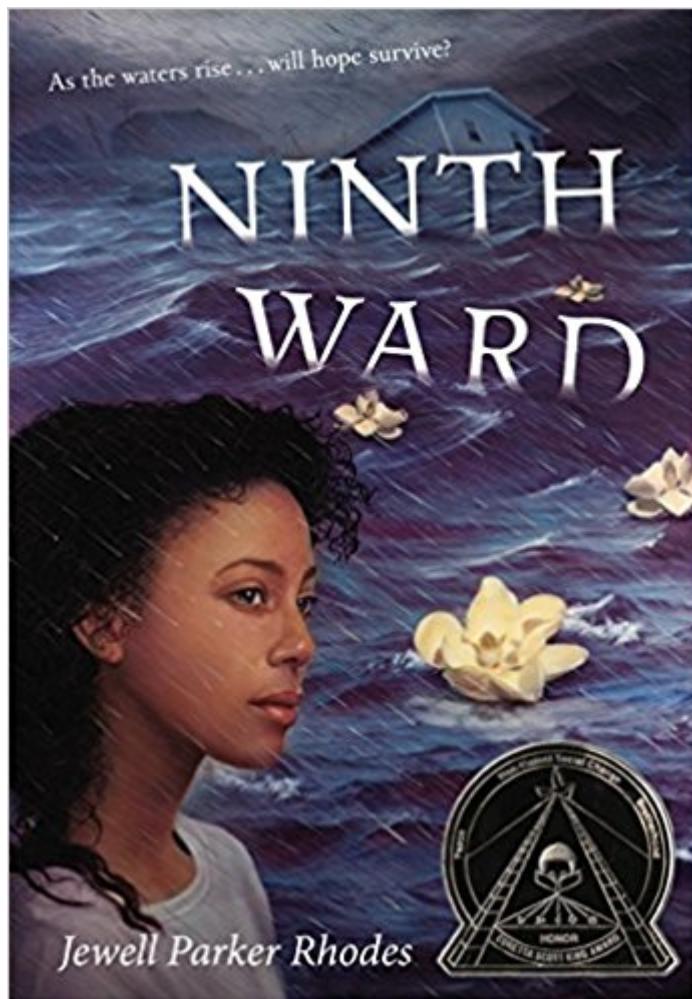


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# Ninth Ward



## Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Lanesha lives in a tight-knit community in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. She doesn't have a fancy house like her uptown family or lots of friends like the other kids on her street. But what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane--Katrina--fast approaching, it's up to Lanesha to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm. Ninth Ward is a deeply emotional story about transformation and a celebration of resilience, friendship, and family--as only love can define it.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 470 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 10, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316043087

ISBN-13: 978-0316043083

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 88 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #48,736 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather #131 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #228 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8  Communicating with ghosts, including the spirit of her mother who died giving birth to her, is a gift that Lanesha, 12, has had for as long as she can remember. The girl's beloved caretaker, Mama Ya-Ya, a midwife and healer, has a gift that allows her to predict the future. When she begins to sense that a big storm is coming to their much-loved New Orleans neighborhood, both she and Lanesha must trust in their senses and in one another to survive. Lanesha is a wonderful character who exudes resilience and fortitude in the face of a catastrophe as well as a personal vulnerability in terms of her status as an orphan and an outsider. Words, numbers, and colors as

seen through her eyes show the magic and wonder that exist in everyday things. The unique writing style even allows the unlikely combination of elderly Mama Ya-Ya's heady scents of Vicks Vapor Rub and Evening in Paris perfume to seem wonderful and inviting. Although the outcome of Hurricane Katrina is known, the clever writing allows the unavoidable tragedy to unfold in such a haunting and suspenseful manner that the extreme sense of foreboding and ultimate destruction is personalized and unforgettable. Heartbreak and hope are reflected in Lanesha's story, which will capture even reluctant readers due to the inventive storytelling and the author's ability to bring history to life. Margaret Auguste, Franklin Middle School, Somerset, NJ © Copyright 2010.

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--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina is the setting for this tense novel that blends the drama of the catastrophic storm with magic realism. Twelve-year-old Lanesha's teenage mother died while giving birth to her, and, because her mother's wealthy uptown family won't have anything to do with her, she is raised in the Ninth Ward by loving Mama Ya-Ya, 82, who feels like her "mother and grandmother both." Born with a caul over her eyes, Lanesha is teased at school, but she is strengthened by her fierce caretaker's devotion and by a teacher who inspires Lanesha to become an engineer and build bridges. Lanesha also has "second sight," which includes an ability to see her mother's ghost. As the storm nears and the call comes for mandatory evacuation, Mama Ya-Ya envisions that she will not survive, but Lanesha escapes the rising water in a small rowboat and even rescues others along the way. The dynamics of the diverse community enrich the survival story, and the contemporary struggle of one brave child humanizes the historic tragedy. Grades 5-8. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

As a mother and highly Spiritual BEING I am truly touched and strengthened by the Courage, Love and Wisdom of the characters. The determination and Will to Live. The present moment vividness of the story, captured my attention and expanded my heart. I could visually see Lanesha and TaShon, Mamma Ya Ya and the Ghosts. In fact the story is written so well I felt like I was right there in the story with the characters. I purchased this book for my daughter a few months ago and I don't believe she's read it yet. She's 7. Recently I was using her kindle for a meditation and I stumbled upon a book suggestion that seemed an interesting read. I tried purchasing the book but was unable to complete the purchase because of poor Internet connection. When I hit the back button it

brought up a list of books in her library. This one caught my eye and I decided to skim through the book to see what the storyline was about. What was suppose to be me reading a few pages turned into me being fully engaged and motivated to read for the next discovery. I finished the book in 2 days and was immediately intrigued with the vocabulary and mathematical lessons presented on top of the other lessons of unity, endurance, strength, openness, wit, spirituality, Love, and Faith! So again, Thank You Dear Soul for your gift of word and creativity. Continued Blessings of SuccessBE...WellOmena El Proud Mamma to Azza Bee

This was a phenomenal book. I read it to my 9 & 6 year old. We laughed and we cried, all while being overcome with joy and sadness. I won't ruin it, but we look forward to seeing what else this author has to offer. It's great for children of all ages. We talked about hurricane Katrina before we started the book so that the kids would have an understanding of the authors point of view. It was definitely worth the money. The fast shipping was a plus. Would put 10 stars if I could.

See above for full synopsis. Lanesha is a 12 year-old girl raised by the mid-wife who helped birth her as her mom died shortly after she was born. The first part of the book describes the love and affection between Mama Ya-Ya and lets us know that between Mama Ya-Ya's educating Lanesha and school Lanesha is a very smart girl. Lanesha sees ghosts (including her mother) and Mama Ya-Ya sees and feels things gives the book a sort of mystical quality. The rest of the book deals with getting prepared for Hurricane Katrina and how Lanesha manages to survive the horrific storm. If I was in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina I would have liked to be with Lanesha. She draws on everything she has learned from math to physics to cooking. Her love for Mama Ya-Ya and her feelings for her friend TaShon and their dog Spot would make anyone want to be on her team. The images of the New Orleans destruction are vivid and heart wrenching but still this book is a wonderful book for youngsters. Lanesha is a strong female character and I for one would love to hear more of her story. Recommended for strong 3rd grade readers and above.

Ninth Ward is a wonderful story of surviving Hurricane Katrina. Lanesha has spent every day of her twelve years in her very nurturing close knit neighborhood of New Orleans' ninth ward. Her wise elderly foster mother has taught her the traditions, beliefs and superstitions of her African and French ancestors. These teachings are what give Lanesha the strength to save herself, her best friend and their dog after the flood wipes out the neighborhood. This is a story of faith, love and determination. It will be on all of the best books lists for sure.

It is exciting even though you know what will happen! Lanesha and her granny are wonderful with the gift to see spirits of others gone ahead of them and Granny has a way of predicting the future. Lanesha remains strong through the course of the storm and her fears subsides and she focus on saving her Mama ya-ya, TaShon and herself. Mama Ya-Ya passes away during horrific storm and it saddens Lanesha. Her inner strength comes to the forefront and she continues keep TaShon calm as the flood water rises and they escape to the roof. Lanesha knows and understand survival is now the most important thing in her life and they must do all they can to live!

Great for hair and scars...Lavender oil is known for its healing properties. Also if you have trouble sleeping rub a little of it on your nose and maybe forehead and watch the magic !!! Also if you have hair fall problem try massaging it on your scalp this will relief irritation and sensitivity!!! Try!!!

This story captures an inside view of what happened in the 9th ward during Katrina as well as diving into the mystery of New Orleans culture. Perfect read for middle schoolers.

Ninth Ward was just okay to me. Yes, it was dramatic and a scary retelling of Hurricane Katrina told by a young girl, but that's all it was to me. I couldn't find myself really getting into the story or relating to the characters. The writing isn't horrible, but it is very young so prepare yourself for that. Or use it for an appropriate age. I had to read this for school and that's all it was to me unfortunately.

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