



## Worksheet 1. Reading: *Lara's Blog*

This reading comes from a blog on the internet.

BY LARA WESSEL



1 I returned to New Orleans on a hot, **humid** Wednesday night in late  
2 August from a summer job. I had been teaching drama at a **camp**  
3 in Switzerland. By Friday night the weather news was all about an  
4 **approaching hurricane**.

5 The **mayor** came on TV and **urged** everybody to **evacuate** the  
6 city! Nobody wanted to leave, but we were **scared**. My family and I  
7 decided to **heed** the **warnings** and **escape** the danger. On Sunday  
8 morning we got into my father's car and headed out of the city, to  
9 Houston. It's normally a five-hour drive to Houston, but the roads were so  
10 crowded that it took us 12 hours. Traffic moved **at a snail's pace**. We  
11 traveled at less than 5 miles an hour for a long time.

12 We had made a hotel reservation in Houston, and finally arrived there in the  
13 middle of the night. On Monday morning, we saw the news reports of the  
14 terrible **devastation** of our beautiful city from the hurricane that had hit  
15 during the night. We were hearing that people were lost, and there was no  
16 means of communication because even the cell phones didn't work. It was  
17 horrible. We didn't know yet that **the worst was yet to come** that day: the  
18 levees broke, and the Mississippi River flooded most of New Orleans.

19 The city had no electricity, no refrigeration, no water. People ran out of  
20 supplies. Stores could not open. Some hospital facilities didn't work, and  
21 patients and staff had to be evacuated. Some people who had not left the  
22 city were **rescued** by boats and helicopters, but thousands of people were  
23 **stranded** for days at the Superdome (the huge sports center) with little  
24 help.

25 Those like us who had left the city could not get back in. Nothing would be  
26 functioning "**until further notice**." Schools were going to be closed for the  
27 fall semester, and maybe longer. I was supposed to start a new job teaching  
28 drama at a city high school. Now I was not able to return to my beloved city,  
29 but I didn't have a job there anyway.

30 Our friends were **scattered** all over in many different places. Nobody knew  
31 what they were going to do next. I decided I would go to Florida to stay with  
32 my brother who lived there, in Miami. **Miraculously**, I got a job teaching in  
33 a high school right away.

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34 My parents were able to move back into their home after a few weeks. They  
35 were lucky. They had roof damage, but not much damage from flooding. I  
36 did not go back to visit during that first year. Now I am not sure what I am  
37 going to do in the future, or where I am going to live. I do know more than  
38 ever how much I love my city and its people.

39 It's like the song by Louis Armstrong, "Do you Know What It Means to Miss  
40 New Orleans?"

Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans  
And miss it each night and day  
I know I'm not wrong -- this feeling's gettin' stronger  
The longer I stay away.

**(Photo from Wikipedia)**





