

The Community Page

Looking back on

Grant Junior High seventh graders were asked on Sept. 11 to write a journal entry on their feelings about the terrorist attacks that shook America exactly one year earlier.

Pat Stindt, seventh grade English teacher, said she made the assignment because she wanted students to analyze how the attacks affected their life and see whether their perception has changed in a year.

The students had no problem recalling where they were and what they were doing when the hijacked airplanes slammed into the World Trade Center twin towers. Many of the students said they were sad and shocked, some were angered, most wrote that they couldn't understand why anyone would want to hurt so many people.

The students remember watching desperate people leap from the top floors of the World Trade Center and seeing the two towers crumble to the ground. They realized it was serious then, they said, and they still feel the same. All of the students said they supported making Sept. 11 a national holiday.

The seventh graders' specific assignment was: "Today is Sept. 11, 2002, the one-year anniversary of the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the crash of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. As we look back on this tragic day in American history, tell me about your feelings. How did you feel when it happened and saw the TV coverage? Should we make today a national holiday? Share your thoughts and feelings."

Here are a few responses:

Renea Reasoner

Floods of fear, anger and pain washed over America. At the same time, some of us were comforted that our loved ones were safe.

It was Sept. 11, 2001, on the day that terrorists knocked down one of our nation's jewels, the day we watched people die before our very eyes.

At school that morning a brief news flash of what had happened met our eyes and ears. I wasn't overly devastated at first. It looked like a rerun of some blow 'em up movie. It seemed to hit me several hours later as I laid sprawled out on the couch with a bag of Doritos. The news people had a close up of the building and I could see them — thin, ant-like little shadows of people jumping out of windows. I nearly choked. I thought they only did that in the movies, but this was real. But it couldn't be! People don't just die like that, do they?

My eyes stung and watered. What would it be like to see my own mother or father jumping out of windows? I shuddered. That thought is just beyond words. What bothered me next was, what now? Where do we go from here? What do we say?

Then I was glad that I lived in Goodland, a small and safe place nestled in northwest Kansas. But then I thought that maybe I'd like to be down at Ground Zero doing something to help. That's not really an option, though, so the best I can do is to never forget what happened.

Heidi Yonkey

Sept. 11, 2001, seems just like yesterday. I can remember what I was doing when I heard that the first tower had been hit by an airplane. I was eating breakfast (I think it was oatmeal) and listening to the radio. I had never heard of the World Trade Center and I didn't know that civilians and honorable people worked

there. Now I know what offices and other things it held. I wasn't concerned until it finally hit me that people could die because of that fire.

On my way to school, I heard that the second tower had been hit and it wasn't an accident. I felt horrible and thought, "How could someone be so mean and so stupid to crash a plane into a building and kill themselves and thousands of other innocent people?"

When I got to school and into my classroom, the hijackings were all that everyone talked about. I finally found out what the twin towers were and that another plane had crashed into the Pentagon. We watched TV throughout the day. We knew that thousands of innocent people died when the World Trade Center was hit and collapsed, when the Pentagon was hit and when the plane crashed in Pennsylvania. All of this heartache was caused by

ter relief force and the blood donations. Then I thought, wow, what a great nation that is so united that we will help total strangers and treat them like family. I still think a lot about the firefighters and the policemen that lost their lives saving other lives, and believe that's the most heroic thing anyone can do.

So I say to the people of America, they can blow up buildings and scare a lot of people, but terrorists can't touch the patriotic feelings in the people.

Tanner Smith

Sept. 11, 2001, was a tragic day. I woke up that morning and got ready for school like usual. When I got to school, I noticed that the TV in our classroom was on. I asked one of my friends why the TV was on and he told me just to watch. I grabbed a chair, sat down and started watching the horrific attack on the



Workers fled down the streets of downtown New York City on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, with a cloud of dust and smoke behind them, after two hijacked airliners slammed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

a group of people that hated America and everything about it.

I sincerely hope that Sept. 11 is made into a national holiday. I also hope that there is a memorial at Ground Zero to remember everyone that died. I also hope that they don't rebuild the World Trade Center, because they destroyed them once and they will do it again.

Brett Meisinger

On that horrible day, Sept. 11, 2001, our nation was attacked by what we once called an inferior force of tyranny. They, the terrorists of the Al Qaeda organization, believed that if they could pose a crushing blow to our nation that they could scare us into not wanting to leave our homes, but they failed. No matter what they try to do to our country, they can never destroy the American courage and heart. We, the American people, are more powerful than those terrorist cowards. We, the American people, show courage every day by going on with our lives. This day should be declared a national holiday.

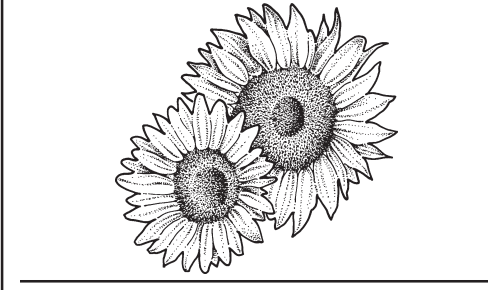
Jake Kling

I will always remember Sept. 11, 2001. The night before I had broken my collar bone, so I stayed home that next day. That morning I was sleeping on the couch and my parents turned on the TV. That's when I saw the horrific sight. The first plane had crashed and the second plane was crashing into the second tower. I held my breath as I watched. Questions were racing through my head like, "Who did this?" "Why?" "What's going to happen next?" Then the towers fell, creating a cloud of ash and smoke over New York. I will never forget when I saw the Statue of Liberty standing in front of the city clouded with the ash and dust from the towers.

Later that day, the news showed the disas-

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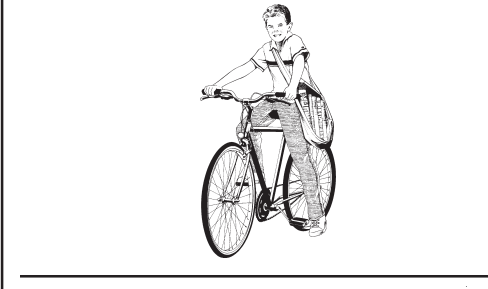


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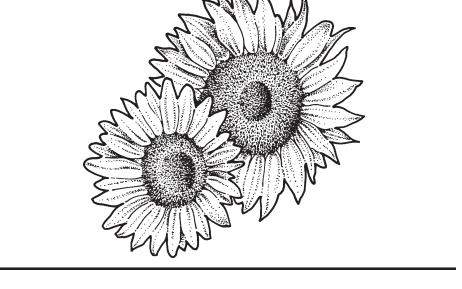
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