



## ***Hurricane Power***

Sigmund Brouwer

Reading level: 3.2

978-1-55143-865-8 PB

AR Quiz # 40651

### **Book Summary**

When David's family moves from northern Ontario to Miami, Florida, it takes him less than a day to discover how out of place he is in his new neighborhood. Everything is different in Miami—for one thing, there's no hockey. For another, David's family lives in a rough area of town and his doctor father works in a clinic for underprivileged people. David joins his school's track team, hoping to make new friends, but soon he is pulled into a schoolwide web of secrecy and danger. David has no experience of gangs, sabotage and violence, and the one person who can help him keeps running away.

### **Prereading Ideas**

- Moving is one of the most stressful things you can do, especially if it's far away from everything you're familiar with. Ask students to consider what they would miss most if they had to move and how they would cope with a new place. Have any of them already faced this particular challenge? If so, ask them to share their experiences.
- Intolerance cuts across all levels of society. Ask students if they have ever witnessed intolerance—racism, homophobia, religious bigotry. How did it make them feel and what did they do about it?

**Connecting to the Text*****Plot and character***

- Ask students to write down a list of all the things they find out in the first two chapters. Then ask them if the author uses exposition (telling) or action (showing) to impart the information. For example, the narrator tells us he has a little brother and that he has recently moved to Miami, but he shows us that he is a fast runner.
- How is suspense created in *Hurricane Power*? Is it effective as a way of keeping the plot moving? Would it help to know some things sooner?

**Connecting to the Curriculum*****History***

- David has recently come to Miami from Canada. When he goes to his American History class, he hears about the War of 1812 from a different perspective. Have students consider whether historical events are always open to interpretation, and if so, can we ever know the truth about the past?
- The “Star Spangled Banner” was composed by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812. Have each student pick a country and research its national anthem. Ask them to read a stanza or two to the class and talk about when it was written and by whom.

***Social Studies***

- David says that in Canada, “people don’t get shot at much.” Is this true? Compare the gun laws in Canada and the US. Is “the right to bear arms” an old-fashioned concept or does it still have relevance?
- David seems surprised that Carlos and his family are illegal immigrants. Is illegal immigration a problem in Canada? Or is David just naïve?
- Ask students to research how many illegal immigrants are thought to be living in the US. Have them debate whether illegal immigrants benefit or harm a country.
- Is it racist to remark on or imitate someone’s accent? Have students find two instances in *Hurricane Power* where characters comment on each other’s accents. Are the comments racist or not?

***Computer Science***

David and Carlos uncover a ring of computer hackers. How do companies and organizations protect themselves against computer hackers? How can the public feel confident that their personal information is safe?

**Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions**

1. What harm, if any, is there in giving kids toy guns (even water pistols) to play with? Are violent video games simply the technological equivalent of playing with toy guns?
2. What can you do when you are confronted with the unfairness of life? For example, when David realizes that he and Carlos have been born into different worlds, he tries to help him any way he can.
3. What is the appropriate response when someone insults your faith or beliefs? Why do some people go to war over religion and other don't?
4. Is it ever okay for a young person to be in charge of his family's welfare, the way Carlos is? How much responsibility is too much?

**Resources***History*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_Scott\\_Key](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Scott_Key)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Star\\_Spangled\\_Banner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Star_Spangled_Banner)  
[www.warof1812.ca](http://www.warof1812.ca)  
[www.visit1812.com](http://www.visit1812.com)

*Guns*

[www.panda.com/canadaguns](http://www.panda.com/canadaguns)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun\\_politics\\_in\\_Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_politics_in_Canada)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun\\_politics\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_politics_in_the_United_States)  
[www.lehighvalleylive.com/today/index.ssf/2009/08/toy\\_guns\\_that\\_look\\_realistic\\_c.html](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/today/index.ssf/2009/08/toy_guns_that_look_realistic_c.html)  
[http://kids-toys.suite101.com/article.cfm/toy\\_guns\\_violence\\_and\\_parents](http://kids-toys.suite101.com/article.cfm/toy_guns_violence_and_parents)  
[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/23/AR2007022301749.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/23/AR2007022301749.html)

*Immigration*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal\\_immigration\\_to\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration_to_the_United_States)  
<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/hacker.htm>  
[www.marvquin.com/blog/top-five-5-best-criminal-computer-hackers-all-time](http://www.marvquin.com/blog/top-five-5-best-criminal-computer-hackers-all-time)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Identity\\_theft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Identity_theft)

**Author Biography**

**Sigmund Brouwer** is the bestselling author of many books for children and teens. He has contributed numerous titles to the Orca Currents series, the Orca Echoes series and the Orca Sports series. He and his family live in Red Deer, Alberta, and Eagleville, Tennessee.

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