



That Day

by Dana Susan Beasley



New York City Skyscrapers
by Sam Beasley, Age 8

A Free Verse Poem for Dramatic Reading, Poetry Writing
Activities, Literature Lessons, Bible Studies/Devotionals,
and Unit Studies for All Grades

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**I dedicate this book to the 9/11 victims,
the heroes that day that gave their lives so others
could live, and our wonderful troops who have kept us
safe all these years. I will never forget!**

That Day

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That Day

Introduction

Why remember a horrific day like September 11, 2001? And especially why teach about this day to our children?

Because to do otherwise would be a dishonor to the 3,000 souls who perished on that beautiful September morn, especially the firefighters and police who gave their lives so others could live! Then there's the surviving emergency workers, the volunteers that helped to clean up afterwards, and our wonderful troops who fought valiantly and successfully to ensure our safety on America's shores.

Besides, if we do not remember our history, we are doomed to repeat it. I want my son to be safe as I'm sure you want the same for your children.

Patriot Day is very important to me, even though I don't know anyone who personally died. I vividly remember where I was when I heard about planes crashing into the Twin Towers. I spent the whole week glued to the television, sad and angry and stunned at what I saw. At the time, one of my brothers, a United Airline pilot then, was stranded away from home. He would soon be furloughed as a result of the attacks. He had already experienced Osama Bin Laden's terrorism—he had been in the Kobalt Towers attack in Saudi Arabia back in the 90s. He knew first-hand what terrorism was and I never forgot his stories.

the tower and then we knew—
Attack! On America's shore!
A never thought-of weapon rained terror literally

In the streets of New York
And we held our breath, stunned.

Glued to the coverage, we
Wept as the towers imploded,
crumbling down
With a flame like a roaring dragon.
We wept as the towers tumbled, taking with
them 3000 of our fellow Americans,

Office worker

Executive

Secretary

Mother

Father

Son

Daughter

Brother

Sister

Brave firefighter

Dedicated police officer.

All gone in that horrid breath on that day.
In a flash of flame and rubble and fire.



Who could have guessed? Who could have
thought it?

19 fanatics willing to kill themselves
and 3000 others, for what?

Because they hated our dear-bought
freedoms,

Hated our nation, Hated.

That day kept playing out.

The plane struck the Pentagon,

United Flight 93, the bold passengers

Who refused to take terror sitting down,

And huddled like a football team, breaking
before a play: "Let's Roll!"

That day.

So long ago.

So many gone in an instant.

As this September morn rises with promise,

The clear blue sparkling skies warming our
faces,

Do we still remember?

Do we remember this day?

This Patriot Day?



That Day

Suggested Activities

1. Read poem aloud to your students using dramatic reading techniques. Or go to www.angelarts.biz for my poetry podcast. Click on gallery to access page.
2. Discuss free verse poetry and find other examples of poems in this genre.
3. Read the following Scripture passages as a devotional or Bible study:
1 Corinthians 13, 1 John 4:18.
4. In a discussion of the poem, have the students answer the following questions:

What is the poem urging readers to think about?

What is happening on that day?

What is the timeline of events on 9/11/2001?

What is the mood of the poem? What is the tone of the speaker's voice in the poem?

Where does the action take place?

Why does the speaker want to remember Patriot Day?

What is the speaker sad about?

What metaphors does the author use in this poem?

How do you feel when you read this poem?

What other details do you notice?

What are the key words in the poem?

Write or discuss what you don't understand in the poem.

What is the key thought of the poem?

How do you define a free verse poem?

What is the purpose of memorials?

What motivates the speaker to remember 9/11?

What motivates you to remember it?

Where is Jesus in the midst of these horrific events?

How does Jesus help us in times of fear?

To revise the poem, you can keep these techniques in mind:

Establish a pattern according to a fixed number of syllables for each line if you wish but this is not a requirement.

Start each line or end each line with a word that you would like to emphasize.

Try to think of words in the same line that begin with the same sounds.

What is the description like? What can it be compared to? Including these in the poem will make it a stronger poem.

Avoid “to be” verbs. Use action and try to use as few words as possible. Strong nouns and action verbs are best.

End the poem by writing a phrase that will surprise the reader.

Include emotion but always back up the emotion with concrete detail. In other words, “show, don’t tell.”

When writing comparisons, try not to use overused phrases or cliches. Be specific.

Write lines that have some sort of rhythm or pattern. Not necessarily iambic pentameter, but phrases which contains repetition, syllable uniformity, alliteration, or assonance. Free verse poetry does include variations of rhythms; loud and soft words, fast and slow. If you want excitement in your poem, use shorter words

and short syllables. If you want a peaceful poem, use longer words and longer syllables.

Have the students clearly convey their attitude about their subject of choice. What are their emotions about the historical event they have chosen to write about?

What is the mood of the poem?

Let your students be inventive with words. This is not a grammar lesson but a lesson in creativity.

What is the dramatic situation in the poem? Start the poem with tension and resolve it in the last few lines. Bring the reader to a satisfying conclusion.

Encourage the student to write their first line as a “hook.”
Something that will grab the interest of the reader.

10. Have your students keep a notebook of their experiences, especially observations they make about how people choose to remember or forget Patriot Day.

11. Bake some cookies for your local firefighter station. Bring it to them on 9/11, along with a card thanking them for their service to your community. Get your homeschool group involved and make it a field trip!

12. What is the history behind free verse poetry? How long has free