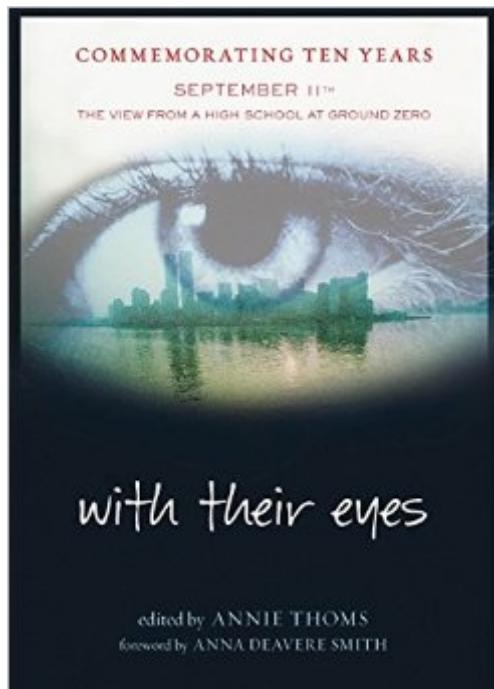


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With Their Eyes: September 11th--The View From A High School At Ground Zero



Synopsis

I could have died that day. September 11, 2001 Monologues from Stuyvesant High School Tuesday, September 11, started off like any other day at Stuyvesant High School, located only a few blocks away from the World Trade Center. The semester was just beginning, and the students, faculty, and staff were ready to begin a new year. But within a few hours on that Tuesday morning, they would all share an experience that transformed their lives. Now, on the tenth anniversary of September 11th, we remember those who were lost and those who were forced to witness this tragedy. Here, in their own words, are the firsthand stories of a day we will never forget.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1 edition (August 23, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060517182

ISBN-13: 978-0060517182

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â See all reviewsÂ (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #171,736 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 inÂ Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Poetry #25 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #328 inÂ Books > Teens > Social Issues

Customer Reviews

Never have I been prouder to be a graduate of Stuyvesant High School. On the morning of September 11th, when hijackers were flying the first plane into the WTC, I was shopping in the Cortlandt street Borders. I immediately left the store and sought comfort in my school, making it to the bridge just in time to see the second plane hook around and plow into the tower. I witnessed September 11th with the writers of the book; I was fortunate enough to work with Annie Thoms on my senior production of SING, months after the tragedy. While the stories are much more touching when heard in the people's own words...or at least performed on stage, as they were last year, the book touches you just the same. You don't have to know the ones telling their stories to feel what they did. The children are universal; their pain was all of New York's pain, was all of America's pain. And they have all prevailed since then, which gives the book such a happy ending. I am not a sappy person. I did not cry the day of the attacks. But I cried when I read this book. Even if only because it

provides a sense of closure.

This book is amazing. Everyone living in New York on September 11th has their own 9/11 story. . . . This book tells students and teachers from Stuy's stories about 9/11 and its aftermath. The book tells the untold stories of the students and teaches. . . . At first I thought this book was just going to be 10 different accounts of planes hitting the WTC. . . . but it is not that at all. Instead it is personal accounts of how 9/11 touched their lives. I recommend this book to everyone, especially people not from New York who want to comprehend how September 11th affected and changed lives

This is not a broad-brush, wasn't-it-awful retelling. It's a very thoughtful, direct, personal contemplation of a very scary day and the weeks that followed. The characters' speeches in the book are the real words of people at the high school -- students and adults who worked there -- who have lives and personalities beyond 9/11. I felt they were all talking to me. The choice of voices and incidents is wonderfully diverse. I keep pushing this book on friends, and we always find different things to discuss. This one will keep you both riveted and thinking for a long time.

Although Annie Thomas is a brilliant writer, she did not write this book of monologues from Stuyvesant High school, a high school just a few blocks from ground zero. The book was first written as a play, each student that was cast for the play picked a student, or for that matter many students to interview. After taping the interviews the students worked for months to get them exactly right with each um like and not included. Annie and the students are trying to clue in the other 3 billion people in America, how traumatic that experience was, especially for people who were just a few blocks away. Thomas a high school English teacher had recently become faculty advisor for the high school's theater program. She wanted to find a unique play to do after September 11th. She gave not only her recognition of the day's events, but includes many other teachers as well as students recollections as well. Although the book is an overall good piece of writing, it is very repetitive and hard to get through. Each student, though in their own words basically said the same things. All of the people in the United States understand how traumatic that day and reading the book just makes the reader relive the experience over and over again. The book has many good qualities, but just as many bad. The people that were interviewed are very diversified, you will read recollections from janitors and teachers as well as the students of the school. However, as stated before each student, teacher or janitor says the same thing even if it is in their own words. Since the book is meant to be performed as a play pictures of almost every person interviewed are included. This helps the reader

visualize the play as if it were being formed in front of them. Even though it is repetitive With Their Eyes offers a different look at September 11th and how the people that were just blocks away on that faithful day dealt with an experience that hit literally so close to home.

This is absolutely the best book I have seen this year. This nonfiction book really, and I mean really, tells the stories of what it was like to not only go to school there but also to work there. Stuyvesant high school is ranked number one in the country for a reason! These children, especially the ones who haven't been there for long, really got involved and brought out the best in this play which makes such a great book! I was fortunate enough to see this play both days and I was fortunate enough to witness a wonderful performance from all ten actors, and witness the producing and promotion talents of both producers, and a most special direction by both directors! Buy This Book! What's This Called you ask? IT'S WITH THEIR EYES!!!!

I was a TV junkie in the days after September 11, 2011. I listened to and read all the news stories and documentaries. I wanted to know everything, especially the personal stories. This book brings the personal stories to life in a way I hadn't heard before. I plan to use some of the stories in this book to help teach narrative writing to my middle school students.

(...)I read the whole thing in under an hour. I realize I'm a little biased, but this book is absolutely amazing. A lot of the 9/11 accounts you hear are sappy and formulaic, people talking about how their lives will never be the same, blah blah blah. But these accounts are real and candid. The monologues cover the entire spectrum of Stuy students, faculty and staff. You experience the day and its effects from many perspectives. Though sometimes it reads a little slowly - there's a lot of "like" and "ummm" - you can almost forgive it because you realize that these are real people expressing their thoughts on a very intense day...and sometimes the words don't come so easily. I recommend it to everyone, in particular, adolescents, because they will have the easiest time relating to the stories of the students.

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