

Historical Fiction: Ground Zero

Grades: 7th – 9th
Day of Week: Monday
Time of Class: 9:00 am – 10:30 am ET
Length of Class: 10 weeks
Semester: Fall 2021

Tuition: \$250.00

High School Credit (9th): .5 English – Elective

Class Dates:

Week 1 – Week of August 29

Week 2 – Week of September 5

Week 3 – Week of September 12

Week 4 – Week of September 19

Mid-Semester Break – Jewish High Holidays

Note: ALL the Jewish Holidays fall during the week this year and the way they hit there is an extra-long mid-semester break. Teachers will be giving a long-term project for students to work on during this time.

Week 5 – Week of October 24

Week 6 – Week of October 31

Week 7 – Week of November 6

Week 8 – Week of November 14

Week 9 – Week of November 28

Week 10 – Week of December 5

Make-Up Week – Week of December 12

Instructor's Name: Eva Goldstein - Meola
Instructor's Email: eva@writingteacher.com
Instructor's Phone: 305-906-2853
Instructor's Whats App: 305-906-2853

Description of Class:

Two kids. One devastating day.

September 11, 2001. New York City. Nine-year-old Brandon goes to work with his dad on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere an airplane slam into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion that threatens everyone in the building. Can Brandon survive—and escape?

September 11, 2019. Afghanistan. Eleven-year-old Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help him—and put herself and her family in mortal danger?

Ground Zero delivers a pulse-pounding and unforgettable take on history and hope, revenge, and fear—and the stunning links between the past and present

Together, we will explore both literature and a contemporary history lesson with the uplifting message that humanity's survival depends on us working for, not against, one another.

Class Approach:

In literature circles, small groups of students gather to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' responses to what they have read. You may hear talk about events and characters in the book, the author's craft, or personal experiences related to the story. Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers. Finally, literature circles guide students to deeper understanding of what they read through structured discussion and extended written and artistic response.

This specific course is geared toward higher level thinking. Each literature circle role is directly connected to the 11 elements of critical thinking: big ideas, rules, trends, patterns, language of the discipline, ethics, relationships over time, details, unanswered questions, across disciplines and multiple perspectives.

The class will be a combination of reading comprehension, discussion, lecture, and projects.

BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE TOPIC, STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ AHEAD OF THE CLASS.

Textbook:

Ground Zero by Alan Gratz

https://www.amazon.com/Ground-Zero-Alan-Gratz/dp/0702306746/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

**** PLEASE DO NOT HAVE STUDENTS PRE-READ BOOK. ****

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

Microphone / Headset for Class Discussions

Either a two-pocket folder with paper, spiral notebook or three ring notebook. Student's choice.

Pencil / Pen

Colored Pencils / Markers / Crayons

Basic Art Supplies

Access to PowerPoint (if student chooses this option)

Requirements:

A sensitivity to other students and any emotions that may come out during the reading of the book as well as discussions.

Students are EXPECTED to participate in class discussions.

Weekly Homework:

Total homework time: approximately 1.5 - 2 hours weekly

Reading – Approximately 30 minutes weekly depending on the student's speed.

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Written Work: Approximately 60 minutes weekly

Homework Policy:

It is expected that students will keep up with the reading to be able to fully participate in class.

Grading Scale:

Exceeds Expectations

Meets Expectations

Not Yet

If parents would like a traditional letter grade, please notify the teacher by week two of the class.