

# ***Terror at Bottle Creek***

By Watt Key

## **Annotation**

In this gritty, realistic wilderness adventure, thirteen-year-old Cort is caught in a battle against a Gulf Coast hurricane. Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama who has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Category 3 storm makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put his all skills-and bravery-to the test. One catastrophe seems to lead to another, leaving Cort and two neighbor girls to face the storm as best they can. Amid miles of storm-thrashed wetlands filled with dangerous, desperate wild animals, it's up to Cort to win-or lose-the fight for their lives.

## **Book Talk**

A storm chaser has nothing on Cort! He's faced with the challenge of beating the storm during this thriller of a story. One life threatening adventure after another will have you racing to turn the pages of this turbulent tale taking Cort and his two neighbor girls on a wild ride down the river during a category 3 hurricane in lower Alabama! He has to set aside his feelings of abandonment and betrayal and replace them with bravery and determination to "weather" the storm! Will Cort and his neighbors survive The Terror at Bottle Creek?

## **Book Trailers**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o45S9EY\\_gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o45S9EY_gw)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLZeHwebAXw>

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://wattkey.com/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wattkeyauthor>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WattKeyAuthor>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wattkey/>

## **Items to use in a library display**

- stuffed dog: catfish the dog in the story
- canoe
- plastic alligators and snakes
- Hurricane maps and hurricane destruction photos
- debris to set storm destruction

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- Cort had to muster up courage in this story. Do you think you would survive a storm like the one in the story?
- Have you ever been in a natural disaster? How did you and your family prepare for the storm?
- Do you think Cort should have tried to save his dog Catfish? Why or why not?

- How would you feel if your parents left to help neighbors just before a big storm? Would you insist to go with them?
- Did Cort have enough knowledge of the swap to realistically survive? Do you think he could have truly lived through all the battles he faced?

### **First Line of the Book:**

- “Dad said it was too early to be worried about the hurricane.”

### **Non-Fiction Companion Titles**

- *Hurricane and Tornado books*
- *Swap land*
- *Alabama swap*
- *Animals from the swap: Alligators, hogs, snakes, catfish*

### **What to Read Next**

- *Walk on Earth a Stranger* (Gold Seer Trilogy) by Rae Carson
- *The Worst Class Trip Ever* by Dave Barry
- *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Martin Ganda
- *House Arrest* by K.A. Holt
- *Fort* by Cynthia DeFelice
- *Mark of the Thief* (Mark of the Thief #1) by Jennifer A. Nielsen

### **Other Books by this Author**

- *Hideout* by Watt Key
- *Fourmile* by Watt Key
- *Dirt Road Home* (Alabama Moon) by Watt Key
- *Alabama Moon* by Watt Key

### **Additional Resources**

- Music: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIqI\\_IAkIfM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIqI_IAkIfM) Valvadi Storm Classical Music
- Poetry: <https://www.poetrysoup.com/poems/storm> Link to children poetry about storms
- Art/craft activity: create hurricane on small canvas or poster board with recycled materials collected
- Book Study/Curriculum guide: free downloadable curriculum guide available at [titlewave.com](http://titlewave.com) sign in required. Simply search book title, scroll down, find PDF
- Lesson ideas:  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/wwatch/hurricanes/experiments.htm> How to track a hurricane
- [http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGlpI4E/b.7522429/k.2474/Disaster\\_Preparedness\\_Tips\\_for\\_Parents.htm?msource=wexggdpt0414&gclid=CjwKEAiA6OnFBRDcgt7YmPKI33ESJACJoTJYDRjcyxGaloj2LJcjBSSNhM2mmZvME2t5sQYwefwumhoCep3w\\_wcB](http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGlpI4E/b.7522429/k.2474/Disaster_Preparedness_Tips_for_Parents.htm?msource=wexggdpt0414&gclid=CjwKEAiA6OnFBRDcgt7YmPKI33ESJACJoTJYDRjcyxGaloj2LJcjBSSNhM2mmZvME2t5sQYwefwumhoCep3w_wcB) Hurricane preparation