



Hurricane Rescue

**Written by
Rekha S. Rajan**

**Illustrated by
Courtney Lovett**



For all the communities and families who have been impacted by hurricanes and those who came to help.—RSR

For my family, who lend a helping hand through the worst storms.—CL

During any disaster, please make sure to follow instructions from trusted adults.

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Welcome to Texas



“I win!” Leela Jackson cheered as she tossed a handful of cards onto the small kitchen table. “Beat you again. Six games in a row!”

Her younger brother, Jaden, crossed his arms. “No fair,” he said. “You cheated.”

“Did not! I’m just better at memory games than you,” Leela said.

“I have a good memory,” Jaden insisted.

“Can you *remember* to put your stinky socks in the laundry bin?” Leela crinkled her nose.

“Hey! My socks aren’t stinky!” Jaden argued.

“Yeah, they are—” Leela disagreed.

“Kiddos,” Mom started, “I know it’s been a long trip, but we are getting close to the community shelter. We need to focus our energy on helping the people in Texas.” Mom checked the messages on her phone.

When Mom’s phone rang, it meant **DISASTER!**

When the phone rang, the Jackson family packed up their recreational vehicle, or RV, to help families during a natural disaster.



Everyone had an important role.

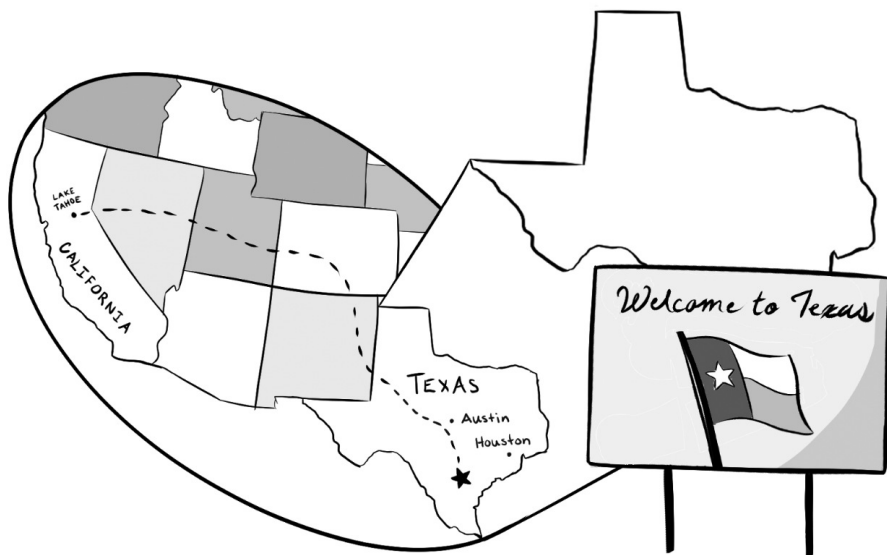
Mom was a famous journalist who took pictures and wrote news articles.

Dad was an award-winning doctor who helped people all over the world.

Jaden and Leela saved animals in danger.

Their German shepherd, Lucky, helped, too . . . when she wasn't napping.

For the past two days, they had been driving from northern California to southern Texas, where a hurricane was heading for the coast.



“Jacksons, welcome to the great state of Texas!” Dad announced as the RV drove past a large green sign.

Leela looked out the window. The ground was still low and flat, carpeted in bright green grass. Trees wrapped in leaves lined the sides of the road. It was the opposite of the black, burned land that had covered northern California at their last stop.



“I hope we get to taste some real Tex-Mex food!” Jaden said.

“We just had lunch,” Leela reminded him. “Are you *always* hungry?”

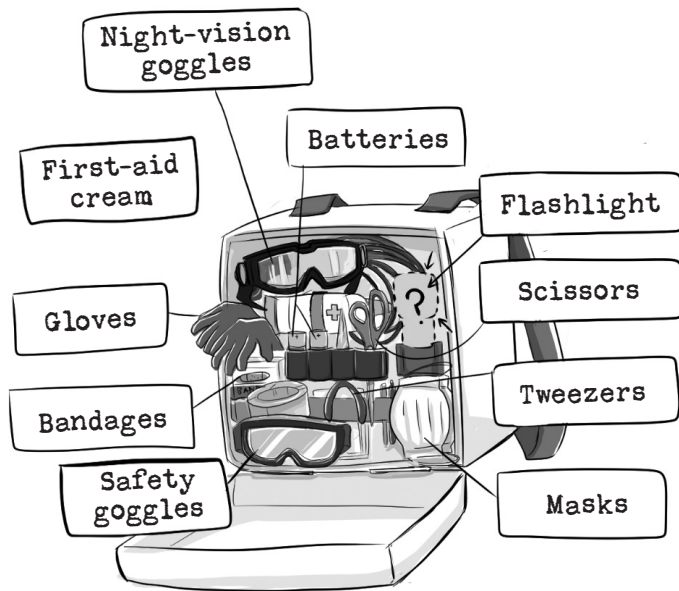
“I hope I can get some good pictures,” Mom said, adjusting her camera lens. “It’s important that people see how natural disasters and climate change are affecting the planet.”

Dad nodded. “I hope I have enough medical supplies to help anyone injured by the hurricane.”

“What animals will we help in Texas?” Jaden wondered. “In just a week, we helped baby goats, a turtle, and I almost rescued a baby bear!”

Lucky barked. WOOF!

“Don’t forget the deer,” Leela said as she opened up her Disaster Squad Kit to make sure everything was inside. Every member of the Jackson family had their own kit.



“Hey! Where’s my flashlight?” Leela asked.

Jaden opened his kit. “Mine is missing, too,” he said.

“I was wondering when you two would notice,” Mom said. She turned and handed Jaden and Leela two small boxes. “Dad and I are so proud of how you helped during the wildfires in California. We got you these.”

Jaden ripped the box open. He held up a blue flashlight. “A new flashlight! Cool!”



“They have rechargeable batteries,” Leela added as she put her new purple flashlight into her kit.

Mom nodded. “Rechargeable batteries are better for the environment than regular batteries.”

“Keep them charged,” Dad instructed. “That’s our turn up ahead. We are almost there—”

THUD!

