

Never, Never, Never Forget 9/11 By Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = less than 10 1/2 minutes

Readability = Grade 6.2 (multi-syllable vocabulary)

NOTE: This script was written for mature 3rd-4th graders and up. You will know your students.

Cast (5+, chorus):

Lady Liberty

Radio Announcer #1

Radio Announcer #2

President

Chorus

Suggestion: To make the presentation clear, stage the two radio announcers on one side, with the President and Lady Liberty on the other. You may put the chorus in the center, if desired.

Another option: Use the BTA technique for the announcers and the President. That is, when they speak they turn in to face the audience. When they finish speaking, they turn their **backs to the audience (BTA)**. (Exception—I might let the President read with the chorus with his back to the audience, and then have him face forward the entire time he has pages with dialogue.)

Do whatever works for your group.

Vocabulary:

assistance

emergency personnel

flashbacks

immigrants

justice

Pentagon

survivors

beacon

evacuations

government

intercept

overcomers

representing

terrorism

condolences

explosion

hijacked

international

Pennsylvania

skyscrapers



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By Carol Montgomery

Liberty: I am Lady Liberty. I have welcomed immigrants from across the world to the United States of America, lighting the way to freedom with my torch held high.

Chorus: Thank you, Lady Liberty!

Liberty: (*smiles*) I have watched this nation grow and change since I was dedicated in 1886. Standing by New York Harbor, my eyes have seen a timeline of history—from the local ferry to the international airplane.

Chorus: What have you seen, Lady Liberty?

Liberty: I saw the New York skyline grow like a garden of skyscrapers—including the Empire State Building and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. (*pause*) Now, I cry. Never, never, never forget 9/11.

Chorus: Never, never, never forget 9/11. But, why?

Liberty: Just listen to the radio flashbacks...and imagine you see what I saw.

Announcer #1: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with up to the minute news. At 8:46 this morning, September 11, 2001, an airline jet crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York. The Tower blazes, with smoke billowing...

Announcer #2: Evacuations are under way and emergency personnel are responding. No details are known concerning the cause of the crash. Stay tuned and we'll keep you up-to-date...

Liberty: I saw the jet crash into the side of the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center in 2001 and I cried. Lady Liberty couldn't stop the attack.

Chorus: What do you mean the attack?

Announcer #1: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with up to the minute news. In case you missed it, at 8:46 this morning, September 11, 2001, a jet hit the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center. One tower of the Twin Towers is burning, with smoke rising like a dark flag.

Announcer #2: Oh, no! Another plane has hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center! There has just been another explosion in the second tower, ladies and gentlemen...

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Liberty: I saw the second jet crash into the side of the second tower at 9:03 in the morning of September 11, 2001; and I wept. Lady Liberty felt helpless.

Chorus: Why, Lady Liberty?

Liberty: The Twin Towers were filled with thousands of people. And, thousands more were on the street going to work. There was no warning.

Announcer #1: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with today's news. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York are both burning now. It appears to be an act of terrorism—**not** an accident.

Announcer #2: Sirens are blasting and emergency personnel are helping as much as they can. People are running all over...

Liberty: I watched first responders enter the burning buildings. Firemen, policemen, and rescue workers all ignored the danger to their own lives in order to save the lives of others. We honor them. And, we will never forget.

Chorus: We will never forget.

Announcer #1: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with the latest news. The United States of America appears to be under attack. Besides two planes hitting the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington D.C.—representing the nation's military—was just hit by a different jet at 9:43 this morning, September 11, 2001.

Announcer #2: No details are available. According to witnesses, the jet seemed to disappear into the side of the Pentagon. Rescue workers are again on the scene and evacuations are in progress. We'll keep you updated...

Liberty: I didn't see the jet crash into the Pentagon, but I can imagine the plane flying low over the river and the roads. The Pentagon is not a tower. A plane would have to fly in low. *(pause)* My heart aches for this nation—and the world.

Chorus: We will never forget 9/11.

Announcer #1: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with the latest news. Ladies and gentlemen, a fourth jet has veered off course and appears to be heading toward the Washington D.C. area, perhaps the White House. Evacuations of government buildings are under way...

Liberty: I heard the cries of fear in New York... City walls echoed voices of panic: "We're at war!" "More planes are coming!" "Run!" "Hide!" Others sighed *(pause)*, "Oh God, help us!" I mourned the loss of life.

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Announcer #2: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with the latest news. The South Tower of the World Trade Center just collapsed—less than an hour after it was hit by a hijacked jet. There's a huge cloud of dust and ash chasing people on the street. People are running from the smoke and flying debris, but it's impossible to outrun the wind.

Liberty: I saw the South Tower of the World Trade Center being built—110 stories. I saw it all fall—110 stories crumbled. People were trapped in the rubble. I knew some would survive. This is a nation of survivors, built from many nations of survivors.

Chorus: We are survivors.

Announcer #1: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with the latest news. In a strange turn of events, hijacked Flight 93 that appeared to be heading toward Washington D.C. just crashed at 10:06 this morning in a Pennsylvania field.

Announcer #2: We don't know the details. Perhaps some passengers became heroes trying to intercept the terrorist hijackers before they reached Washington D.C.? Stay tuned for the latest on 9/11.

Liberty: I saw heroes on 9/11. Some entered burning buildings to save people. Some sent warnings. Some protected women, children, the elderly, and the disabled.

Chorus: Never forget the heroes of 9/11.

Announcer #1: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with the latest news. Two hijacked airplanes crashed into each of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center this morning. The South Tower collapsed with a cloud of smoke, ash, and debris rolling down the streets. The North Tower is still burning.

Announcer #2: We interrupt this broadcast for up to the minute news. The burning North Tower of the World Trade Center has just collapsed, ladies and gentlemen, in another cloud of smoke, ash, and debris. I can't believe it!

Liberty: I was in shock—like so many others in New York City and around the globe on 9/11. People fled toward me. I offered hope. This is a nation of overcomers, built from many nations of overcomers.

Chorus: We are overcomers.

Announcer #1: Flashback! This is W-H-Y Radio with the latest news. It's still 9/11, perhaps one of the worst days in history. The rubble from New York's Twin Towers still burns and smoke curls up into the empty skyline. The crashed hijacked plane still burns in a Pennsylvania field.

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Announcer #2: Meanwhile, the Pentagon, in Washington D.C. still burns where a fourth hijacked plane crashed into the side of the building. Wait! This just in...a section of the Pentagon where the plane crashed has also collapsed. This is a very sad day for America, a very sad day for the world.

Liberty: Being a statue, I really couldn't speak that horrible day. But, United States President George Bush did. He was with some school children when he heard the news of the attack. These are some of the words he later spoke to the nation...

President: ...These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But, they have failed. Our country is strong.

Chorus: Our country is strong.

President: A great people has been moved to defend a great nation.

Chorus: A great nation.

President: Terrorist attacks can shake the foundation of the biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America...

Chorus: The foundation of America.

President: ...America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world.

Chorus: Freedom and opportunity.

President: And, no one will keep that light from shining...

Liberty: I hold my torch up proudly for freedom.

President: ...I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance. America, and her friends and allies, join with all those who want peace and security in the world.

Liberty: The impact on families reached around the globe. The attacks killed nearly 3000 people from 93 nations.

Announcer #1: Unfortunately, 2,753 people were killed in New York.

Announcer #2: Plus, 184 people were killed at the Pentagon and 40 people were killed on Flight 93 that crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

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Chorus: Never forget 9/11.

President: ...For all those who grieve, for the children whose world has been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened.... I pray they will be comforted by a Power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me"...

Chorus: Never forget.

President: This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace...

Chorus: Unite for justice and peace.

President: ...None of us will ever forget this day...

Chorus: Never, never forget 9/11.

Liberty: We honor our rescue workers.

Announcer #1: We honor the heroes of Flight 93.

Announcer #2: We honor all who helped on 9/11.

President: And, we honor all the lives lost in this tragedy.

Liberty: Never, never, never forget 9/11.

Chorus: We will never, never, never forget.



Curriculum Links (Valid in March 2015):

http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/911/teachers/lesson_plans.htm

Scholastic's lesson plans for remembering "9/11/2001: The Day That Changed America." Includes links for lessons for grades 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, "Hooray for Heroes Theme Unit," "The Star-Spangled Banner," and "Design the Future."

http://www.statesymbolsusa.org/National_Symbols/StatueofLIBERTY.html

"State Symbols USA—The Statue of Liberty" Information and photos—including Liberty looking over the harbor with the Twin Towers in the background.

<http://www.911educationprogramme.co.uk/> NOW: <http://since911.com/>

Brand new **British "911 Education Programme" website designed for ages 11-16 with downloadable lessons.** (I didn't review the lessons.) Includes five curriculum subjects: history, citizenship, RE ("what really matters in relation to 9/11"), English & Drama, Art & Design. I have not looked at every page of this extensive site; it includes cross curricular teaching resources and an image and film bank.

<http://www.naturephoto.com/html/150.htm>

"Liberty and Twin Towers"—Photo from the ferry on a cloudy day.

http://www.ussartf.org/world_trade_center_disaster.htm

Website of the United States Search and Rescue Task Force on the World Trade Center Disaster. The site was put up about 2002 with excellent photos, plus information from engineers on why the Twin Towers fell.

<http://www.911memorial.org/interactive-911-timelines>

This **interactive timeline chronicles the events of 9/11** using images, audio and video from the 9/11 Memorial Museum's permanent collection. The timeline tells the story of the day as it unfolded in the air and on the ground. It's filled with first-person accounts from survivors, first responders and witnesses. Please note: Due to the nature of events related to the Sept. 11 attacks, the timeline contains some graphic images and sensitive content. Parents may want to first review the site before sharing it with young children.

<http://ladyliberty.national911memorial.org/>

A replica of the Statue of Liberty stood honor guard outside a New York firehouse in the weeks and months after the 9/11 attack. She was offered items and words as a memorial. This interactive website shares her story and includes a teaching guide focusing on the **artistic response to 9/11**. You can zoom in and see the contributions (e.g., colorful origami paper cranes, German "Polizei" badge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police badge).

<http://www.911memorial.org/education-goals>

"Education Goals" at the 9/11 Memorial site—includes questions, lesson plans,

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teaching guides, “Talking to Children About 9/11,” webcasts, and “9/11 Primary Sources.”

<http://www.911memorial.org/node/780891>

“**FAQ about 9/11**” 13 questions about 9/11 — ranging from the World Trade Center/ Pentagon events to Islam and al Qaeda. The last questions are on the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

<http://www.911memorial.org/911-and-its-aftermath>

“9/11 and its Aftermath” — “These webcasts provide on-the-scene accounts of the attacks and the aftermath.”

Statue of Liberty

<http://www.nps.gov/stli/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm>

Statue of Liberty virtual e-tour from the National Park Service. (I didn’t check this website out totally.)

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/statue-liberty-meaning-and-use-national-symbol>

“The Statue of Liberty: The Meaning and Use of a National Symbol” website with guided questions, lesson activities, and extension activities. (I didn’t review it all. It appears to be middle school and high school level.)

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/statueofliberty/educators/>

“The Statue of Liberty for Educators” — grades 4-9. Includes 6 activities from PBS.

<http://libertyslegacy.com/educational-programs/super-citizen-3-5>

“Liberty’s Legacy” Super Citizen program for schools designed for 3rd-5th grades to help instill an appreciation for the United States, our freedoms, and the price paid by our veterans.

You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2V6BZjVbl64>

"New York—Statue of Liberty and Twin Towers" video shows how Lady Liberty could have seen the Twin Towers terrorist attack. Ferry boat ride and view from Lady Liberty. Music is in another language—kind of a techno-jazz. 6:20

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWe--leOjCQ&feature=related>

"Sept 11, 2011" video slide show with appropriate music, comments of people there, President Bush comments... 3:40

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=fvwp&v=gJbGm7GE1tA&NR=1>

"South Tower Falls, shot front of Trinity Church" —

Clip from the CameraPlanet 9/11 archive. Shows the South Tower falling, the dust/smoke cloud, people running, debris on the camera lens, going inside where the policeman says, "Get down! Get down! Everyone get down!" 1:55

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lKZqqSI9-s>

"September 11, 2001 — As It Happened — The South Tower Attack"

A collection of live news broadcasts with live footage, witnesses commenting...the most graphic view occurs around 6:29. This could scare young children. 8:54

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9jUEp_l7cE&feature=related

"The Man Who Saw It Coming" — predicting 9-11. Documentary on the man who prepared for 9-11 with evacuation drills...and saved countless lives after learning from the '93 ground bombing of the World Trade Center. 9:57

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMiqEUBux3o>

CNN-Ex-President George W. Bush's Post 9-11 Speech. (I took excerpts from this speech for the script.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7OCgMPX2mE>

"George W. Bush — 9-11 Bullhorn Speech" to Emergency Rescue Workers. You can hear the crowd cheering, "USA! USA! USA!" 2:03

