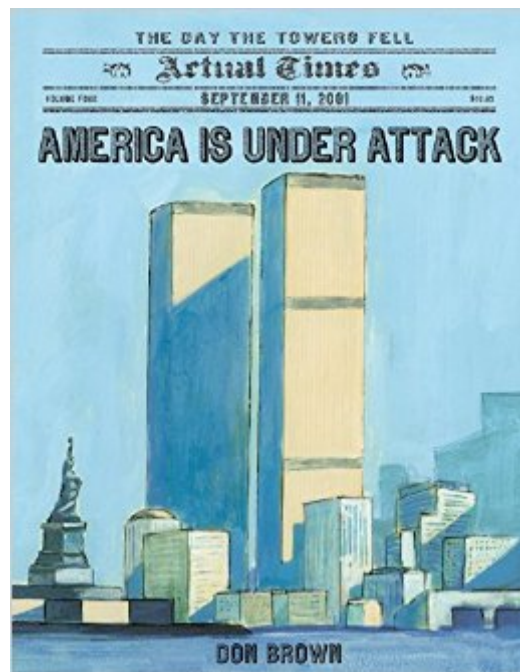


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# America Is Under Attack: September 11, 2001: The Day The Towers Fell (Actual Times)



## Synopsis

One of School Library Journal's Best Nonfiction Books of 2011  
One of Horn Book's Best Nonfiction Books of 2011  
On the ten year anniversary of the September 11 tragedy, a straightforward and sensitive book for a generation of readers too young to remember that terrible day. The events of September 11, 2001 changed the world forever. In the fourth installment of the Actual Times series, Don Brown narrates the events of the day in a way that is both accessible and understandable for young readers. Straightforward and honest, this account moves chronologically through the morning, from the terrorist plane hijackings to the crashes at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Pennsylvania; from the rescue operations at the WTC site in New York City to the collapse of the buildings. Vivid watercolor illustrations capture the emotion and pathos of the tragedy making this an important book about an unforgettable day in American history.

## Book Information

Series: Actual Times (Book 4)

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Square Fish (August 5, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250044154

ISBN-13: 978-1250044150

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.2 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,894 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 2000s #433 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

“Explaining the events of September 11, even 10 years afterward, is a task fraught with emotion. Brown’s sturdy yet empathetic tone seems just right. Publishers Weekly Online”  
“\* Illustrated on every spread with line-and-wash pictures that are forthright but never sensational, the book is superbly focused and completely honest. The Horn Book Magazine, starred review”  
“\* Brown’s compelling narrative chronologically recounts the

morning's events in a tone both straightforward and compassionate, without resorting to sensationalism. [School Library Journal](#), starred review "Brown's take . . . is a model of straightforward, earnest nonfiction writing that brings things to many an uncomfortable point--that cannot be avoided--without going too far. [Booklist](#) "Ten years' distance from the events allows Brown to include in his carefully crafted narrative some details missing in even the best of the children's titles released closer to September 11, 2001. [The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books](#)

Don Brown is the author and illustrator of many highly praised picture-book biographies and histories for children, most recently, *He Has Shot the President*. He lives on Long Island, New York.

My son purchased this Kindle ebook for a school project. It was exactly what he needed. it was quite informative. He acquired lots of new information about 911 that he shared with us over the course of writing a report and creating a project.

This is the best book so far I have found that explains the shocking and horrifying events of September 11, 2001, to kids. My students can't get enough information about this tragic and, to them, historical, event. "The second hijacked jetliner had crashed through the 77th to 85th floors of the South Tower. Massive flames spewed from the tower. Wreckage rained down on the street. It was 9:03 AM, seventeen minutes after the strike on the North Tower. People now understood the earlier crash was not a freak accident but a deliberate attack. How could anyone that witnessed that event ever forget that moment of realization? The black ink and watercolor illustrations do justice in capturing the initial bewilderment and then determination of all those involved in the efforts to save lives. The author doesn't shy away from some of the communication breakdowns that caused many firefighters to perish and describes many acts of heroism. The Pentagon crash is included, and the book ends at the collapse of the towers. It doesn't get into WHY this happened, but gives enough information for most kids as to HOW it happened.

*America Is Under Attack: September 11, 2001: The Day the Towers Fell* (Actual Times) [This](#) book is extremely interesting while teaching the facts about 9/11. I teach middle school and I read a different 9/11 book for 11 days. This book held their attention.

Great book to help students understand 9/11. Planning on reading to my class.

At the tenth anniversary of September 11, the question arises, how do we talk to children about what happened that day. The children I work with weren't even born when it happened. How do we help students understand the event without giving more detail than is appropriate. Don Brown has answered that question beautifully. He gives the basic string of events, but he also humanizes the story by quoting and telling the experiences of some of those who were there that day. The illustrations provide context without being graphic. The use of illustrations softens things a bit. Brown doesn't shy away from the things that went wrong, the chaos, the poor communication, etc. But he doesn't focus on that, he focuses on the sacrifices made by those who chose to risk and sometimes lose their lives to aide others and that is something always worth remembering.

Very nice account of the 9/11 attacks with well researched stories and quotes from specific heroes from the day. Reading it to a school class, though, the book ended up feeling rather long and quite depressing. A story like this needs a hopeful ending, especially this long after the attack, but I ended up having to do a lot to fill in that gap for my young, sad audience.

I teach 4th grade and I'm now having students in my class who were not born when the attacks took place. This book does a nice job explaining what happened in a very straightforward way. Coupled with a conversation it makes for a very good experience when commemorating the day in school.

This story is written in such a manner that my students (4th grade) were able to grasp the concept of what really happened on 9/11. None of my students were born yet, so to them, it's surreal. Excellent read.

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