

# Mardi Gras Almost Didn't Come This Year

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

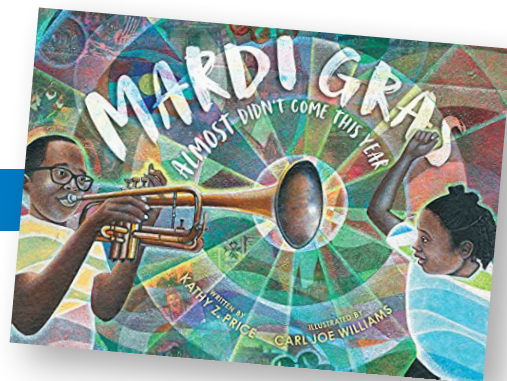
**Themes:** Community, Family, Perseverance

**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

**Content Connections:**  
Art, Science, Social Studies



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Read the title. Ask students whether they know what instrument is featured on the cover. Talk about Mardi Gras as a celebration that features music and, particularly, the trombone.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk through the book. Ask students whether the artwork seems calm or energetic. Listen to a sampling of jazz music from

a Mardi Gras compilation. Notice the similarities between the energy of the artwork and the music.

**Content Specific Vocabulary:** bebop, beignet, sashay, jamboree

**Purpose for Reading:** Say to students, "As we read, think about why the author and illustrator chose the style of writing and illustrating they did specifically for this story."

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING FOR COMPREHENSION

- What type of storm is described in the beginning of the book?
- What happens to the narrator's house, Trumpet House, in the storm?
- Where does the narrator's family live after the storm?
- What special celebration are the kids hoping happens in February, as it always has?
- How is Lala inspired to create a Mardi Gras experience for her brother, Babyboy?
- What does Pop-Pop do that helps make the Mardi Gras celebration work?
- What are some of the things that happen during the city's Mardi Gras celebration?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** How do the writing and illustrating styles represent jazz and Mardi Gras celebrations? Ask students to think about the energy of a parade, jazz music, and dancing and whether the way the book is written conveys that energy.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Why are traditions and celebrations important even, or maybe especially,

after a disaster? Ask students to think about why having Mardi Gras was so important to this family.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- Extension Activities for Educators are also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding sheet also available.