2023 VIEWING GUIDE: GRADES 3-5

Instructions: Read the text below before watching the program. As you listen to each speaker’s story, think about the following questions.

FOUNDATION: WHAT HAPPENED ON 9/11?
The program begins with a short film that provides a brief overview of the events of the morning of September 11, 2001. Begin the lesson by screening the film for your students. As an alternative, you can also share the key events of the 9/11 attacks using the age-appropriate language below:

On September 11, 2001, four airplanes were hijacked, or taken over, by 19 terrorists—people who use fear to change the way people and governments act—and flown into important buildings. Two planes were flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Another was flown into the Pentagon, outside of Washington DC. This is where our military leaders work. The terrorists tried to crash a fourth plane into another building, but the passengers fought back and the plane crashed into an empty field in Pennsylvania. Almost 3,000 people were killed.

Today, you will learn more about these events by listening to stories from people who were there.

ADA DOLCH
• What did Ada do when she arrived at school that morning? What made her realize something was wrong?
• How did the students and teachers get home that day? How did their actions demonstrate cooperation?
• How did people show care and support for Ada and her students after 9/11? How can you show support and care to people in your own community in times of crisis?

You can learn more about Ada’s sister, Wendy Alice Rosario Wakeford, who was killed on 9/11 by visiting the Memorial Guide.
PATRICK MCGEE, SR. AND PAT MCGEE, JR.
• Describe Patrick Sr.’s morning. When did he realize something was wrong?
• Patrick Sr. wasn’t on duty that morning. Why did he go to the World Trade Center?
• How did Patrick Sr.’s story demonstrate the importance of teamwork?
• What kind of job did Patrick Jr. take on when he became an adult? How does he say the attacks affected him, even though he wasn’t there?
• What can you do to honor and remember the events of 9/11 even though they happened before you were born?

To learn more about Patrick Sr. And Patrick Jr., visit the MEMO Blog.

DR. KERRY KELLY AND DANIEL JOST
• Describe the start of the day for Dr. Kelly and Mr. Jost. How did they react to the news about the Twin Towers?
• How did being able to talk to each other impact Dr. Kelly and Mr. Jost’s day?
• How did Dr. Kelly’s job change after the attacks? Why didn’t Dr. Kelly go home that day?
• How did the fire department remember those who had been killed? What can you do in your own community to help remember and honor those who were killed on 9/11?

To hear from other first responders, like Dr. Kerry Kelly, visit our DLE Archive.

REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

Write a “Dear Hero” letter, inspired by the many letters children wrote in response to 9/11 or create artwork to honor and thank those in your community who have stepped forward to help others. Share your work on social media using the hashtag #911MuseumEd.

If you’re interested in hearing from more stories from 9/11 first responders, family members, witnesses, and survivors, visit our DLE Archive.