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My Name is **Aku**



Based on “The Storm”



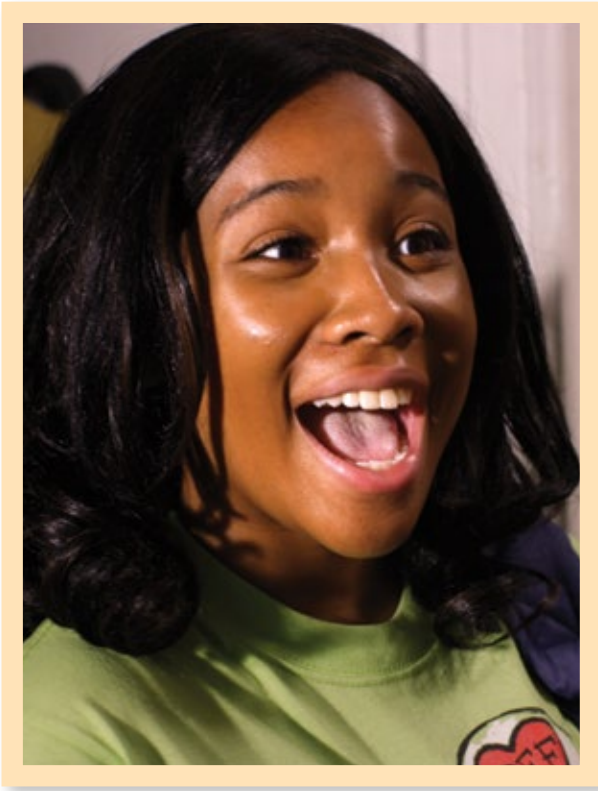
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My Name is Aku



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...**

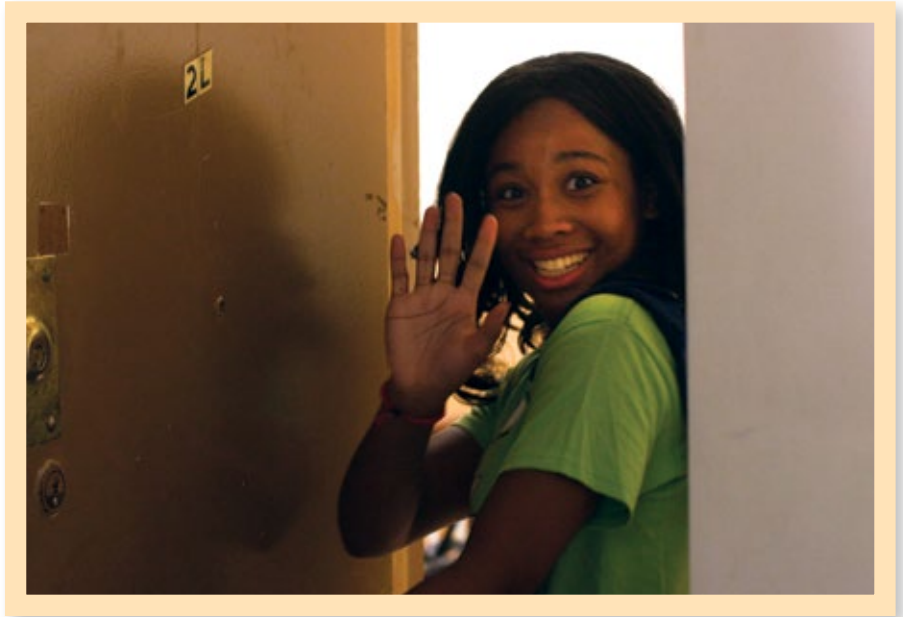


“Where are you going?

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:

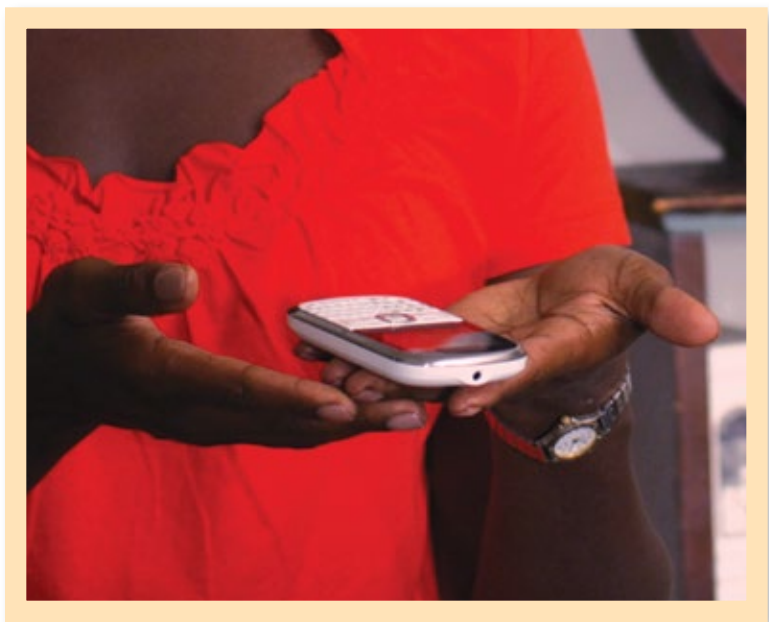
“We can't go to the beach.

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.



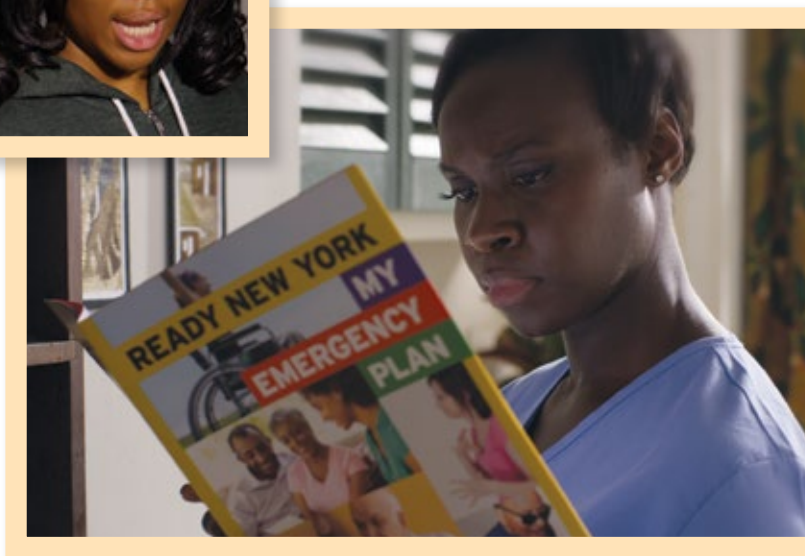
**“Don’t worry,” says Mrs. B.
“There are 3 things to do for an emergency.
Make a plan.
Gather supplies.
Get informed.”**



“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.”

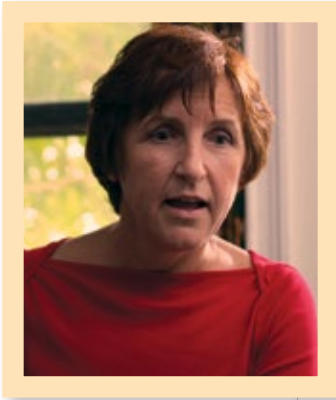


I explain:

“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.

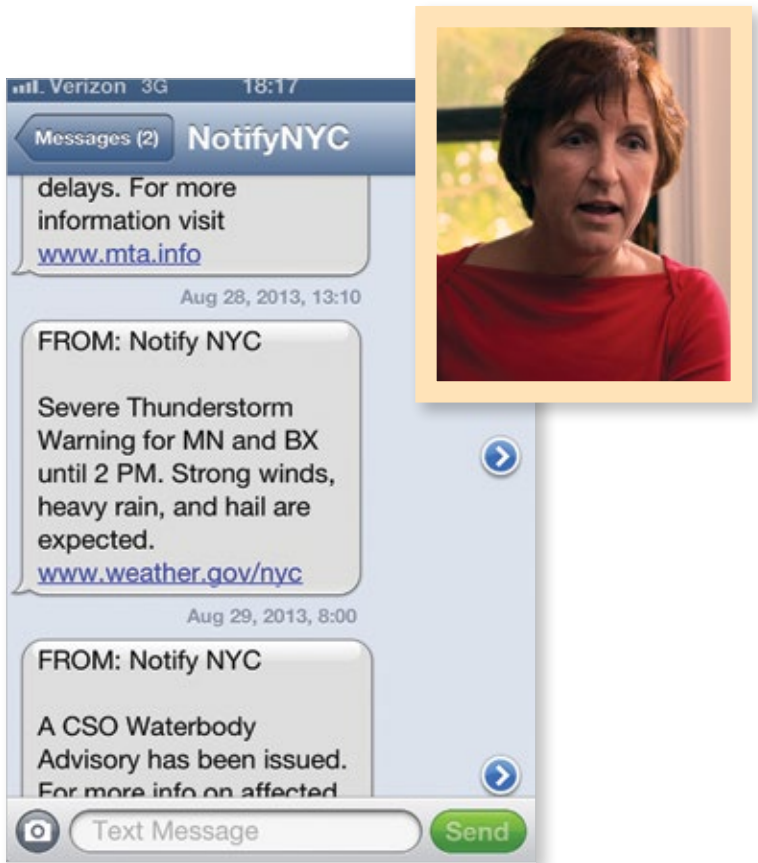
**We got supplies for a Go Bag—
flashlight, first aid kit, bottled water.**

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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Love and Money

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My Name Is Maria

Asthma: The Soap Opera

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My Name Is Yumi

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The Storm

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