

Friday 4/16:

4RI6: Read each passage and answer the paired texts questions. Answer in a complete sentence. (restate the question)

The Day the World Stood Still

It was a Tuesday morning on September 11, 2001. It was 8:46 a.m., and I was in the World Trade Center working on the 64th floor. I spent my days in a cubicle working for Morgan Stanley. On this day I was sitting at my computer as I caught up on the latest news while I had a free moment before my workday officially started. As I was reading, I suddenly heard an explosion.

I remember thinking that it must have been a terrible explosion because I heard the backup generator for our electricity start up within seconds of hearing the sound of the impact. Without even thinking, I jumped up and ran to one of the nearby offices in order to look out the window. What I saw was shocking. There were large amounts of debris, metal, papers, and more floating down toward the street from the other tower.

As usual, I had gotten to work early that morning, so my boss wasn't in yet. I hurried back to my desk to call him. I let him know that there had been an explosion and that he should not come in. I then followed the sound of voices calling us to evacuate.

Most of the people were still very calm at this time since we had no idea what was actually going on. There was no panic, no pushing, and no overly aggressive behavior. In fact, people were taking their time and even joking around with each other. By the time we reached the 50th floor, we heard another explosion, and the building shook ferociously.

It was challenging to keep our footing on the stairs, and people were falling. The lights kept going off and coming back on, and people were now beginning to panic. Now that our tower had been attacked, people began screaming and even crying. The floor gave out below us, and I could feel the building sinking. All I could do was hope that I would make it through this so that I could get back to my family.

The building finally stopped shaking, and we started moving along in the evacuation process again. People were less calm now and much more panicked. Somewhere around the 25th floor, we started to smell a lot of jet fuel, and at the 15th floor, the smell was just unbearable. We now saw smoke entering the stairwell, too.

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Forty minutes after we started evacuating, we finally started to see the main floor of the building. There were FBI agents and NYPD officers waiting for us. We were directed toward the E Train. I still had no idea what was happening. I found the first cop I could once I was out of the evacuated area and asked what was going on. I told him that I had been inside the second tower. The officer informed me that two jets had crashed into the two towers. That was all I got before the officer ran off. The streets were crazy with people running around and emergency vehicles everywhere.

When I took my first look at the two towers, I could not believe my eyes. Both buildings were on fire, flames shooting out of them. There were huge plumes of thick black smoke billowing out of them. I could still see the tail end of the jet sticking out of one of the towers.

I went to the train station and took the first train that would take me home. I needed to get to my family and let them know that I was okay. I was okay.

September 11: A Day to Remember

September 11 is a day that will be remembered by many. Even those who were not directly affected by that day still remember where they were and what they were doing when the attacks were announced on news and radio stations.

On September 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the extremist group known as Al-Qaeda hijacked four airliners in order to carry out a dangerous and terrifying mission. These extremists set out to hurt the United States from the inside. Three of the four hijacked planes reached their destinations, killing thousands.

Two of the planes were flown into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The third plane, which also successfully reached its target, hit the Pentagon just outside of Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, not making it to its destination. Everyone on the flight died, but they somehow spared many others from being killed, too. The events that transpired on that fourth plane are still unclear.

The 9/11 attacks resulted in extensive death and destruction to the U.S. It changed the ways in which we travel, think, and act. The U.S. has taken major initiatives since this attack to combat terrorism.

There were over 3,000 people killed during the attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. This included more than 400 police officers and firefighters. People lost family members, coworkers, and friends. None of the lost people will be forgotten. In fact, a memorial was built at the location of the fallen twin towers. A memorial vigil is scheduled to be held there every year.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer each question. Support your answer with evidence from the passages.

1. What do you consider to be the main difference between the two accounts?

2. Both accounts provided many details about what happened on 9/11/2001. Compare and contrast the details provided by the two accounts.

3. Which account causes more of an emotional reaction from the reader? Explain the reason for your choice.

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4. Which account is considered a firsthand account? Include a definition of a firsthand account and evidence from the text in your response.

5. Which account is considered a secondhand account? Include a definition of a secondhand account and evidence from the text in your response.

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