

MY NAME IS AKU



A short story by Hillary Gardner

Based on "The Storm"

From the TV series **We Are New York**

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CREDITS

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Office of Emergency Management

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs





My name is Aku.

I am a teenager.

I live in Brooklyn.

My family is from Africa.



This is my father, Kojo.

He is a dreamer.

He dreams of having a boat.



This is my mother, Efie.

She worries a lot.

**Before I go out,
she always asks me a lot of questions...**



“Where are you going?

Do you have a hat?

Do you have your cell phone?

What time did I say to meet?”



Today, I am going to a friend's house.

**In the morning,
we are going to the beach.**

**In the afternoon,
I am meeting my parents in the park.**

We are going to have a picnic.



When I get to my friend Maya’s house, she says:

“We can’t go to the beach.

There is a Severe Weather Alert.

It’s not safe to be outside.”



“Sorry, girls,” says Maya’s mom, Mrs. B.

“I got a storm alert from *Notify NYC*.

We have to stay inside.”



I go to my bag to get my cell phone.

I want to call my parents.

I want to tell them I am safe.

But I left my phone at home!



I want to use Maya's phone to call my parents.

But the line is dead.

Now it is raining very hard.

The wind is blowing hard, too.



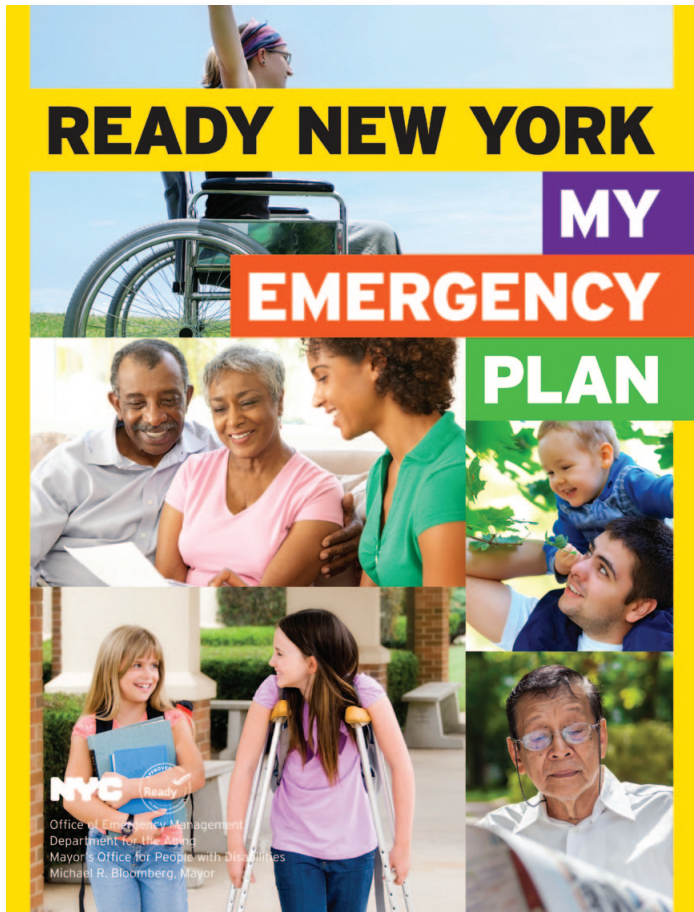
“Don’t worry,” says Mrs. B.

“There are 3 things to do for an emergency.

Make a plan.

Gather supplies.

Get informed.”



“Does your family have a Ready New York guide?

You can get one at www.nyc.gov/readyny.

**The Ready New York guide
can help you make a plan.”**



I explain:

“We have a *Ready New York* guide at home.

It’s called *My Emergency Plan*.

**I gave it to my mother,
but we never finished our plan!”**



HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN

Your Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Work Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Work Phone #: _____

Home Meeting Place: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

MORE ON BACK



Cut out and carry in your wallet.

“In an emergency, everyone needs a plan.

**You need a meeting place
in your neighborhood.**

**And, you need a meeting place
outside your neighborhood.”**

HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN

Faraway Friend/Relative's Phone #: _____

Other Important Information:

 Cut out and carry in your wallet.

**“You also need the names and phone numbers
of people you can call
if your family is separated.”**



“Well... I thought we were prepared.

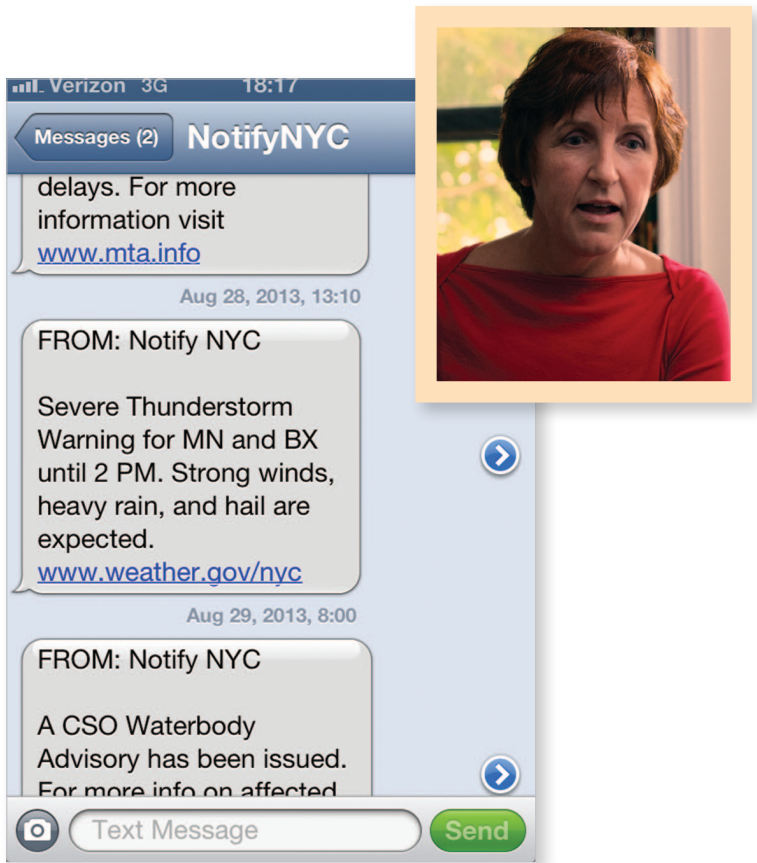
**We got supplies for a Go Bag—
flashlight, first aid kit, bottled water.**

My dad got extra batteries, too.”



**“But what can we do
without a phone?”**

**How can we get information
without a phone?”**



Mrs. B explains:

“I have *Notify NYC*.

With *Notify NYC*, I can get text messages about emergencies.”



**“And, we have a computer.
We can use Facebook to get information.”**



“But don’t worry.

**Your parents have good friends
and neighbors, like Mrs. Chen.**

**Mrs. Chen will check on everyone
in your building.**

Your parents will be safe.”



Finally, I reach my mother on the phone.

My mother asks:

“Where are you? Are you okay?”



I explain:

“Mom, thanks to Mrs. B, I’m safe.

And I know more about emergencies, too.”



**When I get home, my mom and dad
are very happy to see me.**

**It's still very wet outside,
so we have a picnic on the floor!**



**It's good to be together.
And it's good to have a plan
for a picnic...
Or for a storm!**

Words used in this story

- Africa
- am, are/were, be
- asks (ask)
- bag
- batteries
- beach
- blowing (blow)
- boat
- bottled water
- building
- call, called
- can, can't
- cell phone
- check on (someone)
- computer
- do, does, don't, did
- dreams (dream), dreamer
- emergency, emergencies
- everyone
- explain, explains
- extra
- family: father/dad, mother/mom, parents, teenager
- finished (finish)
- first aid kit
- flashlight
- floor
- friend
- gather
- gave (give)
- get, got
- go, going
- Go Bag
- happy
- hat
- have, having
- help
- home, house
- information, informed
- inside
- left (leave)
- line (the line is dead)
- live
- make a plan
- meet, meeting place
- need, needs
- neighbor, neighborhood
- *Notify NYC*
- outside
- park
- people
- phone, phone number
- picnic
- prepared (ready)
- raining (rain)
- reach (contact)
- *Ready New York* guide
- safe
- say, says
- separated
- severe weather alert
- stay
- storm, storm alert
- supplies
- tell
- text message
- thought (think)
- together
- use
- want
- wet
- wind
- worry, worries

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The Storm?!

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