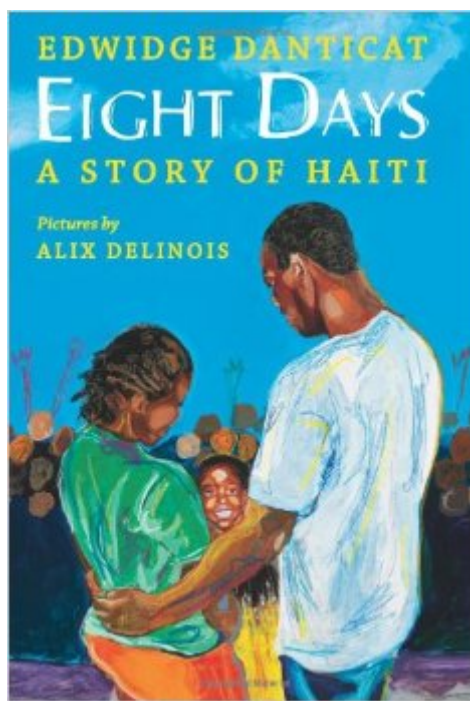


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# Eight Days: A Story Of Haiti



## Synopsis

From National Book Award nominee Edwidge Danticat comes a timely, brilliantly crafted story of hope and imagination--a powerful tribute to Haiti and children around the world! Hope comes alive in this heartfelt and deeply resonating story. While Junior is trapped for 8 days beneath his collapsed house after an earthquake, he uses his imagination for comfort. Drawing on beautiful, everyday-life memories, Junior paints a sparkling picture of Haiti for each of those days--flying kites with his best friend or racing his sister around St. Marc's Square--helping him through the tragedy until he is finally rescued. Love and hope dance across each page--granting us a way to talk about resilience as a family, a classroom, or a friend.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD820L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Orchard Books; 1 edition (September 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054527849X

ISBN-13: 978-0545278492

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 7.8 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #78,082 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Earthquakes & Volcanoes](#) #23 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America](#) #1385 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Eight Days: A Story of Haiti is the triumphant story of a boy, Junior, who spends eight days with his family in the rubble of his home after the earth quake that destroyed Haiti on January 12, 2010. The author and illustrator of this book are native Haitians. In each of their notes about the story they relate their love for their country and their hope for its future rise. This story beautifully describes what a normal day in the life of a Haitian child is like, the activities they normally participate in and the kinds of relationships they foster. Junior imagines that he does different things during his eight

day entrapment. On the first day, he imagines that he and his friends fly kites. "On the second day Oscar and I played hide and seek. We hid in the dark, dusty corner, of the house. And not only did Manman and Justine come looking for us, but Papa did, too." On the third day, Junior "visits" his parent's jobs and experiences what they do for money. On day four, he sings a beautiful solo in his class. Day five brings soccer and sports that he loves, followed by a bitter sweet goodbye. Rain was brought by day six, and day seven taught Junior that winning isn't always what is important. Finally, on day eight Junior was rescued and reunited with his family in front of news crews and rescuers. Junior's imagination, energy, playful side, and responsible nature all emerge on different days, while he was buried underneath the wreckage of his fallen home, which shows the resiliency of the Haitian people. The author, Edwidge Danticat, describes a Haitian's life and family bonds (as only a Haitian can) with descriptive words that children can understand, while using some of the native Haitian language like "Alarive!" (or surprise!).

Eight Days, A Story of Haiti tells the story of a young boy who is trapped under his house for eight long days following Haiti's 2010 earthquake. In order to keep his spirits high and make the time pass, he daydreams of running and playing in the sunshine, scenes which have been beautifully illustrated by Delinois to reflect the beauty of Haitian life before the earthquake, and what is possible for the future. Despite living through a terrifying experience, the child protagonist embodies hope and potential. Danticat is originally from Haiti and frequently writes children's, young adult and adult books on themes of Haiti or Haitian-Americans. Many of Danticat's stories often include autobiographical elements, as well as contemporary, sociopolitical information about Haiti. Thus, Danticat's Eight Days, A Story of Haiti, as well as many of her other books, would be a perfect way to teach a lesson on Haiti's 2010 earthquake, or other more current events and conditions in Haiti. At the back of Eight Days, A Story of Haiti, Danticat includes a note from the author where she explains how she found out about Haiti's earthquake on January 12, 2010, including her frantic worries for friends and family back home, and the concern of her two young daughters, who visited Haiti every year of their young lives. At this moment, Danticat reflects on the differing versions of Haiti that she and her daughters will remember, one before the earthquake and one after. This story beautifully and tragically captures both perspectives. Danticat's author's note, as well as the story itself, portrays the magic and promise of young children, and the tragedy of their potential cut short: "They are everywhere, Haiti's precious and beautiful children."

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