

***Katrina Babies*** (2022), dir. Edward Buckles Jr.

“After my family and I experienced Hurricane Katrina in 2005, we were left to pick up the pieces of a situation that seemed totally out of our control. I was 12 years old, and like with many catastrophes, children were an afterthought...It baffled me that after we experienced one of the deadliest natural disasters in the U.S. no one asked us how we were doing or feeling. No one asked us right after the storm and no one is asking now, so I picked up a camera and decided to do it myself. What I’m most excited about is showing the beauty of New Orleans youth, how we are owning our resilience, and bringing back the city that WE love.”

- *Edward Buckles, Jr., Director*

Discussion questions

1. What was your knowledge about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath before watching the film? Did watching this film change or expand your perspective?
2. How did the filmmaker’s perspective and visual style inform your viewing?
3. After watching the film, has your viewpoint of Hurricane Katrina changed and what are your takeaways? Was there a moment, line or scene that stood out to you?
4. How did the US government’s response to this disaster compare to the public’s response? In what ways did those responses affect the victims of the Hurricane?
5. How does the film encourage viewers to reflect on the effects of natural disasters in ways that you hadn’t considered before, specifically regarding the mental health of its survivors?
6. Does the newly acquired information from viewing *Katrina Babies* alter your perspective regarding the heightened challenges many predominantly Black communities faced after the hurricane? Has it impacted your perspective of what historically marginalized and underserved communities face during other trying times, such as COVID-19, the recession, and climate change?
7. With the information that you have, what societal changes and preventative steps are important to ensure that historically marginalized communities receive adequate treatment during times of increased need?
8. How are children affected differently from adults during times of crisis? Are there ways in which communities, local or national authorities or parents can better care for children in the aftermath of tragedy, especially with regard to children of color?

9. Based on what you've seen in the film, how does sharing one's own personal experience with tragedy help their mental health? And how can trauma survivors be supported?
10. In what ways do you think that difficult and trying events bring communities together, and make them stronger? Can you recall an example of this happening in your own community?
11. What positive changes has New Orleans implemented post-Hurricane Katrina that have improved the lives of people in the community? How can those changes be improved upon and disseminated nationally?
12. What are some of the biggest challenges for those from historically marginalized communities in times of crisis, and how can institutions and communities implement positive systemic change?
13. In your own community, where do you feel safest and most comfortable? Why is it important to protect spaces like these?
14. How do you think Buckle's first-person account of the tragedy influences the film and the story? Do you find first-person accounts of survivors and victims' to be more effective at communicating empathy and emotions than second or third person accounts?
15. Does this film's approach to the subject of natural disaster and tragedy differ from that of other films with similar subject matter?