

9/11 MEMORIAL

UNIT: The Aftermath: Humanitarian, Charitable, and Volunteer Support

GRADE LEVEL/S: 9-12

TIME NEEDED: 1-2 sessions

TEACHER: Reba Petraitis

LESSON TITLE:

KARYN'S WINGS: OBJECTS AND SYMBOLISM

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 10 Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

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

W 8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

What happened aboard American Airlines Flight 11 on the morning of 9/11?

How can an object's symbolism change over time?

Lesson Goals/ Objectives

Students will understand the role of Flight 11 on 9/11.

Students will familiarize themselves with the story and individuals behind "Karyn's Wings."

Students will explore the evolving nature of an object's meaning and symbolism.

Students will study one example of a response to 9/11.

Key Terms

Airline Wings

Materials

Timelines and background information:

<http://timeline.national911memorial.org>

pentagonmemorial.org/sites/default/files/educational-resources/911pdf.pdf

Blog post and video on Karyn's Wings:

www.911memorial.org/blog/wings-memory-flight-attendants-story-makes-full-circle

www.history.com/topics/9-11-attacks/videos/remembering-911-karyns-wings

**Background
for lesson**

Teacher should be familiar with the 9/11 attacks. For background information, see the 9/11 Memorial Museum education pages: www.911memorial.org/teach-learn.

**Instructional
Activity/
Procedures**

1. Assign students to go online and gather information concerning the hijacking and subsequent crash of Flight 11 into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. See the following websites for information:
http://nieonline.com/austin/downloads/911_Supplement_for_NIE_Teachers.pdf
<http://timeline.national911memorial.org>
 2. Ask students to answer the following questions drawn from their research:
 - a. Where did Flight 11 depart from? Where was it headed?
 - b. Why did the terrorists choose this route and time of departure?
 - c. How many crew and passengers were on board?
 - d. How many hijackers were on board? Who were they and where were born?
 - e. How many of the hijackers were trained pilots?
 - f. Why was it so difficult to track the plane?
 3. Direct students to the 9/11 Memorial Museum blog post on Karyn's Wings: www.911memorial.org/blog/wings-memory-flight-attendants-story-makes-full-circle. Read the post and watch the History Channel's accompanying four-and-a-half minute video, located at www.history.com/videos/karyns-wings. Students can see close-up images of the wings in the [Appendix](#) to the lesson.
 4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Who was Sara Low?
 - b. On the morning of 9/11, what did she give to Madeline Amy Sweeney? Why?
 - c. Who was Karyn Ramsey?
 - d. Why did Karyn give Mike Low her wings?
 - e. Describe the subsequent path of the wings.
 - f. Who are the Night Stalkers?
 - g. What words did Mike Low have engraved on Karyn's wings?
 - h. According to Staff Sgt. Mark Baker, what did the wings symbolize?
 - i. Where are Karyn's wings now?
 5. Have students write a short essay that analyzes the symbolic nature of Karyn's wings. *How have the wings' symbolism changed over time? What did they symbolize before 9/11? What do they symbolize now? Can meanings shift without the force of a specific event?* Provide examples supporting your opinion.
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Evidence of Understanding

Classroom participation and the students' final essay will highlight their understanding of the lesson's goals.

Extension Activities

Students brainstorm objects that offer insight into their own lives. *What does your object say about you? What would someone receiving this object learn about you? How could it be used to inspire service for a cause you believe in?*

APPENDIX A Karyn's wings. Donated by Karyn Ramsey.
Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum.

