(RED/AQE & BLUE GROUP)

UNIT 18 The Hurricane

FURTHER TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Text level

Reading comprehension

- Before reading the story ask children to explain their idea of a hurricane, and what some of the dangers are.
- Ask children what impression they have of Gustus. What evidence in the text is there to support their impression of him? Why was he so determined to get to his house? What was his relationship with his Dad?
- Ask children to describe some of the hazards Gustus faced and overcame on the way home.
- The author uses some wonderfully descriptive language. Spend time studying and discussing it.

Writing composition

- Ask children to write the story from the father's point of view.

Sentence level

Grammatical awareness

- Search for, identify and classify a range of prepositions in the story. Experiment with substituting different prepositions and discuss their effect on meaning.

Sentence construction and punctuation

- Use the passage to study clauses. (A clause is a distinct part of a sentence including a verb.) Identify sentences with more than one clause in them. Do any of the sentences have one clause that is more important than the others (a main clause)?

Word level

Spelling

- Ask children to draw a chart headed one-, two-, three- and four-syllable words. Look through the text and find examples of each. Use the words for practising syllabification, identifying syllable boundaries and unstressed syllables.

Vocabulary extension

- Select some of the more difficult words from the text and ask children to write definitions for them, using a dictionary if necessary.

ANSWERS

Thinking back

Gustus was sheltering in the schoolhouse because of the hurricane.
He was worried about his banana tree so he set off home to check it.
As he walked the wind was raging and blowing stuff everywhere.
The river was flooded.
The bridge was nearly cracking under the strain.
The bridge gave way and Gustus was thrown into the water.
Gustus was in a daze when he reached his house.
To his surprise he found his banana tree was still standing.

Thinking about it

1 Imogene is probably the mother or sister of Gustus.
2 (open answer) 3 (open answer)
4 Lots of things would be blowing around. You could be hit by something or be carried away by the strong winds.
5 (open answer) 6 (open answer)
7 Gustus was surrounded by floating leaves, coconut husks, dead ratbats and all manner of feathered creatures and refuse.
8 (open answer)
9 His house had collapsed like an open umbrella that had been given a heavy blow.
10 Gustus hugged his tree because it meant a lot to him, and he didn't expect to find it still standing.

Thinking it through

1 (open answer) 2 (open answer)
3 (open answer) 4 (open answer)
5 (open answer)
6 There are many clues in the text. The setting of the story (coconut and banana trees, ratbats and so on) are all to be found in Jamaica. Hurricanes are also common in the Caribbean. The way the people speak in the story is also a clue.

Copymaster **Book Review**

This book review pro-forma may be used to help children give their personal responses to the passage in the unit, or to any other reading book.