2020 WEBINAR VIEWING GUIDE: GRADES 3-5

This guide is meant to help foster discussion as you watch the 2020 Anniversary in the Schools webinar. You can stop after every story or debrief at the end of the program. This guide focuses on three speakers. You may include additional speakers at your discretion. There is also a suggested reflection activity connected to the speakers’ stories.

FOUNDATION: WHAT HAPPENED ON 9/11?
The webinar 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, students will learn more about these events by listening to stories from people who were there.

JULIE SWEENEY ROTH
Recommended for Grades 4 and 5

As you listen to Julie’s story, think about the following questions:
• What did you learn about Brian from listening to Julie’s story?
• What helped Julie move on and heal after 9/11?
• What does ‘living every day to its fullest’ mean? Why is it important?

To learn more about Brian David Sweeney, visit Inside the Collection to see objects that belonged to him. If you're interested in hearing from another 9/11 family member visit our Webinar Stories archive to learn about Alison Crowther and her son, Welles Remy Crowther.

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MICHAEL HINGSON
Recommended for Grades 3, 4, and 5

As you listen to Michael’s story, think about the following questions:
• How did Michael, Roselle, and David work together to escape the World Trade Center? How did they help others?
• What are some words you might use to describe Roselle and her actions on 9/11?
• Michael talks about how many people showed appreciation for Roselle for “what she was and what she did.” How do you show appreciation for people who encourage or inspire you?

To learn more about how dogs helped after 9/11, explore artifacts connected to these highly skilled animals from the Museum’s collection.

JON AND CALEIGH LEIKEN
Recommended for Grades 3, 4, and 5

• As you listen to Jon and Caleigh’s stories, think about the following questions:
  • Jon and his wife Erika felt scared at the beginning of the story. How did they feel at the end?
  • After Jon told his friends and family the story of Caleigh’s birth, he said, “we all started to heal a little bit that day.” Why do you think Caleigh’s story helped them heal?
  • Last year, Caleigh led an assembly at her school to honor the anniversary of 9/11. What could you do in your school or with your family to remember the events of that day?

To learn more about Caleigh’s experience visiting the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, read her blog post. You can also explore how Caleigh applied the lesson of healing after 9/11 to the current COVID-19 crisis in a new blog post (recommended for grades 4 and 5).

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

• 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 people affected by COVID-19.

• For other online activities you can do at home, visit our Activities at Home page.