

## EPISODE 2: ...WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING

### ABOUT THE SERIES

Timestorm is a serialized audio drama podcast. It's like television...for your ears.

Alexa and Beni Ventura are yanked into another dimension where they meet a distant cousin who gives them an extraordinary mission: travel through time to preserve their culture's true history. In the twenty-first century, the twins must navigate school, friendship, and family life while keeping their time-traveling quests a secret.

### EPISODE EXPLORATION

#### Episode 2: ...Will Change Everything

The Venturas learn their family in Puerto Rico will have to brace for a second hurricane in two weeks. Alexa researches Horacio Méndez in an unlikely place.

Episode: [timestormseries.com/episode-2](https://timestormseries.com/episode-2)

Transcript: [timestormseries.com/episode-2/#transcript](https://timestormseries.com/episode-2/#transcript)

Written and directed by Dania Ramos

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Episode art design: M. Aquino; original image: Shutterstock / skovoroda | Series art: Hispanic Legacy Studio

Resource guide writer: Dania Ramos; additional content: Jennica Carmona | Listener share-out: Liliana

### EPISODE CAST

ALEXA VENTURA: Leilany Figueroa

BENI VENTURA: Claudio Venancio

RAMIRO VENTURA: Walter F. Rodriguez

CLARA VENTURA: Jennica Carmona

JANELLY: Frances Ramos

SONIA: Jessica Bracken

DATU: Joel D. Arandia

THAD: Philippe AbiYouness

JAIDEN: Alexis Pérez

MS.THOMPSON: Christine Mariani

WEATHER REPORTER: Emily Smith-Córdoba

HORACIO MÉNDEZ: Orlando Segarra

### DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. Thad makes fun of Beni because of his interest in video games and comic books. But then Thad shows up at Taino Comics and Games. What did you expect Thad to do in the comic bookstore? Did your view of Thad change after this scene? Why or why not?
2. The Venturas track a powerful hurricane as it approaches Puerto Rico, a Caribbean island where they have family living. We experience the characters' reactions through their lines (dialogue). What is another way the audience receives information about the hurricane in these scenes? Why do you think the series creators decided to tell that part of the story in this style?
3. Alexa and her mother visit a genealogy website to find information about members of their family. They discover something that alters Alexa's perspective about the timestorm. What piece of information changes Alexa's mind? How else could Alexa have searched for this information?

*Listen:* [TimestormSeries.com/episodes](https://TimestormSeries.com/episodes), [TRAX.fm/timestorm](https://TRAX.fm/timestorm), [app.kidslisten.org/pod/timestorm](https://app.kidslisten.org/pod/timestorm)

*Resources:* Episode resources are available at [cocotazomedia.com/timestorm-resources](https://cocotazomedia.com/timestorm-resources)

*Connect:* Twitter/Instagram: @TimestormPod

### WHAT'S THE WORD?

**Hurricane** - (noun) - A hurricane is a type of storm called a tropical cyclone, which forms over tropical or subtropical waters. (National Ocean Service: [oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html](https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html))

**Microbe** - (noun) - Microscopic organisms that consist of a single cell or a cluster of cells too small to be seen with the naked eye. Also called microorganisms. Microbes, or microorganisms, live in the air, water, the earth, and our bodies. Some help us stay healthy while others can make us sick.

## FICTION AND FACTS

### **Subject: Rafael Hernández School**

*On the Show:* Alexa and Beni are seventh graders at Rafael Hernández School in north Newark. The school is named in honor of Rafael Hernández, a famous Puerto Rican musician and U.S. Army veteran who fought in World War I.

*In Real Life:* Rafael Hernández School serves pre-K through eighth grade. The school is named after Afro-Puerto Rican musician Rafael Hernández, who was born in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico in 1892. At the age of 25, Rafael was recruited to join a U.S. Army musical band and was deployed to France during World War I. After the war, he went on to become a prolific composer as well as a bandleader, actor, music store owner, and founder of little league baseball in Puerto Rico.

### **Subject: Hurricane Maria: Landfall & Immediate Aftermath**

*On the Show:* The Venturas listen to weather updates about a dangerous hurricane barreling toward Puerto Rico and their family members that live there. Once the storm arrives, all communication is cut off with the island, and the Venturas struggle to cope with the uncertain circumstances.

*In Real Life:* Hurricane Maria devastated many Caribbean islands. The storm made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017, only two weeks after Hurricane Irma passed north of the island. About 80,000 residents were already without power from the previous storm when Hurricane Maria knocked out the entire electrical grid of the main island as well as the smaller islands, Vieques and Culebra. Nearly all methods of communication were crippled. Immediate emergencies included flooding, road destruction, contamination of the water supply, loss of crops and livestock, food shortages, lack of access to urgent medical care, and human fatalities.

Sources: Newark BOE - Rafael Hernández School: [nps.k12.nj.us/her](https://nps.k12.nj.us/her) | Centro Voices:

[centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/centrovoices/arts-culture/greatest-jibarito-afro-boricua-rafael-hern%C3%A1ndez](https://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/centrovoices/arts-culture/greatest-jibarito-afro-boricua-rafael-hern%C3%A1ndez)

NPR: We've Never Gone Through This: Hurricane Maria Knocks Out Puerto Rico's Electricity: [tinyurl.com/y6utfgam](https://tinyurl.com/y6utfgam)

NPR: With Power Out And Phones Down, A Struggle To Reach Loved Ones In Puerto Rico: [tinyurl.com/yb6jb2lq](https://tinyurl.com/yb6jb2lq)

## ACTIVITY/WORKSHEET: UNSEEN HEROES & VILLAINS

Prior to having the students complete the worksheet on page 3, you can review what a *microbe* is with this video: [nationalgeographic.org/media/misunderstood-microbes](https://nationalgeographic.org/media/misunderstood-microbes) (NationalGeographic.com, 01:02 minutes).

*Below is the text for the student instructions. Please refer to page 3 of the printable guide for the worksheet.*

In the second episode of Timestorm, Beni and Janelly play a fictional table-top role-playing game called Microbia where Master Acidophilus is considered a good character and the Amoeba is dangerous. In the boxes below, write a character description and/or draw your version of Master Acidophilus and Amoeba - or choose two different microbes as a hero and a villain in Microbia. Consider the following: What do the characters look like? What do they wear? What's their personality like? What powers do they have?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### **Puerto Rico & Puerto Ricans**

The Center for Puerto Rican Studies: [centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/education/educational-tools](https://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/education/educational-tools)

Audio about Puerto Rican artists and recent events in Puerto Rico: [cocotazomedia.com/puerto-rico](https://cocotazomedia.com/puerto-rico)

### **Newark, New Jersey**

Newark Happening: [newarkhappening.com/groups/quick-facts](https://newarkhappening.com/groups/quick-facts)

Newark History Society: [newarkhistorysociety.org](https://newarkhistorysociety.org)

Knowing Newark: Charles Cumming (Star-Ledger Columns/Newark Public Library): [KnowingNewark.npl.org](https://knowingnewark.npl.org)

Newark Public Library Latino Oral History Collection: [npl.org/Pages/Collections/njhric/LatinoOralHistory.html](https://npl.org/Pages/Collections/njhric/LatinoOralHistory.html)

### **Hurricane Maria: Landfall & Immediate Aftermath**

NPR: We've Never Gone Through This: Hurricane Maria Knocks Out Puerto Rico's Electricity: [tinyurl.com/y6utfgam](https://tinyurl.com/y6utfgam)

NPR: With Power Out And Phones Down, A Struggle To Reach Loved Ones In Puerto Rico: [tinyurl.com/yb6jb2lq](https://tinyurl.com/yb6jb2lq)

## **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**

### **Common Core State Standards**

ELA: Speaking & Listening - Comprehension & Collaboration: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1-8.1

ELA: Science & Technical Subjects - Gr 6-8 - Integration of Knowledge & Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.7

### **National Core Arts Standards**

Creating Anchor Standards 1, 2; Responding: Anchor Standards 7, 8; Connecting: Anchor Standards 10, 11

### **Social/Emotional Learning Core Competencies**

Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making, Relationship Skills

## **SUPPORT & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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Timestorm is produced in Essex County, New Jersey, which is situated on the traditional territory of the Leni Lenape people. Learn more about the Lenape people and Lenapehoking at [thelenapecenter.com](http://thelenapecenter.com).