



The day the world fell down

Children's views of the tragedy

More on 3D and 6D

You can knock down our towers.
You can try to take away our flag.
You can never take away our pride.
We the People stand united
against terrorism.
We will prevail.
I love my country.
Mrs. Bush, my prayers are with you
and the president.

— By JADE HAMELRYCK, 10, fourth grade,
Madeira Beach Elementary School

America:
F — is for Family.
R — is for the Rights we all have.
E — is for Education.
E — is for Equality.
D — is for Democracy.
O — is for Opportunity.
M — is for Me, I am an American.

— By STEVE SLAUGENHAUPT, 12,
Meadowlawn Middle School, St. Petersburg

Attack on America

An act so violent
That took peoples lives
If you watched TV
You could hear their cries.

Dust is everywhere
Fires are burning
As people look on
Their stomachs are turning

The sadness is heavy
The twin towers are gone
Our freedom's been challenged
What did the innocent do wrong?

When will we strike?
What happens next?
There's no doubt about it
We've been attacked.

America's stronger
Than this terrible act
We're on alert
There's no turning back.

— By CHELSEA KELLEY, 13,
Carrollwood Day School, Tampa

After the terrorist attacks I was confused
and curious. Why would a group of people
want to hurt our wonderful country? It has
been talked about a lot in school, home and



By CHRISTOPHER VALENTINE, 9, New Port Richey

outside. In class we expressed our feelings in
a journal. It is hard to imagine thousands and
thousands of innocent people dying. I am
scared we will go to war. I hope everything
clears up soon.

— By CLAIRE GOULD, 8, third grade,
McMullen-Booth Elementary School, Safety Harbor

Tragedy

Gleaming out on the big city.
Seeing people everywhere.
Watching as the taxis and trolleys stroll along
the busiest streets of America.
Sliding in your quarter and searching for well-
known landmarks through the binoculars.
Staring in disbelief as a plane flies toward you.
Standing frozen in the midst of the people.
Hearing screams and shouts.

Hearing loud cries from the children.
Reality hits you and you start to run.
You don't know where you are running.
Just running from the recent thoughts.
Finally thinking to run down the stairs.
Feeling like a bird as you fly down the stair-
wells of crowded, confused people.
Tears streaming down your face.
Scared to death but feeling so determined.
Reaching the ground and crying for joy.
Running from the building as fast as a
cheetah.
Turning around watching in despair as our
city's Twin Towers collapse in a heap.
Thinking of home and family and friends.
Sorrow felt in your heart as you think.
America at its worst.

— CHELSEY BORTE, seventh grade,
Bay Point Middle School, St. Petersburg

tiful country.
Eve, yeah, that's not me, but you know me, I
am cool like Eve.
Everyday life is good and enjoy it as I am
enjoying it too.
Oh my God, what's up? I can't believe it.
Memory is good to me. I never forget what
happens with me.
America is good to me. I love it so much like
you would not believe.
I am proud of being here in Tampa, like I am
doing the mamba in Tampa.
Conversation, yeah, that's me. I love to talk
with the United States.

— By GUSTAVO SALAZAR, 13, eighth grade,
Pierce Middle School, Tampa

Too much information. Too much horror. It
was like a bad dream, only worse. I went into



By MANNY CARMONA, 5, kindergarten
St. Paul Catholic School, St. Petersburg

my room and stayed there for a little while to
think and regain my thoughts.

When I returned, I kept my eyes on the
television. Soon the twin towers that had been
hit collapsed. One, then the other. "That's not
fair!" I said. "What about the people left inside?
The firefighters who went into the building? It
just isn't fair!"

Live reports and eyewitness accounts inter-
rupted each other for the latest terrifying
story. I saw clips of Palestinians partying in
the streets. I hated them. My anger was
burning inside of me until I thought I would
explode.

Ghosts of white soot limped across the
Brooklyn Bridge. Those poor people. They
had made it, but others had not. Many more
would die in the war that President Bush had
declared on Afghanistan.

I had heard of Afghanistan before. It was
near India. I had never considered having a
war with Afghanistan or any country before
that day.

It is very sad what happened. I hate war.
— MATTHEW A. PAGAN, 12, seventh grade,
home school, St. Petersburg

