

September 11: Always Remember

A Reading A-Z Level R Leveled Book

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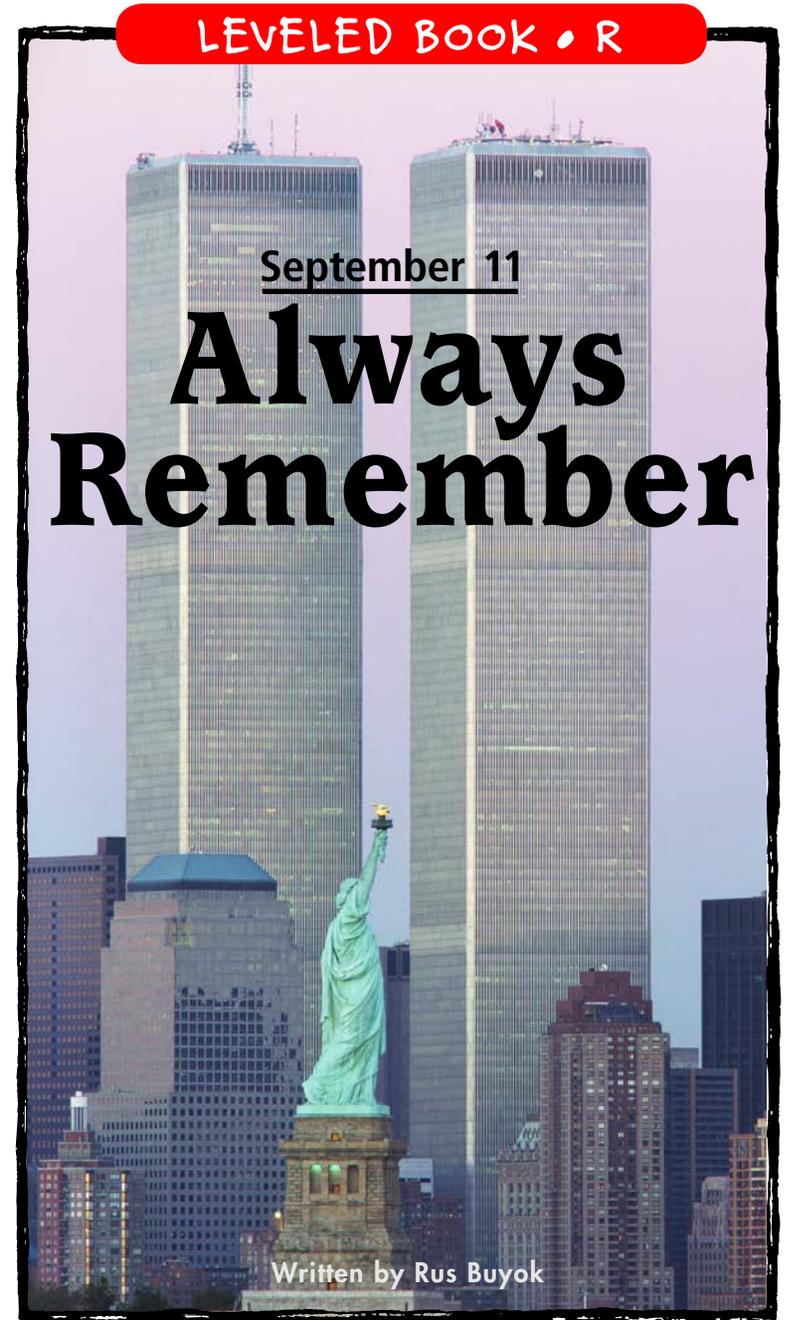
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Written by Rus Buyok

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Front cover: The Twin Towers before they were destroyed

Title page: Schoolchildren painted these tiles to remember September 11 and displayed them on a fence in New York City.

Back cover: A memorial overlooks the part of New York City where the World Trade Center towers once stood.

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Correlation

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Smoke comes out of the World Trade Center towers after the hijackers crashed planes into them.

September 11, 2001

On September 11, 2001, a group of **terrorists hijacked** four planes on the East Coast of the United States. They crashed the first two planes on purpose into the World Trade Center towers in New York City. Soon after, they smashed a third plane into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. They tried to crash a fourth plane into another building, but people on the plane stopped them. That plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

The **tragic** events of that day left many people dead or injured. The Twin Towers were completely destroyed, and their collapse caused damage many blocks away. An entire section of the Pentagon was destroyed as well.



A firefighter helps people get away from the World Trade Center towers.

Many people became heroes because of their brave actions that day. Police, firefighters, doctors, nurses, and ordinary people who were just walking by ran into burning buildings to help people who were trapped or hurt. Rescue workers from all over the United States came to help find **survivors**. Some of these heroes died trying to help.



A man lights a candle at a memorial outside a fire station in New York.

Beginning to Remember

In the days after September 11, people wanted to show their support for the survivors and heroes, and to remember the people who died. They wanted to make sure the events and people were remembered. The sites around the plane crashes were covered with cards, pictures, letters, American flags, and other special objects. People also covered the walls and sidewalks outside of police and fire stations with **remembrances**.



Volunteers load ice and other supplies onto boats to be taken to the rescue workers at the Twin Towers on September 12, 2001.

In New York City, people lit thousands of candles in different parks and wrote messages of support on long rolls of paper. Volunteers gave their time to help the rescue workers as they searched for survivors and cleaned up the **debris**. They gathered food and other supplies that the rescue workers needed.

The Spreading Memorials

People all over the world began to send cards, letters, and other things to show their support. A group of children in Hawaii made leis—necklaces made of flowers—with messages written on them. They sent these messages to survivors and rescue workers at all three sites. The leis gave people hope and support.



A group of schoolchildren in New York City made these works of art to show how they saw the events of September 11.

Many children used art to show the world how they felt about September 11. Some drew, painted, and colored pictures of what they saw that day to help them feel better. Others sent letters of support with their art to the rescue workers, survivors, and the families of those who died.



This sculpture, *The Sphere*, once stood between the Twin Towers. The dents and holes were caused by falling debris when the towers collapsed. It is now on display in Battery Park in New York City.

Permanent Memorials

As time passed, people wanted more permanent ways to remember September 11. Towns all across the United States found their own ways to do this. Some put up statues or **sculptures**, and others dedicated beautiful gardens.

Bayonne, New Jersey, which overlooks where the Twin Towers once stood, put up a large sculpture. The **memorial**, which was donated by a Russian artist, looks like a tower with an open crack in the middle. A metal teardrop hanging down in the center stands for the sadness people felt after September 11.

The Tear of Grief stands 100 feet (30 m) tall and weighs 175 tons (159 metric tons). The teardrop in the center is 40 feet (12 m) tall.



Do You Know?

The U.S. Mint, the government body that makes coins and medals, made two million of these medals to help remember September 11 and raise money for the memorial in New York City.

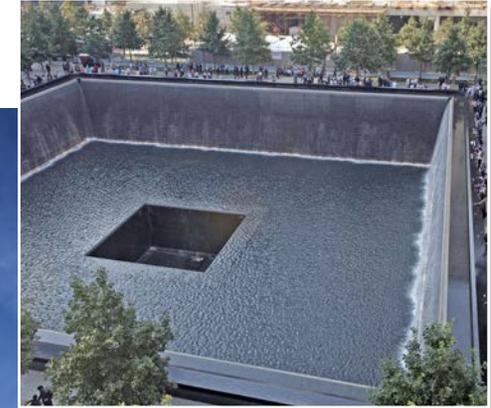


This artist's rendering was made by one of the seven finalists who did not win the competition to design the memorial in New York City.

Memorials at the Sites

New York City wanted to put up a memorial at the site where the World Trade Center towers were destroyed. In 2003, the city held a competition to find a design. Over five thousand people from sixty-three nations sent in their designs. From those thousands, only eight designs were chosen as finalists. The city chose a design in 2004. It took nearly seven years to build the memorial before it opened on September 11, 2011.

The memorial in New York City has two huge pools of water where the Twin Towers once stood. The country's largest artificial waterfalls flow into the pools, around which 2,983 names are carved. These are the names of the victims of all three September 11 attacks and another attack on the Twin Towers on February 26, 1993.



Top: One of the two reflecting pools at the memorial
Left: The Freedom Tower, which stands 1,776 feet (541 m) tall



The Wall of Names, a marble wall at the memorial where the plane crashed in Pennsylvania, was completed in 2011.

In Pennsylvania, the National Park Service held a competition to find a design for its own memorial. Over one thousand people sent in their designs, but only one was chosen. The wall is made of forty pieces of marble. Each piece of marble has the name of one passenger who died in the plane crash carved into it. The memorial wall follows the plane's flight path to a large boulder in a field. The boulder marks the crash site.



A picture of Brian Moss, a member of the Navy who died at the Pentagon, sits on the bench bearing his name.

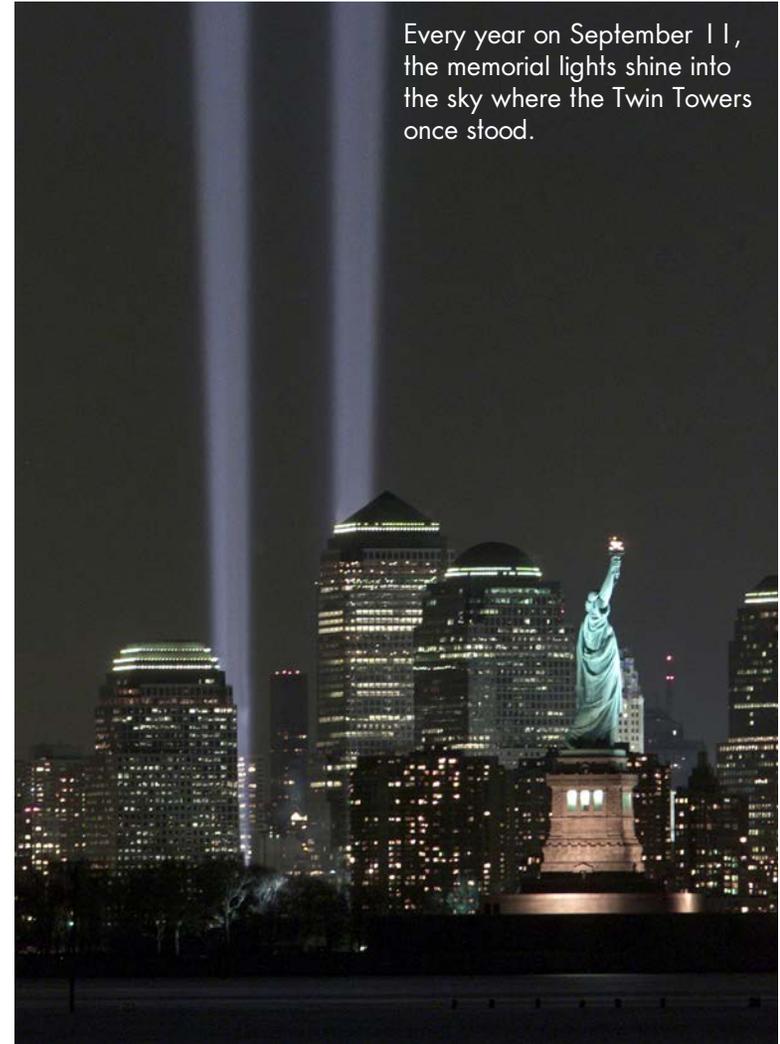
The Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, opened a memorial on September 11, 2008. It has 184 benches. The name of a victim who died at the Pentagon is carved into the end of each one. To read the names, a person must face the south side of the building, where the plane crashed. At night, bright lights shine from underneath the benches.



On September 11, 2002, thousands of people gathered at the site of the World Trade Center for a memorial service.

Ceremonies

Every year on September 11, the people in charge of these memorials and others around the United States hold special **ceremonies**. People from the United States and other countries around the world come to watch and participate in them.



Every year on September 11, the memorial lights shine into the sky where the Twin Towers once stood.

In New York, the city turns on many bright lights that shine into the night sky where the World Trade Center towers once stood. The city also has large gatherings where people come to speak, listen, and remember.



President Obama takes part in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Pentagon on September 11, 2009.

At the Pentagon, military officials hold a wreath-laying ceremony. People come from all over the world to set wreaths of flowers with messages and photos around the memorial. Even the president of the United States has come.



The Bells of Remembrance Project gave these bells to the National Park Service so they could be part of the Pennsylvania memorial.

At the memorial in Pennsylvania, people ring two bells, called “The Bells of Remembrance” every September 11 at the exact time the plane crashed. They ring the bells forty times while the name of each victim is read aloud. Similar bells travel all around the United States. People ring them at the memorials for tragic events, including other September 11 memorials, to remember those who died.



Eleven-year-old Jody Greene kneels at the memorial in Pennsylvania. Her father, Donald Greene, was one of the forty passengers who died in that plane crash.

Always Remember

Even if we do not attend the ceremonies, Americans and people all over the world take time to remember these tragic events. It is very important that we never forget what happened, the people who died, and the people who became heroes. Remembering these people and events reminds us how proud we are to live in the United States. We celebrate and are thankful for the freedoms we all share as Americans.

Glossary

- ceremonies** (*n.*) formal events that takes place on special occasions (p. 15)
- debris** (*n.*) scattered pieces of something that are left after the rest has been destroyed or is gone (p. 7)
- hijacked** (*v.*) seized control of a vehicle by outside force (p. 4)
- memorial** (*n.*) something that represents the memory of a person, place, thing, or event (p. 10)
- remembrances** (*n.*) memories, or objects that help bring the memories to mind (p. 6)
- sculptures** (*n.*) three-dimensional works of art made of flexible or hard materials (p. 9)
- survivors** (*n.*) people who have lived through a life-threatening event (p. 5)
- terrorists** (*n.*) people who use terror as a political weapon (p. 4)
- tragic** (*adj.*) very unfortunate (p. 4)