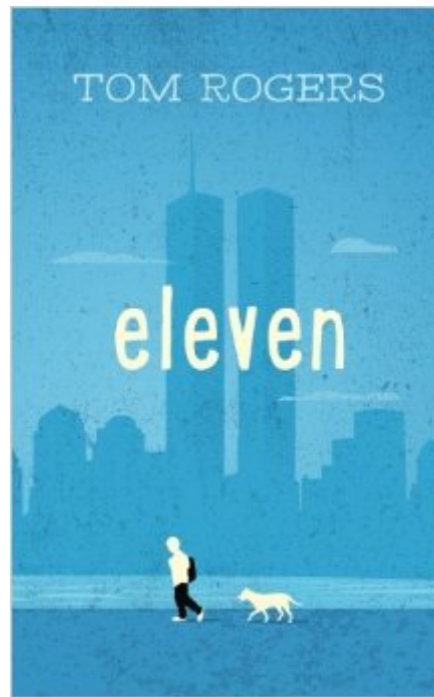


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# Eleven



## Synopsis

Alex Douglas always wanted to be a hero. But nothing heroic ever happened to Alex. Nothing, that is, until his eleventh birthday. When Alex rescues a stray dog as a birthday gift to himself, he doesn't think his life can get much better. Radar, his new dog, pretty much feels the same way. But this day has bigger things in store for both of them. This is a story about bullies and heroes. About tragedy and hope. About enemies with two legs and friends with four, and pesky little sisters and cranky old men, and an unexpected lesson in kindness delivered with a slice of pizza. This is *Eleven*: the journey of a boy turning eleven on 9/11. A best-seller at the 9/11 Memorial Museum, a Kirkus "Best Books" selection, and winner of *Writer's Digest* and *Moonbeam Children's Book Awards*.

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (52 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,866 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs #70 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States #318 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 6

## Customer Reviews

This book was recommended by a relative for my 15-year-old son. Though he is a bit old for the target audience, it was a great read for both of us. The main character is a boy turning 11 on 9/11, and the book weaves a story that allows the youth reader to become familiar with the events of 9/11 and the lessons we all learned that day. The author does a great job presenting compelling characters who come together at the end. It is a sweet, sad, memorable, very readable tale. As with many stories, the dog, Radar, steals the show. Don't pass this one up. The best book I've read in awhile, including the bestselling adult novels on the NYT list.

I read this for a teacher who wondered if I thought it would be appropriate as a read-aloud for her 4th grade class. Having finished it, I would say the author covered the destruction of the Twin Towers with a rare balance of accuracy and sensitivity. Experiencing that terrible day through the eyes of a very normal eleven year old created a book that told just enough of the heartache combined with some very realistic kid-centered action. Yes I would recommend this book to any youngster who wanted to know more about 9/11.

Full disclosure: I am not a young adult- not even close- but I was captivated by this book about a young boy turning eleven on 9/11. It's a fun, gripping, poignant journey and after reading it, I get choked up even looking at the cover. This book should be required reading in schools because it conveys much more than the history books ever will about what it might have felt like to be a child on this fateful day. I looked up the author and he has written many Disney movies, so you can be sure this book is suitable for children. However, it also worked for me on an adult level and stayed with me long after I put it down. Highly recommend.

This was forwarded to me as potential for a feature film, and while I didn't feel I was necessarily the right person to get involved, that takes nothing away from how much I loved the book. Thinking back to how I'd been influenced and molded as a kid by various books and short stories gave me two clear perspectives: first, if I'd read this as a kid, this would have been one of my favorites, right up there with Tom Sawyer and To Kill a Mockingbird and The Lion's Paw. Secondly, as my nieces and nephews reach the right age, I'll be giving it to them knowing that if I can get them started reading it, they'll be gripped and won't stop till they finish it. Then maybe they'll start reading books for fun all the time.

This is a touching, engrossing and extremely well-written book that tweens, teens and adults will enjoy. I picked this up when a friend recommended it, and I couldn't put it down. It has well-drawn characters, an emotional story and a great twist that gives it the perfect ending. In addition, this book is an excellent way to bring up the history and significance of the tragedy of 9/11. It is never heavy handed, or emotionally manipulative. A beautiful book.

My youngest son, a senior in high school, is among the last group of kids to have any recollection of the events of 9/11. Children in school now were either too young to remember the events of 9/11 or

they were not born yet. Eleven tells a realistic, accurate, and heartfelt story about a boy living in New Jersey on that day. I think that every child should read this book to get a true sense of the day that changed America.

Eleven has the components necessary for choosing a book for permanent curriculum status. The angel comments by Mr. Rogers in his dedication set the tone for this well written and intriguing book. The story unfolds on two levels, each very important to the understanding of 9/11. Students can understand the events of 9/11 through the father's experiences of the actual attack, the bravery of the first responders, and the aftermath. They can identify with Alex, the protagonist, as he copes with the changes in his life on that fateful day. I highly recommend this book to private and public schools as a required reading selection. Mary Ann Key

Eleven is one of those books that is a quick read because it holds your attention from the very beginning. Alex Douglas is almost eleven and he knows what he wants for his birthday. After all he has two things he loves. Planes and dogs. He isn't old enough to fly a plane yet, but his parents have talked to him about being more responsible before they will get him a dog. That is the only thing he wants. The night before his birthday he really blows things. He has argued with his mom and then he tells his dad he hates him. Could things get any worse? When he wakes up the next morning on September 11th he has no idea how bad things can get. He is sure he won't be getting a dog for his present. On the bus he becomes the target of the school bully. Shortly after school starts he is sent to pick up his sister from school and told to go to his mother's work. No one will tell him anything. He is told to go home and not to watch the TV. Alex had seen a stray dog on his way to school and then he sees him on his way home with his sister Nunu. He is sure this is meant to be his dog. Then he learns the terrible truth about event of the day. His father drives a PATH train that stops under the Twin Towers. His last words to his dad was "I hate you." He starts making deals. If he takes the dog back to his rightful owner, then his dad will come home safe. The strange thing is, he meets a man who lives next door to where the dog used to live. He too has been making deals in hopes his son will come home. I made it all the way to the end before I started crying. Mac, the old man and Alex for a bond that was not expected. They have a connection through the love of planes. This is a book that keeps you reading to see who will and who won't survive. I couldn't put the book down. The events were well researched and not too heavy for middle school students. I am proud to put this book on my shelves for my students.

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