

# 9/11 MEMORIAL

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UNIT: Heroes and Service

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GRADE LEVEL/S: 6-8

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TIME NEEDED: 1-2 sessions

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TEACHER: Milena Sherry

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LESSON TITLE:

## EVERYDAY HEROES AND HEROINES

### Common Core Standards

**RH 1** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**RH 4** Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

**W 1** Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

**W 2** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

**W 6** Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

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### Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

- In a story, how do you identify the hero/heroine?
- Why do stories of heroes gain importance when discussing and reflecting on tragic events?

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### Lesson Goals/ Objectives

- Students will identify key people or groups from 9/11 and its aftermath.
- Students will be able to retell and paraphrase the facts of a story or experience from 9/11.

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### Key Terms

Hero/Heroine, Moral, Resilience

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### Materials

- Laptop
- Projector
- Internet access
- Dictionaries/thesaurus

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**Background  
for lesson**  
(if necessary)

Depending on the teacher's classroom needs, students can combine previously located information, or in pairs, use class time to locate the material they need.

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**Instructional  
Activity/  
Procedures**

1. Provide the following definitions for students to review:
    - Hero/heroine: A character that, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position of weakness, displays courage and the will for self-sacrifice for some greater good of all humanity.
    - Moral: A lesson to be learned from a story or event.
  2. Ask students: *How do you identify the hero/heroine of a story or an event?*
  3. In pairs, have students choose the profile of a specific person or group that played an heroic role on 9/11 and/or its aftermath. Possible examples include:
    - Flight attendants/passengers
    - First responders
    - The President/The Governor/The Mayor
    - Office workers
    - Rescue and Recovery workers
    - Teachers
    - Students
    - New Yorkers
    - Specific volunteers (national and international)
  4. In pairs, use the 9/11 Memorial website to identify what their chosen person or group experienced and why they believe that makes them a hero/heroine.
  5. Pairs must compile a list of 10–20 facts about their person or group and report back to class. *What did they learn about that day from their person or group's experience?*
  6. Have the class compare and contrast the experiences of each person and group. *What can they learn about 9/11 from the aggregate of these stories? Do these experiences help offer a moral of the 9/11 story?*
  7. Students will use the facts they have compiled about their person or group to create their own children's book. Retell the story of 9/11 through the experience of the person or group. Make your person or group the hero/heroine of your story and include a moral in the end.
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**Evidence of  
Understanding**

Student's research and their final books will highlight their understanding of 9/11 and the heroic actions that took place during and after the attacks.

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**Extension  
Activities**

- Locate a local/national pen-pal/e-mail program for military personnel currently in a battle zone. Write to a member of the armed forces and ask them about their duties and experiences where they are stationed, why they chose to fight for their country and if they are fighting in a conflict directly related to 9/11 and what that means to them. Thank them and let them know why they are heroes/heroines to their country.