



# THE 9/11 LESSON

Celebrating Real-Life Superheroes



I remember vividly the terrible day when our first fear world changed forever. I was listening to the radio in my apartment, a few blocks from Ground Zero, when the plane hit the first tower. I could hear the crash from the street below. "Oh, no, no, no!" "Oh, my God!" I ran downstairs just in time to see the second tower crumple like a sandcastle. It was 9:59 am. I joined others calling out to the sky when a large group of people came running back shouting, "Go back, go back, go back!" "Go back, go back!" She pulled back only to discover later that it was a false alarm, that there would be no more attacks on the towers after the second plane hit. Without fully understanding the significance of events, I felt that a tremendous loss of life had been recorded in a disaster, more similar war. A great sadness came over me.

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Soon after, we learned that many people who had thrown themselves voluntarily from the towers rather than remain trapped inside an inferno. Richard Drew, who photographed one of the images of that fateful day, the "Falling Man," image of a man falling to his death with one tower in the background, said recently that for him the image of the Unknown Soldier. Soon after, we learned that many people who had thrown themselves voluntarily from the towers rather than remain trapped inside an inferno.

LESSON TYPE(S)	GRADE(S)	DESCRIPTION
Language Arts, Social Studies	5th	Create an oral history of 9/11 from people you know.
<b>MATERIALS</b>	<b>PREP</b>	<b>GGC HEART BADGES</b>
9/11 Books (see List), Pencils, Lined paper	N/A	Education

## ORAL HISTORY: A 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LESSON

### INTRODUCE

**EXPLAIN:** Today, we're learning about what happened on September 11th, 2001, and we're going to create our own oral history.

**DISCUSS:**

- What do you know already about 9/11?
- Have you spoken about it to a family member before?

**INSTRUCT:** Write down 3 questions you have about 9/11.

### EXPLORE

**WATCH:** Global Game Changers "Learning 9/11" Video.

**GROUP:** Students into groups of 4-6.

- NOTE: If you are doing this at home, small groups aren't necessary.

**DISTRIBUTE:** A book about 9/11 to each group.

**INSTRUCT:**

- Choose a reader to read the book out loud to your group.
- Discuss what the book is about together.
- Report out from your group.

**EXPLAIN:** This discussion may have answered some questions and prompted new questions. In fact, many adult Americans today still remember where they were on 9/11 even if they were nowhere close to New York City or Washington, DC. We're going to work on an oral history project where you get to interview adults



about their experiences with 9/11.

**DEFINE:** Oral history is using sound or video recordings of people who experience or lived through a part of history in order to study that time.

**DISCUSS:**

- What are some questions that you have about 9/11?
- What would you want to know from an adult in your life about their experience with 9/11?

**INSTRUCT:** Write down at least 10 questions for your interview.

**EXPLAIN:** Tonight, we will go home and interview an adult in your household about 9/11. Choose an adult that was at least 5 years old in 2001. Write down or record your interview.

## CONNECT

**DISCUSS:** How do you think another person's firsthand perspective will change how you understand 9/11?

## FOLLOW UP

**DISCUSS:**

- How did the interview change your perspective on 9/11?
- What did you learn about that you expected to learn about?
- What did you learn that was unexpected.

**INSTRUCT:**

**UPLOAD** your interview/interview text to this site:

**EXPLAIN:** Your oral histories will become part of the Virtual Museum, and will allow other kids to get a firsthand perspective on 9/11!

*Global Game Changers Student Empowerment Program is an innovative evidence-based curriculum that uses service-learning to develop the whole child by building core social-emotional competencies, character, and leadership skills in elementary students. Using our Superpower Equation: MY TALENT+MY HEART=MY SUPERPOWER!®, they learn to IGNITE GOOD!® and be successful and engaged citizens. GGC's program is privately funded and available at no cost to educators and parents through our online Educator Portal. Visit [globalgamechangers.org](http://globalgamechangers.org) for more information and email questions to [info@globalgamechangers.org](mailto:info@globalgamechangers.org). Copyright © 2020 Global Game Changers. All Rights Reserved.*



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## BOOK LIST

### FEATURED BOOK

#### *9/11 NEVER FORGET: LOVE ALWAYS WINS*

- By Sammy Leigh; Illustrated by Scott Soeder
- Ages 6-10/Grades 1-5

### ADDITIONAL BOOKS BY GRADE LEVEL

#### *FIREBOAT: THE HEROIC ADVENTURES OF THE JOHN J. HARVEY*

- Written and Illustrated by Maira Kalman
- Age 4-8/Preschool - 3

#### *ON THAT DAY: A BOOK OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN*

- By Andrea Patel
- Ages 4-7/Grades Preschool-2

#### *THE LITTLE CHAPEL THAT STOOD*

- By A.B. Curtiss
- Ages 9-12/Grades Preschool - 3

#### *SEPTEMBER 12TH: WE KNEW EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALL RIGHT*

- Written and illustrated by Masterson Elementary Students
- Age 4+/Grades 1-2

#### *AMERICA IS UNDER ATTACK: SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: THE DAY THE TOWERS FELL (ACTUAL TIMES)*

- By Don Brown
- Ages 6-10/Grades 1-2

#### *SEPTEMBER ROSES*

- By Jeanette Winter
- Ages 7-12/Grades 1-2

#### *SEVEN AND A HALF TONS OF STEEL*

- By Janet Nolan; Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez
- Ages 6-10/Grades 1-5

#### *14 COWS FOR AMERICA*

- By Carmen Agra Deedy with Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah; Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez
- Age 6-10/Grades 2-3

#### *THE SURVIVOR TREE : INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY*

- By Cheryl Somers Aubin; Illustrated by Sheila Harrington
- Ages 8-12/Grades 3-7



### *10 TRUE TALES: HEROES OF 9/11*

- By Allan Zullo
- Age 8-12/Grade 3-7

### *I SURVIVED THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 (I SURVIVED, BOOK 6)*

- By Lauren Tarshis; Illustrated by Scott Dawson
- Age 8-12/Grade 3-7

### *JUST A DROP OF WATER*

- By Kerry O'Malley Cerra
- Age 8-12/Grade 2-7

### *THE MAN IN THE RED BANDANNA*

- By Honor Crowther Fagan, Illustrated by John Crowther
- Ages 8-12/Grades 3-7

### *NINE, TEN: A SEPTEMBER 11 STORY*

- By Nora Raleigh Baskin
- Age 8-12/Grade 3-7

### *TOWERS FALLING*

- By Jewell Parker Rhodes
- Age 8-12/Grade 3-7

### *WHAT WERE THE TWIN TOWERS?*

- By Jim O'Connor (Who HQ); Illustrated by Tom Hammond
- Ages 8-12/Grades 3-7

### *ELEVEN*

- By Tom Rogers
- Ages 10-12/Grades 5-6

### *WITH THEIR EYES: SEPTEMBER 11TH-THE VIEW FROM A HIGH SCHOOL AT GROUND ZERO*

- Edited by Annie Thomas
- Grades 7 and up

### *THE DAY THE TOWERS FELL: THE STORY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001*

- By Maureen Crethan Santora, Illustrated by Patricia Santora Cardona

### *9 OF 1: A WINDOW TO THE WORLD*

- By Oliver Chin

### *9-11: ARTISTS RESPOND*

- By Various

### *MESSAGES TO GROUND ZERO: CHILDREN RESPOND TO SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001*

- Collected by Shelley Harwayne and the New York City Board of Education