


More Information about this book, New Orleans, and The Cajun Duck:

1. *Blue-winged Teal duck* – the 2nd most abundant duck in North America, behind the Mallard. The males have gray-blue heads and bright blue feathers on their wings. No one is sure how the one in this book got so big, kind, and smart--must have been hundreds of years of living in the perfect, vast, swampy conditions in Southern Louisiana (or maybe he's just really special—like you.)
2. *Hurricane Katrina* –
A catastrophic (really bad) hurricane that made landfall in Louisiana Sunday evening, August 28th, 2005. The following Monday morning (8/29) Katrina's winds and rains had passed over the city of New Orleans, but the surge of water from the Gulf of Mexico into Lake Pontchartrain proved too powerful for the levees to withstand, resulting in flooding to the New Orleans area (more than 80% of the city).

3. *Cajun* – a member of a group of people living in Southern Louisiana who moved down from Canada in the 1700's.
4. *Levees* – the city of New Orleans is actually about six feet below sea level and is protected by levees (walls made of earth & clay). If you're ever in New Orleans you can watch large ships go by on the river and you'll actually have to look up a little bit.
5. *Fleur de lis*  – French word that means 'flower of the lily, or iris;' a symbol of honor & faith. It's on Shawn Battiste's hat and is the official emblem of the New Orleans Saints, Boy Scouts of America, and countless others.
6. *Neutral Ground*—this is the same area that the rest of the country probably calls the median—you know, the grassy section in the middle of larger streets.
7. *Beaucoup* – pronounced Boo-koo, a French word, but around here it just means 'a lot' or 'many.'

8. *Hurricane Betsy*—a really big hurricane that hit New Orleans back in 1965; Betsy also caused a lot of flooding—not quite as much as Katrina though.
9. *Rigaud*—European name pronounced Ree-Go. The Battiste’s neighbor has that last name. Estelle calls her “Ole Miss Regaud from down the street!”
10. *Ya Heard Me!* — another phrase that people from the New Orleans area use often. It means ‘did you hear me?’ or ‘do you understand?’ or is often simply used for emphasis. We first hear it from the father when he says that “All this high water reminds me of the old Cajun Duck stories, ya heard me.” Estelle also uses it later when she exclaims “Hurry up! I think it’s the Cajun Duck! Ya Heard Me!”
11. *Mardi Gras Float*—Shawn refers to this when he first sees the Cajun Duck and is trying to tell Estelle what it might be “. . . maybe somebody’s old Mardi Gras float or something.” Mardi Gras is a huge festival celebrated every year in New Orleans.” Thousands of people attend and there are big, beautiful floats of all different kinds.

12. *Streetcar Driver*—We hear about a streetcar driver when Shawn tells us that “just like a streetcar driver letting us know this was our stop, the Cajun Duck let out a quick ‘Quack Quack and stuck out his wing.” New Orleans is famous for its streetcars and their interesting drivers. Actually, the New Orleans’ St. Charles streetcar was the longest running streetcar line in the United States until Hurricane Katrina. But just like the city itself, the streetcar is back up and running even better than before the storm.

13. *Louis Armstrong*— nicknamed “Satchmo,” was a New Orleans-born trumpeter, singer, and entertainer who revolutionized Jazz music. Armstrong’s song “What a Wonderful World” is featured in many movies such as *Finding Dory* and *Madagascar*. In this book Shawn quotes the song at the Superdome when he says he saw “friends shaking hands, saying how do you do?” And it was like “they were really saying I love you.”

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