Mississippi Oral History Program

Hurricane Katrina Oral History Project

An Oral History

with

Arnesha Jenkins

Interviewer: Beth Morgan

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An Oral History with Arneshia Jenkins, Volume 1003
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Morgan: This is Beth Morgan. I’m here in Moss Point with Arneshia Jenkins on Halloween, [October 31], 2006. And Arneshia was living in the Moss Point area and going to Moss Point—were you at the high school last year, or is that the junior high? You were at the junior high last year. Now, I’m going to ask you [to] answer yes or no because the mic won’t pick up a nod for me. So she was a ninth grader last year, when [Hurricane] Katrina hit. Have you lived in Moss Point your whole life?

Jenkins: No, ma’am. Actually I was an eighth grader when Katrina hit, and I was staying in Biloxi.

Morgan: OK. So you were living in Biloxi. OK. Well, tell me about, before Katrina hit, where you were in Biloxi. Where were you in school?

Jenkins: I was in OLC Alternative School in Biloxi.

Morgan: OK.

Jenkins: And after Katrina hit, I was still going there. And we were staying on Bohn Street, right down the street from Boomtown [Casino].

Morgan: OK. And had you been in Biloxi pretty much your whole life?

Jenkins: I had been in Biloxi for about a year then.

Morgan: OK. All right. And were you living there with your parents, or who were you living with in Biloxi?

Jenkins: With my mom, my dad, and my sister.

Morgan: OK. When you were in school over there, tell me about the community before Katrina hit.
Jenkins: It was a quiet community. Like you step outside, you don’t see nobody outside. It was quiet around the part that we was in. But you had to get out and find places to go or do something.

Morgan: OK. And you’ve grown up on the Mississippi Coast generally your whole life?

Jenkins: Yes, ma’am.

Morgan: And were your parents Coast people, too?

Jenkins: Yes, ma’am.

Morgan: So did you grow up hearing stories about hurricanes before?

Jenkins: About Hurricane Camille.

Morgan: Camille. You grew up hearing about Camille? What was some of the Camille stories you would hear?

Jenkins: My grandmom said that Camille, she was something like Katrina, but Katrina is worser than Camille. She said that Camille came through, and when Camille came through, it kind of tore everything. It tore everything. It was just the wind. But when Katrina came, Katrina brought water in. She was telling that Camille was bad, but Katrina was worse.

Morgan: Did your grandmother go through Camille on the Coast?

Jenkins: I don’t know if she did, but she was telling me that it was worse.

Morgan: Had your parents then grown up with hurricane warnings, too?

Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: What would y’all do before Katrina, when the news would start reporting hurricanes? What kind of preparations would y’all make?

Jenkins: My mama would sit and watch it and make sure it don’t, you know, kind of turn or drift to our side. Then if it do, she will be prepared to leave or get ready to go.

Morgan: Had y’all ever evacuated before for a hurricane?

Jenkins: I don’t think so.

Morgan: No. Would you ever board up your windows or tape off windows or anything to get ready?
Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: Did you ever have any relatives or know people who would just go ahead and leave if they thought a hurricane was coming in?

Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: Would just go ahead and pack up. Where would they go to from here?

Jenkins: It’s like I had an aunt that stayed—well, I got an aunt that stayed over here in Moss Point. And when we were staying in Biloxi, they packed up and they moved over there, because it was like Hurricane Dennis. They packed up. They came over there with us.

Morgan: So Dennis has caused them to kind of go towards Biloxi?

Jenkins: Yes, ma’am.

Morgan: And that’s a little further inland than Moss Point. It would not have been far enough for Katrina, would it?

Jenkins: Unh-uh.

Morgan: Well, tell me a little bit about before Katrina. You’d been in Biloxi before last year, so you had just moved to Moss Point?

Jenkins: I had just moved to Biloxi. And before Katrina, it was like we had gained everything because after we moved, we moved into like one of my mama’s granddaddy’s old houses. And when we moved over there, everything was going good. We was getting everything back. Like from when we moved from Moss Point and we moved over there, everything I had, I was getting it back. I was getting more than what I had, because where we were staying at.

Morgan: When did you move to Biloxi? Can you remember June or July, before the school year started?

Jenkins: It was before the school year started. I think it was in June, July. No. I want to say May.

Morgan: So right at the end of the school year, y’all moved over?

Jenkins: Yeah.

Morgan: OK. So you’re getting your stuff all together, making new friends, just kind of breaking in the new school. Had you gotten back into school before the storm hit?
Jenkins: Yes, ma’am.

Morgan: That was your first year over there?

Jenkins: Yes, ma’am.

Morgan: How was the whole new-school thing?

Jenkins: It was good. It was all right from when I was going there. It was like, we didn’t have to wear uniforms, but it was like certain things they wanted us to wear. Beside the rules, it was all right.

Morgan: OK. And you made friends easily?

Jenkins: Yes, ma’am.

Morgan: And y’all had been in school what, maybe three weeks?

Jenkins: Yeah. I say around about three. Three weeks we had been to school, and then Katrina came.

Morgan: Well, tell me about the week before, the Sunday that Katrina really came in that Sunday and Monday, like the Thursday or Friday before. Were you very worried about it?

Jenkins: Yeah, because they were thinking that it was going to hit Biloxi hard. And my mama, she didn’t really believe it, so we were going to stay until she seen the news, really paid attention to the news. And we got our stuff and left.

Morgan: What about your neighbors? Were they, later in the week, very concerned?

Jenkins: My grandma stayed next to us, and she was already in Texas.

Morgan: Was she just visiting?

Jenkins: She was visiting some more relatives in Texas.

Morgan: What about your neighbors? Earlier in the week, were they taking it very serious, or were they just watching it on the news?

Jenkins: I don’t know. I know some of them, two of them, they left. We had some neighbors on the right side and some neighbors on the left side. The neighbors on the left they had left. They left early. They left—I don’t know. I think it was like two days, three days before Katrina came, they left. And then the neighbors on the right, they left that same day.
Morgan: And when did y’all end up leaving, or when did you realize that, “Oh, wait. Mama is actually going to take this serious. This must be a bad storm”?  

Jenkins: When we were looking at the news, she was like, “No. We got to get up out of here because they said it was going to be a tidal wave.”  

Morgan: Do you remember what day that was? Was it Friday or Saturday or Sunday?  

Jenkins: I think it was that Saturday because Katrina hit that Sunday. And she was like, “We got to get up out of here. We can’t stay up in here. They said it was going to be a tidal wave. We got to go. We got to go.” So we packed up all our food, and we left.  

Morgan: Well, tell me about, what all did you pack and take from your house?  

Jenkins: She said that, she said just in case Katrina didn’t hit that hard just take a couple of clothes. We took some clothes. We took a tote bag full of clothes and some food and some shoes, and that was all.  

Morgan: Did you have dogs or cats you had to look after?  

Jenkins: We had a dog, but where we was going we didn’t know really that the dog—where we was going it was already a dog there, and we didn’t know that dog was going to get along with that dog. So mama said it probably wouldn’t have been—she was thinking in her mind it probably wouldn’t be that bad when we left from there.  

Morgan: Where were you going?  

Jenkins: We came down here to Moss Point. Because she didn’t hit as hard as she did up in Biloxi, like she did down here.  

Morgan: So y’all rode out the storm over here in Moss Point. How was that?  

Jenkins: She followed us here. It was like where we were staying at, the roof caved in on my mama.  

Morgan: Oh, my.  

Jenkins: On the side, it kind of caved in on her.  

Morgan: Do you remember where that house was, like a street name or anything?  

Jenkins: Washington Drive.
Morgan: OK. Over on Washington Drive. You were in a different house from your mom?

Jenkins: Unh-uh. We were in the same house, but we were in different rooms. I was in the living room, and she was in the back room.

Morgan: So when the roof was falling in, you didn’t think that, “Mama, we didn’t drive far enough”?

Jenkins: I told her that she was like, “It’s going to follow you everywhere that you go. You can’t escape death or nothing else because it’s going to follow you wherever you go.”

Morgan: When did it start getting bad around here? Was it early Monday morning or Monday afternoon?

Jenkins: It was like early; it was early that morning it had start getting bad. Then that afternoon it got worse.

Morgan: Can you describe like what the rain sounded like or what the winds sounded like?

Jenkins: We had to evacuate from the house that we was in to get to another house because that roof had caved in. Then it was like crazy going through the ceiling towards the living room. And it was going to cave in, too, so we left there.

Morgan: You remember what time that was? Was that sometime Monday, where you had to leave the first time?

Jenkins: Yeah.

Morgan: OK.

Jenkins: Yeah, it was Monday because we had slept over Sunday. It was Monday. And that evening we was like, I don’t remember what time, but it was the evening, we like out. And we kept calling people, and we called my cousin and her boyfriend to come and pick us up because they got a big, old truck, because we couldn’t make it in our truck. The street that we’re on, it’s a flood street, so the water was up there. It was high.

Morgan: This is the second house you were in?

Jenkins: Yeah.

Morgan: OK.
Jenkins: And we went outside trying to go get in the car, and the wind, it was hitting us so hard, like the side of my face. It was stinging the side of my face, and it would hurt so bad to where like if I touch my face it would still hurt.

Morgan: Wow.

Jenkins: Like everybody jumped in the car, and it was like, I say it was like five people. Let’s see. It was like five people in the car.

Morgan: Can you remember what street that was on?

Jenkins: Washington Drive. It was five people, when we were still at the house. We jumped in a little, white car, and it was like five or six people in that car, and the car was still rocking to the side, fixing to turn over. So we got out the car, and my mama called somebody, and they came and got us and took us over to—I forgot the name of the street. So we went to one of my mama’s friend’s house.

Morgan: The first house, did a tree land on the roof, or was the wind taking the roof?

Jenkins: The wind was taking the roof.

Morgan: So you got in a car. You got somebody to come pick you up to take you to the second house. How were things—and that was Monday still?

Jenkins: Um-hm.

Morgan: Had the worst of the storm even gotten to y’all yet?

Jenkins: When we went to the third house, it was like, it got better. It was a little like, it was a little leakage. Anyway, it had gotten better.

Morgan: OK.

Jenkins: And we slept a night over there, and like the next morning, you could get up and you could see how it’s getting better. After it was really over, we rode around Moss Point to see what was going on. And houses were destroyed. Some of them were destroyed and some was like covered in leaves and water. You could see how far the water had gone up to it. You could see trees bend over and up in people yards, knocked over in people yards and all on top of peoples’ houses. After we left there, we went back, like we stayed over here for about, I think, for a day and half. We stayed another day and half. And we left and went back to Biloxi. And really, when we was going over the bridge, I really didn’t think nothing. I’ll look out there in the water, and I’ll see a house out there in the water. You know how a nervous laugh? And I’ll just look out there and say, “Mom, look at that house,” and I’ll do a nervous laugh. And like, as we crossing over the bridge, and we getting ready like to make our
exit off the bridge to go to our house, it’s like you can see cars on top of driveways and patio decks and all that mess. Then like going down our street, it’s like you see the Imperial Palace bridge; it was destroyed. It was totaled. Then it was like going down the street, going towards Boomtown. I’m looking around. I see all these houses, they gone.

**Morgan:** What was left? Was it any rubble, or was it just the foundation?

**Jenkins:** It was rubble and the foundation, and then you go down a little more, and you can see Boomtown, and Boomtown was like split in half. And when we were turning down my street and we turned down the street, and it was a whole pile of rubble, and you could see the stairs from the apartment. Across the street from us, you could see stairs from the apartments in the road and dead dogs and all that mess. Instead of riding down our street and the worser it is, I mean, when we coming down to our house it’s like, it’s a house over here the windows blew out. It’s like the side of it, it’s totaled. And then the new apartments that was across the street, they totaled. And then we ride on down the street, and we could see our neighbor house. Before we get to our neighbor house, it’s a trailer. And our neighbor house, I know it’s like two-story high; it’s a trailer sitting on top of his house.

**Morgan:** Oh, my gosh.

**Jenkins:** And next to his house is my grandma’s house. And she had left her car there or whatever. And you could like see it was stairs and shrimp boxes, everything from everywhere, up in our yard. And like the neighbors across, that was on the right side of us, their house was like it was cut in half. It looked like it was cut in half; it was broke in. When we looked at our house, I just broke out in tears because ain’t nothing like that ever happen to me. And going towards our house, it’s like my grandma house is right on side of our house, then our house, then it’s a house in the back. The house in the back shifted forward, and our house it shifted to the side, and my grandma house shifted to the side. So it was like our house and my grandma house together, and we walking around the house and looking in the house to see what we could get. You know, we tripping over turtles, and I don’t know what other stuff.

**Morgan:** Had you heard anything on the news before you went back to Biloxi that kind of got you prepared for what you were going to see?

**Jenkins:** No, not really. But it’s like when we were going over, checking out my grandma house to see if she had anything left, my daddy went inside because we thought we heard a dog, because we thought the dog had made it out, and it was another dog barking. So my daddy went inside looking for the dog, calling the dog name, and he found the dog under the table, and he was dead, drowned. And we went to looking around again, and it’s like up in my grandma’s room, it’s this one picture that was hanging, and it was hanging on by a tack, a thumbtack. And my mom was like, “What’s hanging?” And I said, “A picture of Jesus.” That’s the only thing that was hanging up in there.
Morgan: Everything else washed off the wall.

Jenkins: Um-hm.

Morgan: Torn off. So what all were you able to recover from the house and take away from your house? Anything at all?

Jenkins: It’s like in our house, you could look straight through the kitchen, see a bedroom and then look in the living room. You could look straight through the house.

Morgan: The walls were all gone.

Jenkins: Um-hm.

Morgan: Wow. Well, how long after that—I mean, did y’all have to sit down and make plans about what you were going to do, and where you were going to end up? What happened then?

Jenkins: Not really, because we had a cousin stay in D’Iberville. So we went and stayed with her, and while we were staying with them, we stayed over there for I think three months; three to four months we stayed over there. And over there, it’s kind of better than where we was because in D’Iberville, D’Iberville didn’t get hit as hard as, about as Biloxi did. It wasn’t that much flooding over there in D’Iberville neither, so it was kind of better over there.

Morgan: Where were you a few weeks later when [Hurricane] Rita came through? Do you remember where you were living when the second hurricane came through?

Jenkins: Rita, we were still staying over there in D’Iberville.

Morgan: So when did you start hearing about Rita?

Jenkins: We got scared.

Morgan: Yeah.

Jenkins: We were fixing to go at first, and then we took a second look at the news, and they were like, “She turned around.” She wasn’t coming this way. You could hear everybody, like a relief off their chest, because it like, it was going to be scary again. And like, as we were staying over there, it was like you could see little kids playing around, running around in the streets. And the only thing that we had was the clothes on our backs. That’s the only thing we had after Katrina was the clothes on our back. And you could like see little kids running around playing and all this mess. And you could look at them and say, “Why they outside playing? They need to be somewhere with their mamas or somewhere like that.” And like after like a couple
days after Katrina hit, they started the Red Cross [meal service]. And you could see little kids running to the little vans and so happy, ready to get something to eat, something like that. It was like exciting to me because I have never been through nothing like that. I haven’t been through anything like Katrina. And to see how fast we bounce back off of it, it’s exciting.

Morgan: Really? I guess at the time was it frightening, though?

Jenkins: It was scary, but it was kind of good because we came back quick.

Morgan: Well, tell me about the Red Cross, and tell me about who you got help from, and how all that went down.

Jenkins: My mama, she got help really from FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency].

Morgan: And you were staying with family in D'lberville. How many of y’all were in the house?

Jenkins: Thirteen.

Morgan: Thirteen people in the house. How was that? Everybody get on everybody’s nerves, or were y’all just trying to help each other so much, worked OK?

Jenkins: I don’t know.

Morgan: OK. That’s a lot of people in the house.

Jenkins: Um-hm. Because it was me, my mama, my daddy, my sister. Then it was my cousin, her husband, they had two kids. Then she invited her sister; she invited her daughter, and it was her daughter and her three kids. And after her daughter got invited, she invited her other daughter, and it was her daughter and her husband. Then our cousin came and stayed with us, and it was like our cousin, and it was her two kids. And then it was her mama there. So it was a lot of people.

Morgan: Oh, it was a lot of people. OK, and so FEMA?

Jenkins: Helped my mama out. Like the first grant they got, the two thousand dollars, she wasn’t thinking about herself. She wasn’t thinking about getting herself ready or herself prepared. She was really thinking about me and my sister and my dad. And I was telling her; I’ll tell her every night, “Mom, you brought this for you. Did you get something for you?” or “Did you do this for you?” And she’ll tell me, “No, I brought you this. I brought your daddy this. And I brought your sister this.” And it was kind of good to know like my mama is my hero. She been there for me; she going to stay there for me. After Katrina it kind of brought our family close together.
Morgan: Well, I bet she’ll be proud to hear that, because that’s a huge task to keep everybody together when you got what you are wearing.

Jenkins: And you like, you see my mama and want to break down, but she scared, too, because of us, and she was trying to keep us together.

Morgan: And what did you do for yourself to keep yourself together?

Jenkins: Hug my mama and told her I love her, and that everything was going to be all right.

Morgan: Well, what about school? Were the schools closed?

Jenkins: Like a month, a month and a half after Katrina hit. I was still going to the same school, because the schools on Pass Road, didn’t nothing major happen to the school. So I went back to school, and I was going to school from D’Iberville to Pass Road.

Morgan: Was it a long drive?

Jenkins: It was about—to ride, it was about forty, forty-five minutes long.

Morgan: Were all of your teachers back at school?

Jenkins: Yeah.

Morgan: And things got back operating pretty quickly then?

Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: What about your classmates? Were they telling you stories about what had happened to them?

Jenkins: All my classmates evacuated. They went somewhere else. They didn’t stay in Moss Point or nowhere like that. They went somewhere else.

Morgan: Far inland. So were the classes full when y’all started back, or were there a lot of kids missing?

Jenkins: It wasn’t to start with. It wasn’t that many kids there anyway, so it was like the same amount when first got back. When we first got back there, it was like the same amount, same amount of students.

Morgan: So you were able to get back into a regular school schedule, at least.
Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: And then in the evenings, you drive back to D’Iberville. And what were y’all doing in the evening?

Jenkins: Ate. Like my cousin, her husband, he’ll go outside, and he’ll barbecue or get us some food together. Because like before Katrina, we went and brought a whole bunch of meat. Well, they went and brought a whole bunch of meat, put it on something like some ice to keep it cool. And they barbecued, and we ate.

Morgan: How long were you-all without electricity? Can you remember? Electricity or water?

Jenkins: About, I think a week and a half.

Morgan: OK. How long did you stay in the D’Iberville house with thirteen others?

Jenkins: It was like—as time passed, some of them moved out into their own house. It’s like it was still my cousin, my mama, me, and my daddy. And my sister moved out. She moved back to Moss Point. And then my other cousin and her husband, they kind of stayed for a minute, but they left and went back to their house. So like about a month after Katrina hit, that’s how long everybody was staying together. And I had my other cousin with her two kids. They moved back up into their house, but they were over there every day.

Morgan: Did your grandmother stay in Texas, or did she come on back?

Jenkins: She came back like, I say about three, two months after Katrina hit because my mama, she wasn’t trying to get over here and see her house or what was going on because she could’ve had got sick or anything. So she told her to just stay in Texas until she got everything situated. And when she got everything situated, she moved. I forgot. It was somewhere close to Biloxi; she moved over there, I think to Ocean Springs. Yeah. She moved to Ocean Springs in a house. It was her and my other cousin that moved in the house.

Morgan: Well, who ended up being the one who had to tell your grandmother about the house?

Jenkins: My mama.

Morgan: And were y’all able to get out over the phone, to get phone calls out?

Jenkins: T-mobile was, that was the only one, T-mobile.

Morgan: OK. And what brought you back you over here to Moss Point? Y’all just eventually ended up settling over here after the storm?
Jenkins: I got a cousin that stay over here, and she got—it’s like when we came down here, we stayed with her for a month and half until they brought us our trailer.

Morgan: Were there a lot of houses in Moss Point destroyed?

Jenkins: Um-hm. We stayed over at her for a month and half. And then they brought our trailer and moved behind another one of my cousins. We moved behind them in the trailer.

Morgan: Well, tell me about this. Was it a FEMA trailer?

Jenkins: Yes, ma’am.

Morgan: Tell me about life in a FEMA trailer. How many of y’all were in there?

Jenkins: Me, my mama, my daddy, my sister.

Morgan: The four of you.

Jenkins: And it’s real hectic.

Morgan: Real hectic. Describe being inside of them. I think people hear about these FEMA trailers, but they don’t realize, really, they’re small. Aren’t they?

Jenkins: How small it is. It’s like in the back you got a bathroom, and you got a tub, and it’s no longer than, it’s not longer than a coffee table, than this table right here. It ain’t no longer than this.

Morgan: And this is maybe three feet.

Jenkins: It ain’t no longer than that. And you got the shower, but when you stand up in the tub, your head kind of like touch the top of the trailer.

Morgan: Did you feel like the Jolly Green Giant?

Jenkins: So you can’t, like, stand up to take no shower. You got enough space between your toilets and stuff. And when you step out the bathroom, it’s like when you look to the side it’s like a sink, then you got a mirror over that sink and that’s the bathroom sink. Then it’s like two bunk beds in the back, and they like six feet long, five feet long.

Morgan: And you’re a tall girl. How tall are you?

Jenkins: Five [feet], eleven [inches]. And it’s like five feet long. Then it’s like you got your kitchen. It’s like you got a stove and an oven. You got a microwave on top
of the stove and the oven. It’s like up there in the cabinet. And you got two sets of cabinets. You got a cabinet down here, and then you got a sink. Then you got a cabinet. Then on the side, you got a table, and you got like where the table can let out into a bed. It can be a bed, but we didn’t let out into a bed. So like the couch, you can flip it over into the bed if you want to, and you can flip it back into a couch. Then in the back it’s like it’s a real, real small room, and that’s where my mom and my daddy stayed. It real small.

Morgan: So they stayed in the one bedroom. You and your sister slept on the bunk bed.

Jenkins: My sister, she didn’t sleep on a bunk bed because I’m not able to get on top bunk bed because of how small it is. So we used the top bunk bed for storage, and the bottom bunk bed is where I slept at, and my sister slept on the couch. And my mama slept in the room. Besides us getting up walking around, you can’t do that.

Morgan: Cannot walk, two people.

Jenkins: Two people cannot walk in the trailer.

Morgan: Did you spend a bunch of time outside then?

Jenkins: Yeah.

Morgan: Sit in the yard?

Jenkins: Or sitting on the stairs.

Morgan: You were near other family members. Is that what you were saying?

Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: How long were y’all in the trailer?

Jenkins: We’re still in the trailer now.

Morgan: You’re still in the trailer?

Jenkins: We been in the trailer since—let’s say, we got probably four more months left at the trailer.

Morgan: So what do you think about? Do you talk about where you’re going to go after you leave the trailer?

Jenkins: My mama talking about getting an apartment. I really don’t know. I don’t care, just as long as we got somewhere to stay.
Morgan: Yeah, yeah. Are you going to stay in the Moss Point area?

Jenkins: I don’t know.

Morgan: Don’t know yet. Well, tell me about watching things get rebuilt around here. Do you think things have happened quickly or slowly? What do you think about the recovery?

Jenkins: In Moss Point still building stuff, so it’s happening slow. But in Biloxi, they getting on fast because I think D’Iberville had power before Moss Point did. Moss Point didn’t even get hit that hard as D’Iberville did. But we had power before they did. So Moss Point, they still slow. They still fixing on stuff now.

Morgan: So what about you? You want to stay on the Coast after graduation? That’s one of my questions I ask everybody, if they want to stay or go as far as you can ever get from a hurricane, ever again.

Jenkins: I’m going as far as I can.

Morgan: To get away from a hurricane?

Jenkins: When I graduate, or when I get ready to graduate and go to a college, I want to go to Washington State, so I can get away from all these—Spokane, Washington, so I can get away from all these hurricanes.

Morgan: What’s the worst that can happen there, a volcano?

Jenkins: A snow storm.

Morgan: A snow storm. It rains too much.

Jenkins: That’s the worst that can happen, a snow storm.

Morgan: This year when June first came and the hurricane season opened up again, you’re already in a FEMA trailer. Did you get nervous this first of the summer?

Jenkins: I got kind of nervous, but then again, my mama was like, “Ain’t none other hurricane going to come and hit us because we done had some good weather.” We done had good weather every since Katrina done came.

Morgan: What did you think? Do you believe her theory that a bunch of good weather means no hurricanes this summer?

Jenkins: Yeah. I was kind of going with my mama. I trust somebody; I was trusting my mama.
Morgan: Did you find yourself getting nervous at all?

Jenkins: Not after what she told me, I didn’t get nervous.

Morgan: So how is the school year this year going?

Jenkins: It’s going good for now.

Morgan: Is everything back to normal pretty much here in Moss Point?

Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: Football back in place?

Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: What about the school? Was it hit hard after Katrina, or do you know?

Jenkins: It wasn’t hit hard because they used it as a shelter. They used Moss Point [High School] as a shelter.

Morgan: OK. So there were people. We’re sitting here with this interview in the Moss Point High School Library. So this, during Katrina, was a shelter for some people?

Jenkins: Yes.

Morgan: Do your classmates tell you any of their Moss Point Katrina stories?

Jenkins: Not really. I guess they don’t like to think about it. They don’t really think about it.

Morgan: Well, if you can think about, you know, what got you through. And you were, what? Thirteen at the time, fourteen?

Jenkins: Thirteen.

Morgan: Thirteen years old. What is it, you think, that kind of got you through?

Jenkins: My mama.

Morgan: Your mom’s strength, and her just doing that mom thing.

Jenkins: And keeping everything together.
Morgan: OK. I know she’ll be proud to hear that you recognized that, and I bet she’ll be proud to hear that.

(end of interview)