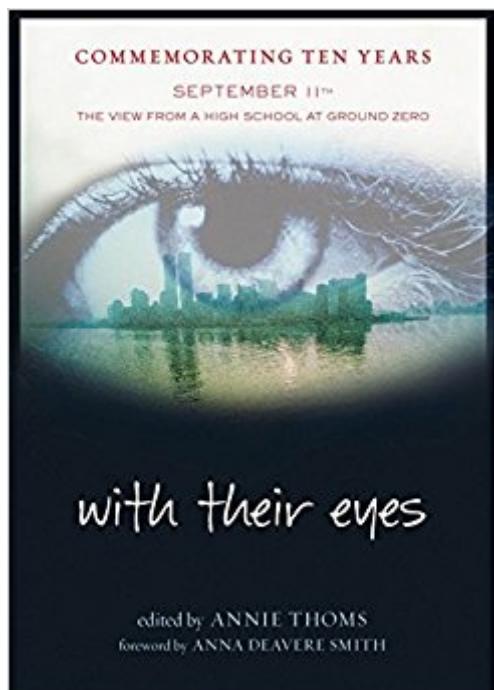


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# With Their Eyes: September 11th--The View From A High School At Ground Zero



## **Synopsis**

A collection of powerful essays in spoken word form remembering September 11, 2001, by high school students who witnessed the tragedy unfold. A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age—“Profound.” • Booklist—“Moving.” • Publishers Weekly—“Rings with authenticity and resonates with power.” • School Library Journal

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 start a new year. But within a few hours on that Tuesday morning, they would share an experience that would transform their lives—and the lives of all Americans. These powerful essays by the students of Stuyvesant High School 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: 4.0 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #43,487 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Poetry #6 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #118 in Books > Teens > Social Issues

## **Customer Reviews**

Thoms, an English teacher at Stuyvesant High School, located four blocks from the site of the World Trade Center, spearheaded a school production last February based on 10 students' recorded interviews (with classmates, faculty and staff members). The students converted the transcripts into "poem-monologues," which they presented and the text of which appears here. In Thoms's introduction, she notes that the goal was "to capture the ways individual people express themselves in speech," and, indeed, the collective impression is one of a group therapy session that may well provide some healing for teen readers still struggling with the event's aftermath. Many of the

monologues (at times laced with "um" and "like") probably work better in a dramatization; on the page, the narratives at times falter and a few repeat similar themes. The poignant "Precious Cargo," for instance, begins with a photograph of a student performing as a pregnant English teacher, and her words of protectiveness about both her unborn child and her students read well on the page, but would likely be even more moving onstage. Still, the emotional rhythms of the volume take on a credible ebb and flow. A welcome dash of humor comes through in a freshman's contention that the students' relocation to Brooklyn Tech (while their school functioned as a triage center) put everyone on equal footing ("Everybody was like/ 'Where the hell are my classes?'/ so it was kinda like everybody was a freshman"). In the closing entry, perhaps the most smoothly structured in the volume, the school theater manager recalls returning to a newly reopened Stuyvesant to find the flag missing from the stage. Later, he "came across a picture/ of firemen/ installing a flag/ on the mast of the World Trade Center/ and I looked at the picture and my jaw dropped./ It was our flag." Readers willing to overlook less relevant and revealing segments will find a number of moving moments here. Ages 13-up. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 7 Up-The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 have changed the lives of all Americans. The students, faculty, and staff of Stuyvesant High School, located four blocks from Ground Zero, responded creatively with a unique work of reader's theater. In with their eyes, student actors transcribed monologues culled from interviews with their fellow classmates, teachers, custodians, and cafeteria workers. The pieces describe the pain of watching people jump to their deaths from office windows, the terror of being separated from their families, the lingering aftereffects of being temporarily housed in a different school, and the post-traumatic stress that nearly paralyzed all 3200 students. The monologues echo the individuals' everyday speech, including the "ums," "likes," and "you knows," which, while sometimes jarring to read, make them dramatically immediate and realistic when performed. This unique book rings with authenticity and resonates with power; it can be used in the curriculum or as an independent piece of theatrical art. Pair it with Michael Cart's excellent 911: The Book of Help (Cricket, 2002), Mitch Frank's Understanding September 11th: Answering Questions about the Attacks on America (Viking, 2002), or Mitchel Levitas's A Nation Challenged: A Visual History of 9/11 and Its Aftermath: Young Reader's Edition (Scholastic, 2002). Susan Riley, Mount Kisco Public Library, NYCopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

An excellent book covering the thoughts and experiences of the students, teachers and other workers at a New York high school just four blocks from ground zero. These were interviews by

students worked into a play performed by those students. A worthy project of a memorial moment.

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.

The book arrived as indicated, excellent service.

With Their Eyes is an eye-opening docu-drama created by students who saw the events of 9-11 from the windows of their high school. The stories are honest, authentic, and ultimately uplifting. The monologues provide a wonderful opportunity for actors to delve into the heart and soul of real teens and adults. The message is strong, and the show focuses on my favorite aspect of acting, which is character development. I would be honored to direct a production of this show, but I'm struggling to get a cast together at the moment. B. Lynn Goodwin [...] You Want Me to Do What?

The stories didn't effect me as much as I thought they would.

Great, touching book! Came quickly and in good condition.

This book is amazing!!

The whole book is like a poem. I had to read it for summer school & it could get very confusing because of the different people & chapters. It also never stayed in order.

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