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The only thing Lucas loves more than football is his Uncle Benny, his dad's best friend at the fire department where they both work. Benny taught Lucas everything about football. So when Lucas's parents decide the sport is too dangerous and he needs to quit, Lucas has to talk to his biggest fan.

So the next morning, Lucas takes the train to the city instead of the bus to school. It's a bright, beautiful day in New York. But just as Lucas arrives at his uncle's firehouse, everything changes -- and nothing will ever be the same again.

The Attacks of September 11th, 2001 Details

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Author : Lauren Tarshis

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Gavin says

Personal Response.

I enjoyed the book, *I Survived The Attacks of September 11, 2001*, by Lauren Tarshis, because it portrayed some of the real events that happened at that time. I felt this book had informed me on the devastating events that took place in 2001. Lauren Tarshis did a great job describing all the details in the book.

Plot.

In the beginning of the book, Lucas finds out that he can no longer play football due to the amount of concussions he has had. Lucas decides to skip school to go see his Uncle Benny. Uncle Benny works for the Manhattan fire department in New York. When Lucas reaches the fire house, he hears a very low flying plane and right as he notices it. The plane plunges into the first tower. Uncle Benny knows he has to go, so he tells Lucas to stay at the fire station and wait for everything to settle down. Lucas needs to do something to help so he starts to do the loads of dishes that have to be done. While he is doing the dishes, he hears the second plane crash into the second building. He is horrified by this sound so he goes outside to watch what is going on. He starts to walk towards the building when he hears his name being called. It is his dad. Lucas and his dad are so happy to have each other but both realize there is no time. They both begin to help. While they are walking towards the towers, the first tower falls and the streets begging to fill with smoke like water would fill a cup. Lucas and his father dive into a building and shut the door just in time to get away from the smoke, but the power is too strong and the wind shatters the windows. The store they are in suddenly turns black and nobody can see. Lucas and his dad survive making it home safe. Uncle Benny survived the attacks with injuries that require him to use a cane.

Characterization.

Lucas is the main character in the book. Lucas evolves throughout the book by becoming an athlete. In the beginning of the book, Lucas is a kid who doesn't like football or sports in general. Uncle Benny notices it so he decides to change him. After Uncle Benny introduced the sports to him, he becomes a sports fanatic who truly loves the game of football.

Setting.

The main setting in the book is Manhattan, New York. That was where the planes crashed into the twin towers. The year the book takes place is 2001, which is the year the twin towers fell. The twin towers falling where the reason why Uncle Benny got hurt trying to save the lives of people still inside the building.

Theme.

The theme for this book is test of character. When Lucas was knocked down by a concussion, he was shaken but did not fall. When he realized that life goes on and his mental health was more important than playing football, he accepted not playing. He made the decision to stop playing and live his life to the fullest. Lucas overcame the test of character when he realized that the world will not stop when he has a concussion.

Recommendations.

I would recommend this book to any high school or middle school aged kids. It was an easy read and can be comprehended very easily. Boys and girls can get enjoyment out of the book, because they can see the struggles Lucas faced. I give this book a four out of five star rating.

Kirsten says

I liked this one the best of all of these that I have read. Probably because I have my own memories of this event. In the notes at the end she talks about how she didn't want to write this one, but I am really glad she did.

Norberto Leyva says

There is a boy, Noah, who loves football more than anything. He gets a concussion during practice and has to go to the doctor. The doctor told him to come back after three weeks. He whines and complains to his parents about how unfair it is that he has to be out of football for this long. After the three weeks is up, he was hoping for good news. Unfortunately, the doctor tells him it will be longer than three weeks because this is his fourth concussion which is really bad for an 11 year old.

He skipped school without his parents knowing and took a subway to the fire station where his dad and uncle worked. It was the change in shifts and his uncle was just starting work but had someone else cover for him because his nephew wanted to talk to him about something important. They are walking toward the Twin Towers when they saw a plane flying really low and crashing into the first tower.

He tries to help the best he can while the fireman do their jobs. They go into a room in the tower and the room collapses. They get out safely but they didn't know where the uncle was.

A couple days later, they go to a football game and see the uncle is alive but injured.

I would recommend this book to middle schoolers. Anyone who loves football or a point of view of someone who lived through a historic event would like this book.

C.J. O'B says

The Attacks of September 11th, 2001, by Lauren Tarshis was a great book, explaining the life of someone who lived during the time of one of the most tragic events in U.S. history. Right when the first plane hit the first tower in the story, my heart started racing. The author really made it feel like I was there when it happened. I would recommend this book to anyone who would enjoy a book written by a great author, and a thriller that will make you feel all different emotions.

Louis Knecht says

Personal Response:

I read the book *The Attacks of September 11, 2001* by Lauren Tarshis. It was an interesting, historical, and informative book. Overall, I thought it was very good and exciting to learn about history.

Plot:

There were a lot of interesting events that happened in the plot. The main character was a young boy named

Lucas. His dad was a firefighter for the NYFD. Lucas and his dad would love to build model fire trucks together. His dad was badly injured in a warehouse fire, and he was in the hospital for three months. A co-worker of his dad, Uncle Benny, came over all the time and helped take care of Lucas with his mom. Uncle Benny loved football, and eventually that love rubbed off on Lucas. He joined a team and he loved it. He was also very good at it. Lucas was concussed three too many times, and his parents wouldn't let him play anymore. Lucas was so angry; instead of going to school, he went to the fire station to talk to his Uncle Benny. When he arrived, he realized his Uncle Benny told his parents how bad concussions were. At that moment was when the first plane hit the tower. The dispatcher called in every possible firefighter to the scene. Luckily, Lucas' dad was looking for Lucas and didn't go to the towers before they collapsed. They both made it out safely, but their lives were changed forever.

Characterization:

The main character in this book was a young boy named Lucas. He loved to play football and was very good at it. He got too many concussions so he couldn't play anymore, and that made him very upset. Overall, he was a good kid that learns there was much more to life than football. Another main character was Uncle Benny. Uncle Benny loved Lucas and taught him to play football. He was very kind to Lucas. He was a firefighter that was injured when the first tower fell. He survived and was very thankful and still full of joy even after such a tragedy.

Setting:

This book takes place in New York City September 11, 2001. This is very important because this was when the Twin Towers were flown into by terrorists. If they were not here at this time they never would have not experienced it first hand.

Recommendation:

I would recommend this book to 12-14 year old males that like to learn about history. It was an informative book about history and the main character was a boy, so it would be easier for males to relate to. I would recommend it for this age group because it was an easy read.

Dylan Rice says

This brings back memories on 9/11. I really don't recommend this for emotional New Yorkers. I think this book is good for people that know nothing about 9/11! I survived is an amazing series and I honestly think Lauren Tarshis is an amazing author.

Rebecca McNutt says

A juvenile view of what happened during 9/11, this 6th installment in the *I Survived* series captures a horrific tragedy in striking power with historical fiction, but not to the point where it's too dark for middle-grade readers.

Jaden says

This book was AWESOME!

Paula says

Not my favorite of the series, but it did open up a discussion about September 11th with my son and helped him understand a little of what happened that day. I thought that the explanation of why the author wrote the book and questions and answers at the end of the book were great.

Ann Williams says

The attacks of September 11, 2001 are very personal to me. My brother, a veteran of the NYPD, was watching the beautiful blue sky, while waiting for his car to be fixed, when he heard the "All Call," to report to his precinct. He had to get his wife out of Manhattan and then go back to dig for survivors. My uncle walked across the Brooklyn Bridge to get out of the city. My cousins rode the ferry back to Staten Island while helping people who had been injured. Another cousin drove from Saratoga with cases of water to help the first responders. I wasn't sure I wanted to read this latest installment in the I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis, but I am SO GLAD that I did. I read the "Why I wrote about September 11," first, and this helped me set a purpose for reading. So many of you were babies when this event in our history happened, but I was not, and I will always remember how I felt that day, so far away from my family, just waiting for news. I really connected with Lucas when he could not get through to his family on the phone because all of the telephone lines were jammed. Phew! Lauren Tarshis has done a masterful job of conveying the magnitude of this event in a story that you can understand and appreciate. It is a great addition to the "I Survived," series and I am thankful that Lauren Tarshis was brave enough to write it for you. Enjoy!

Will L says

this breath taking book shows the sacrifice of the men and women who risked and lost there lives to help those who needed it the most in the tragedy it really shows how it effected family's everyday life . this book is about a young boy Lucas who got a concussion and went into new York city to tell his fathers friend and role model uncle Benny had gotten Lucas to play football Benny and Lucas father are both firemen so when Lucas is about to tell Benny that he couldn't play football anymore a plane crashed into the twin towers Benny ran back into the fire dept. and got ready in the end Lucas friend who worked at the fire dept. died when the tower fell .i would recommend this book to 10-12 years old because of the concept that littler kids wouldn't understand.

Peg says

Today's 8- to 10-year olds weren't alive the day the Towers came down, but are naturally curious about it. Tarshis helps them understand the events of the day through the eyes of 11-year-old Lucas, whose father and "Uncle" Benny are both members of the New York Fire Department, stationed less than 10 blocks from the World Trade Center. She frames the story around Lucas' love of football. Lucas is upset by their decision to end his playing days because of his frequent concussions. Convinced that Uncle Benny will take his side, he sets off on his own to talk to him at the fire station. As the pair walk and talk, they hear a loud roar and look up to see a low-flying airplane, so low he "could even read the letters on the tail: AA." Lucas watches as "the plane plunged like a knife into the side of one of the buildings" and almost immediately hears Uncle Benny shouting the alarm into his phone. Listening to the news as he waits in the now-abandoned fire station, Lucas becomes increasingly afraid and sets out to locate his father and Benny at the Command Center—and thereby is in the midst of things, with his father, when the first tower collapses. They run for their lives, helping people along the way. Tarshis includes vivid details yet avoids being gruesome by keeping everything from Lucas' perspective. Readers will have a clear understanding of the sequence of events as well as a sense of the emotions of those who were there. Dawson's gray pen and ink illustrations show readers what Lucas occasionally sees, again keeping the focus on him more than the horrific events. Backmatter includes a timeline, FAQ, and Tarshis' explanation of her decision to write this book.

Zachary Peeters says

Personal Response- This was a very good book. It changes subject a lot in random places, but other than that it is a great true story.

Plot- The main character Lucas loves to play football. Uncle Ben and Lucas went for a walk one day in downtown New York, when all of a sudden the first plane hit the tower. Then as they ran away another plane hits the other tower. There were a lot of injury's and deaths due to the plane hitting the towers.

Characterization-Lucas is the main character that loved to play football, but loved his Uncle Benny even more. When Lucas and Uncle Benny are walking through downtown New York they hear a loud jet engine roaring through the blue sky. They look up to see a giant jet hit one of the twin towers. Lucas's uncle and dad are firefighters so they both have to run to their station and get to the towers.

Recommendation-I recommend this book to all middle schoolers, both girls and boys. It is a very easy to read book and to understand some of the history behind the towers falling. I give this a four out of five stars.

Shawna says

My son just turned 8 and does not enjoy fictitious books. He prefers facts about true events. I happened to see this book displayed at the library on Sept. 11th and grabbed it.

When we started reading it together, he was leary. By the end, he was wanting to research more on the internet.

Lauren Tarshis wove a fictional story about a boy named Lucas, whose father was a firefighter at the time of

the 9/11 attacks around the actual events of 9/11. She totally hit the mark.

I found the book very age appropriate. It was written in such a way that it did not create nightmares, but allowed him to grasp the enormity of the tragedy that occurred.

I recommend this book to any parent having trouble getting their children to read fictitious "chapter" books. This book met my son's need for information! I will certainly be looking for the rest of this series!

Julie says

I avoided bringing this book home for my kids (who love the series) for the same reasons Lauren Tarshis explains she avoided writing it - "The memories of that day remain sharp and terrifying." I wanted to protect them from it. But I realized that this is history to them, just like the others in the series, and that while most others in the series involve natural disasters, they're at an age where they're wanting to understand the history that humans have created. The story itself explains the morning through the eyes of a firefighter's son who was there, but focusing on his pretty realistic perspective and not so much the much-worse things happening to others. The end matter is really where the details come out - how many people died, who was responsible, how the U.S. responded, etc. My kids haven't actually read it yet - but if they pick it up I'll make sure they have a chance to talk about it after.

Update: After my daughter read this, I asked if she had any questions. They were: "Were the planes flying really low?" and "Why would somebody do that?" I answered the best I could. Then I asked if she had read the parts at the end and she said, "Nah" and started talking about something else. Which supports the idea that kids will absorb in books what they're ready to handle.
