2017

America Is Under Attack

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Book Review

Title: America Is Under Attack
Author: Don Brown
Reviewer: Kristie Hinckley
Publisher: Roaring Book Press
Publication Year: 2011
ISBN: 9781596436947
Number of Pages: 57
Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate
Rating: Outstanding

Review

America is Under Attack is a picture book about the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. In this book, Don Brown portrays the ordinary day on which these terrible events occurred and the ordinary, innocent people that were affected. Readers will get an inside look of this day in the life of a firefighter, a worker in the world trade center, and an army officer at the Pentagon. Strangers who worked many floors away from one another suddenly became friends and allies as they tried to escape the burning building in one piece. By the end of this book, readers will better understand the harsh reality of 9/11 and be inspired by the selfless acts of so many ordinary people on that day in the United States of America.

Don Brown’s pencil and watercolor illustrations make readers feel like they were in New York City at the World Trade Center, in Washington D.C. at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania all on the same devastating day of September 11, 2001. He includes quotations and experiences from actual survivors in his nonfiction book. Brown uses similes such as “giant steel girders tumbled like toothpicks,” to realistically illustrate the devastation of that day. The text and illustrations are not graphic in any way and are appropriate for children of all ages. This book is a great way to lead in to discussions with children about tragedy, unity, selfless service, and terrorism. It is also one of the few books that has been written for children about 9/11.