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The Man Who Walked Between the Towers

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Title: The Man Who Walked Between the Towers
Author: Mordicai Gerstein
Reviewer: Kristie Hinckley
Publisher: Roaring Book Press
Publication Year: 2003
ISBN: 9780439700412
Number of Pages: 44
Interest Level: Primary
Rating: Dependable

Review

The twin towers in New York City are famous for being the World Trade Center as well as other devastating events. But did you know that there was a man named Philippe Petit who wanted to walk across a tight rope between those two buildings in the 1970s? This book is about how he snuck into the World Trade Center and traversed the gap 1,350 feet up in the air. This book is enthralling, but ends on a bittersweet note as the towers are no longer there.

Mordicai Gerstein uses line art to create fantastic pictures that leave you scooting back in your chair, away from the edge of the skyscraper. Pen, ink, and oil paints were used to create the illustrations for this Caldecott Medal winning book. There are two pull out pages in the middle of the book that make the main character’s trip across the tight rope between the sky-scrapping twin towers seem like a mile long. The more color there is on a page, the more excitement is happening in the story. The color creates a distinct mood on each page. The story brings awareness to an interesting event that took place in the twin towers, but teachers and parents should be prepared to explain why the towers do not stand today.