

Name: _____ Date: _____

WORLD VOICES

When a stone hits water, what happens? It creates a ripple. That ripple creates another ripple, then another, reaching a larger and larger area.

Some events cause ripples across a family, a neighborhood, or a community. Other events touch people across a country and sometimes around the world. One such event was the tragedy on September 11, 2001, in the United States. On that day, airplanes flown by terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and into a field in Pennsylvania. The excerpts that follow are some responses to this event from people from around the world. Then, in the questions that follow, explore the different perspectives and responses to this global event.

David Cernikovsky

Student, Stuyvesant High School, across from the World Trade Center

I saw it all. I have to keep reminding myself of what I saw because if I don't, I know I'll end up convincing myself that I never really saw it.

Ann Marie Atewan

Student, Rutherford High School, Rutherford, New Jersey

We were in English class and saw a girl coming down the hallway, crying and yelling, "My mom is in that building!" Then the principal said that a plane had hit the World Trade Center.

We were all amazed and devastated. Half of my friends were crying because they thought their parents were in there.

Then a girl said to me, "Your people [Muslims] did this to us." The girl ran down the hallway and I couldn't say anything. They're blaming me, and I didn't do anything. I was there right next to them when we saw it happen on TV. I was as sad as they [were]. I was born here.

What Do You Think?

1. From what you can tell, how does David Cernikovsky's perspective differ from the other people's quoted on this page?
2. Why would anyone blame Ann Marie for what happened on 9/11? Why is that unfair?
3. Muhammad Ali is a famous boxer. Why do you think his reaction to 9/11 might be important for some people to hear?
4. Do you think President McAleese's reaction to 9/11 is different from President Bush's? Why do you think that might be?
5. Reread Bobby's words and President McAleese's. If you didn't know who was speaking, how would you know that one quote came from a student and the other from a world leader? Give as many reasons as you can.

Muhammad Ali

Former boxing champion

If the culprits are Muslim, they have twisted the teachings of Islam. Whoever performed, or is behind, the terrorist attacks in the United States of America does not represent Islam. God is not behind assassins.

Bobby Franklin

Christchurch, New Zealand

I heard my Mum crying and when I saw what was happening to you [on TV] I thought it was a horrible dream or bad movie.... On that day it was very quiet at school and [no one] laughed or ate much lunch. People go to church and meet in public places to pray and light some candles for you.

New Zealand is [a long] way away isn't it? How can I make it better for you? I am only ten and haven't got [a lot] of money. I feel like my own family has been hurt....

Mary McAleese

President of Ireland

We are sad, shocked, sickened, grieving, disbelieving, outraged, frightened all at once.... The people of the United States hold a special place in the hearts of all of us here in Ireland. The roots go down through the centuries and are as strong today as they ever were.

George W. Bush

President of the United States

These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.

DID YOU KNOW...

Ireland and the U.S. share special bonds. In the middle of the 1800s, 5 million Irish came to the U.S., many to escape the Potato Famine.

Muslim is a term that applies to a person who is a follower of the Islam religion; *Muslim* is not a nationality. Muslims are found all over the world and arrived in the U.S. in the middle of the nineteenth century. They believe in Allah and the prophet Muhammad's teachings.

New Zealand is 9,000 miles away from New York, a very far distance. After 9/11, words of support poured in from every corner of the globe through government communications and from everyday people.

Sources: Quote from David Cernikovsky: Zadock Pratt Museum, "History Feature of the Month," www.prattmuseum.com/history/2001%20History%20Feature/World%20Trade%20Center.htm; quote from Anne Marie Atewan: *Junior Scholastic*, October 15 & 22, 2001, p. 7; quote from Bobby Franklin from: *The New York Times: A Nation Challenged, Young Readers' Edition* (Scholastic Reference, 2002), p. 54; quote from Mary McAleese excerpted from "Address by President Mary McAleese on the National Day of Mourning" on www.IrishAbroad.com; quote from Muhammad Ali from: "Bin Laden's Radical Form of Islam," by Caryle Murphy, *Washington Post*, 9/18/2001; quote from President George W. Bush from: "Statement by the President in His Address to the Nation," made from the Oval Office of the White House and televised 9/11/01 at 8:30 pm, EDT; full text can be viewed at www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010911-16.html.

