal for *Life After Whale: The Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall*. His book *Grand Canyon* was awarded a Caldecott Honor, a Sibert Honor, and the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award. His other acclaimed nonfiction titles, including *Coral Reefs*, *Redwoods*, *Gravity*, *Island: A Story of the Galápagos*, *Your Place in the Universe*, and *The Universe in You: A Microscopic Journey*, have received numerous starred reviews and other accolades. He lives in Vermont with his wife and children.

