



LITERARY-ELEMENTS ACTIVITY AND CONTEXT REVIEW

(SUITABLE FOR NOVEL AND GRAPHIC NOVEL VERSIONS)

CHARACTER AND THEME: One of the ways that authors express theme—which can also be called the main idea—is by showing characters changing and growing. Answer the questions below to explore how Lucas and Dad each changed. Then fill in the blank to discover a theme of the book that relates to both Lucas and Dad.

LUCAS

1. What is Lucas struggling with at the beginning of the book?

2. How has this changed at the end of the book? Why do you think it changed?

DAD

3. What is Dad struggling with at the beginning of the book?

4. How has this changed at the end of the book? Why do you think it changed?



THEME

Fill in the blank to discover a theme of the book connected to the questions above.

Tragedy can help people realize what's truly _____ in their lives.

LITERARY-ELEMENTS ACTIVITY AND CONTEXT REVIEW *(CONTINUED)*

CONTEXT REVIEW: The *I Survived* books are works of historical fiction. Author Lauren Tarshis supplies important information at the back of each book about the events in the story and the history around these events. Use this information at the back of the book—called “context”—to answer the questions below. .

1. Who was Osama Bin Laden?

2. What is the National September 11 Memorial?

3. What was Ground Zero? Why was it dangerous?



I SURVIVED

BOOK CLUB

Name: _____

I Survived The Attacks of September 11, 2001

LITERARY-ELEMENTS ACTIVITY AND CONTEXT REVIEW (CONTINUED)



I SURVIVED THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

GRAPHIC NOVEL 101

WHAT'S A GRAPHIC NOVEL?

A book in which the illustrations and the text work together to tell the story. In order to understand what's happening, you have to read the text *and* study the pictures.

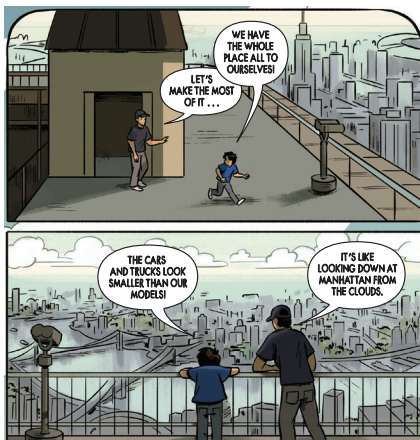
HOW DO I READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL?

On each page, start with the top row and read left to right, then repeat all the way down the page. In other words, zig-zag your way from the top left to the bottom right.

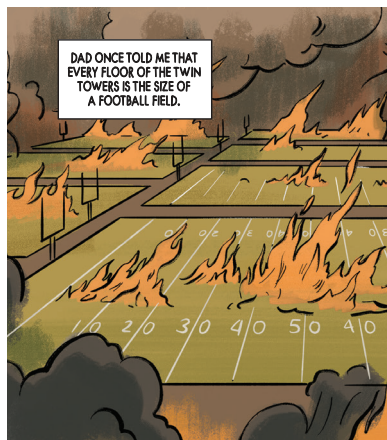
WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- There are many kinds of text in a graphic novel, like speech bubbles and narration boxes.
- There are illustrated words that provide sound effects, like "SCREEEE" and "KABOOM."
- The illustrated boxes on the pages are called panels.

GRAPHIC NOVEL QUESTIONS: Below, analyze how three illustrations in the book offer information that is important to understanding the story.



1. How do the illustrations on page 60 show what was special and unique about the Twin Towers? How does the illustrator make this image dramatic?



2. What does the illustrator use on p. 80 to show how big each floor of the Twin Towers was? What is disturbing about this image? Why is the image effective?



3. What different elements do the author and illustrator use to communicate how scary the dust cloud was on pages 116–117?



ANSWERS

LITERARY-ELEMENTS ACTIVITIES:

CHARACTER:

1. Lucas is upset about being told he can't play football anymore.
2. By the end, Lucas has made his peace with not playing anymore, and he's helping the coach.
After everything Lucas went through on 9/11, he has realized that what matters most is being with people who are important to him, like the guys and his family.
3. Dad is struggling with his injuries after the warehouse fire and isn't talking much.
4. By the end, Dad is connecting with people again, including Lucas. The events of 9/11 may have made him realize that connection is important.

THEME: Tragedy can help people realize what's truly **important** in their lives.

CONTEXT REVIEW:

1. Osama Bin Laden was the leader of a terrorist group headquartered in Afghanistan called Al Qaeda. He was mainly responsible for the attacks on 9/11.
2. The National September 11 Memorial is a pair of reflecting pools that stand where the Twin Towers once stood, surrounded by two of the largest waterfalls in North America. The names of the victims are carved into bronze panels around the reflecting pools.
3. Ground Zero was the name of the 16-acre disaster zone. It was dangerous because of the toxic smoke, which was a mix of melted plastic, steel, lead, and many other chemicals.

GRAPHIC NOVEL QUESTIONS:

1. The illustrations show that the World Trade Center offered an incredible view of New York City and create a sense of just how tall the buildings were. The illustrator makes the image dramatic by making the clouds in the sky seem like they are practically touching the top of the building.
2. The illustrator uses an image of 10 football fields to show how big each floor was. The image is disturbing because the fields are on fire. It's effective because it gives the readers a sense of how much fire was on each floor that day.
3. In the first panel, the word "RUMBLE" repeats multiple times, creating the sense that something is coming. Then there's a "WHOOSH" as the dust cloud arrives, and a "CRASH" as the window breaks. The illustrator shows glass, paper, dust, and grit flying around the air in what the author calls a "boiling-hot tornado."