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America Is Under Attack: September 11, 2001: The Day The Towers Fell (Actual Times)



Synopsis

One of School Library Journal's Best Nonfiction Books of 2011
One of Horn Book's Best Nonfiction Books of 2011
On the ten year anniversary of the September 11 tragedy, a straightforward and sensitive book for a generation of readers too young to remember that terrible day. The events of September 11, 2001 changed the world forever. In the fourth installment of the Actual Times series, Don Brown narrates the events of the day in a way that is both accessible and understandable for young readers. Straightforward and honest, this account moves chronologically through the morning, from the terrorist plane hijackings to the crashes at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Pennsylvania; from the rescue operations at the WTC site in New York City to the collapse of the buildings. Vivid watercolor illustrations capture the emotion and pathos of the tragedy making this an important book about an unforgettable day in American history.

Book Information

Series: Actual Times (Book 4)

Paperback: 64 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #62,611 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #227 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States](#) #2623 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government](#)

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book about 9/11, written for kids ages 8-12 but appropriate for a wider range. The writing is clear and concise, with a straightforward feel. For the most part, the text is factual, rather than emotional. (Example: "With knives, pepper spray, and threats of bombs, they stormed the four airliner cockpits and wrested control away from the pilots. The jets were no longer just ordinary airplanes; they were weapons. The planes banked away from their planned flight paths and

headed for their targets.) A few real-life individuals are incorporated into the story, and quotes from people who were there are used throughout, which helps bring the events down to a human scale. The illustrations are beautiful -- watercolors, I believe -- and suggestive rather than highly detailed, which leads the reader to imagine what it might have been like to be there. Although the Pentagon and the Pennsylvania crash site each get a 2-page spread, the Twin Towers are the main focus of the book. The Author's Note at the ends provides some additional information, and the book also includes a bibliography. I think this book would make an excellent introduction to 9/11 for anyone too young to remember it, and also a good tool to begin discussions with children and younger teens. Perfect for use in school or at home. It brought tears to my eyes, and there is also much that is uplifting. Highly recommend. (Note: I received a free advance reading copy of this book from the publisher at an American Library Association Annual Conference. I was not required to write a positive review. Thank you, Roaring Brook Press!)

I was riveted by this account of the events of September 11. I can not wait to read it with my Grade 5 -6 ESL students (I'll post another review then). There is plenty of factual information and the human interest stories keep the book exciting.

My son purchased this Kindle ebook for a school project. It was exactly what he needed. It was quite informative. He acquired lots of new information about 9/11 that he shared with us over the course of writing a report and creating a project.

This story is written in such a manner that my students (4th grade) were able to grasp the concept of what really happened on 9/11. None of my students were born yet, so to them, it's surreal. Excellent read.

This is the best book so far I have found that explains the shocking and horrifying events of September 11, 2001, to kids. My students can't get enough information about this tragic and, to them, historical, event. "The second hijacked jetliner had crashed through the 77th to 85th floors of the South Tower. Massive flames spewed from the tower. Wreckage rained down on the street. It was 9:03 AM, seventeen minutes after the strike on the North Tower. People now understood the earlier crash was not a freak accident but a deliberate attack. How could anyone that witnessed that event ever forget that moment of realization? The black ink and watercolor illustrations do justice in capturing the initial bewilderment and then determination of all those involved in the efforts to save

lives. The author doesn't shy away from some of the communication breakdowns that caused many firefighters to perish and describes many acts of heroism. The Pentagon crash is included, and the book ends at the collapse of the towers. It doesn't get into WHY this happened, but gives enough information for most kids as to HOW it happened.

Very nice account of the 9/11 attacks with well researched stories and quotes from specific heroes from the day. Reading it to a school class, though, the book ended up feeling rather long and quite depressing. A story like this needs a hopeful ending, especially this long after the attack, but I ended up having to do a lot to fill in that gap for my young, sad audience.

This book was just what I was looking for: A great way to present the facts of 9-11 to my 7th and 8th grade students. The book was short enough to read in a class period. 7th and 8th graders have some pretty intense questions and this book presented the facts in a way that led us to a wonderful, authentic discussion. I recommended it to all my teacher friends.

The perfect tool to explain the hideous day to young readers without scarring them. It is factual but it doesn't emphasize the gory aspects. Great read for grandmas like me to share with the young ones.

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