

I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Attacks of September 11, 2001



CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

(SUITABLE FOR NOVEL AND GRAPHIC NOVEL VERSIONS)

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Uncle Benny taught Lucas all about football—and encouraged him to start playing—after Lucas’s dad was burned in the warehouse fire?

2. What does Lucas do when he worries that his father may never be himself again? How do you think this helps him?

3. How does Lucas’s mood change by the end of his visit with Dr. Barrett? Why does this happen?

4. How does Lucas feel when Dad reminds him that football is just a game after telling him he can’t play anymore? What does he worry about?

5. How do you think Lucas feels when he realizes that Uncle Benny was the one who asked Mom to take Lucas to see Dr. Barrett? Why do you think this?



CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

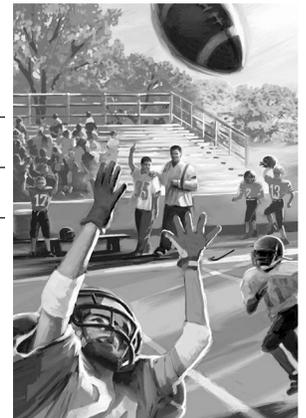
6. When Uncle Benny is leaving to go save people at the World Trade Center, Lucas asks him what he's going to do. Benny responds, "We'll do what we always do." What does Uncle Benny mean?

7. When the second plane goes into the World Trade Center, one of the newscasters says, "I think this is some kind of attack." What makes the newscaster think this?

8. What does Lucas mean when he realizes, after trying to apologize to his father, that "nothing that happened before this morning matters anymore"?

9. When Lucas and Dad step out of the store, Lucas realizes that the dust around them is practically all that is left of the Tower. How could this be? What do you think happened?

10. At the end of the book, why are the stands at the football game full of Ladder 177 families?



CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT *(CONTINUED)*

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT: Answer the questions on the organizer on the next page to help you brainstorm a two-paragraph essay with a concluding statement about how 9/11 brings Lucas and his father closer together. Then use your answers to write your short essay.

TWO-PARAGRAPH ESSAY ORGANIZER FOR *I SURVIVED THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001*

First, answer the questions below to brainstorm ideas for your first paragraph, which will be your introduction:

At the beginning of the book, how are Dad's warehouse-fire injuries affecting his relationship with Lucas?

Next, choose two pieces of evidence for your second paragraph:

What events or moments in the book change Lucas and Dad's relationship?

1. _____

2. _____

Next, answer the question below to help you write a concluding statement for the end of your second paragraph.

How did 9/11 bring Lucas and Dad closer together?

Now, write your essay on the back of this page or on a computer using your answers above.

ANSWERS

CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS:

1. Uncle Benny probably wanted to help Lucas keep his mind off his father's injuries and the fact that his father was different after the fire. Uncle Benny may also have wanted to find a way to be as much of a father figure to Lucas as possible, and football was his way of connecting with Lucas.
2. Lucas closes his eyes and imagines himself on the football field, making one of his famous catches. This probably helps Lucas because it helps him shift from feeling bad about not connecting with his father to feeling good about playing football.
3. At first, Lucas feels confident at Dr. Barrett's, thinking that he passed all the doctor's tests. But by the end of the visit, he is shocked and upset. His mood changes because Dr. Barrett tells him about many professional football players who have died early because of concussions and suggests that Lucas never play football again.
4. Lucas understands what Dad means when he says that football is just a game, but it's still the most important thing in his life. He worries what he'll do without his team.
5. Lucas feels betrayed when he realizes that Uncle Benny was the one who wanted him to see Dr. Barrett. I think this because Lucas seems angry when he realizes that Uncle Benny is the reason he has to quit.
6. Uncle Benny means that a firefighter's job is to save people, no matter how dangerous the situation, and that he's going to do whatever it takes to get the job done.
7. The newscaster probably thinks one plane hitting the Twin Towers could be a terrible accident. But two planes hitting the Towers couldn't possibly be a coincidence or an air-traffic control mistake. The most likely explanation is that people are attacking the Towers on purpose.
8. Lucas realizes that life as he knows it has changed forever. Anything he did that may have angered or upset his father is now irrelevant in the face of this great tragedy.
9. The Tower was very tall and very heavy, and when it fell, the force of the impact crushed almost all the glass and concrete into dust.
10. The families from Ladder 177 have all come to cheer on Mark's boys because it's the first football game since Mark's funeral after he died on 9/11. Because Mark can't be there for them, the Ladder 177 family will be there for them instead.

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT: Answers will vary.