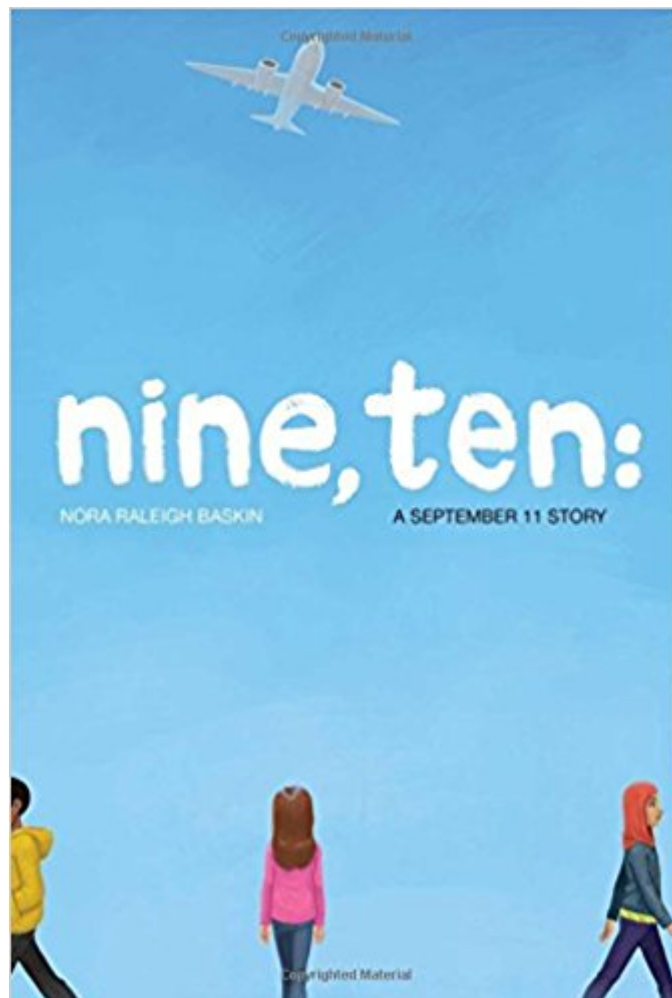


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# Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story



## Synopsis

From the critically acclaimed author of *Anything But Typical* comes a “tense and thought-provoking” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) look at the days leading up to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and how that day impacted the lives of four middle schoolers. Ask anyone: September 11, 2001, was serene and lovely, a perfect day—until a plane struck the World Trade Center. But right now it is a few days earlier, and four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. Sergio, who lives in Brooklyn, is struggling to come to terms with the absentee father he hates and the grandmother he loves. Will’s father is gone, too, killed in a car accident that has left the family reeling. Naheed has never before felt uncomfortable about being Muslim, but at her new school she’s getting funny looks because of the head scarf she wears. Aimee is starting a new school in a new city and missing her mom, who has to fly to New York on business. These four don’t know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they never could have imagined. Award-winning author Nora Raleigh Baskin weaves together their stories into an unforgettable novel about that seemingly perfect September day—the day our world changed forever.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 61 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,365 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children’s Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #32 in Books >

Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States #40 in Books >

Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4—6 • Four children from different parts of America go about their lives just days

before the events of 9/11. Nadira is a Muslim girl struggling to balance her commitment to religious customs with her desire to fit in with the public school culture of Columbus, OH. Sergio lives in a low-income area with his grandmother in Brooklyn. Aimee is at home in California, missing her mother, who is on a business trip to New York City. Finally, there's Will in Pennsylvania, who has recently lost his father. The novel slowly follows the children through their days, failing to ever build any kind of page-turning tension. When the events of September 11, 2001, do occur, Baskin successfully depicts the reality from the perspective of the four protagonists. This is the story's greatest strength. Because of the sensitivity of the topic and the lack of a baseline understanding among most students, this book is best used as an in-class, facilitated read. Jewel Parker Rhodes's recent novel, *Towers Falling*, is a more engaging title that serves a similar purpose. VERDICT Not highly recommended, because of the novel's sluggish pace, lack of engaging story line, and contrived ending. —Pilar Okeson, Washington D.C. Public Library --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

\* —“Readers will have different reactions to the work depending on their ages and how much prior knowledge they bring to it. . . children may gain a small sense of the magnitude of the changes that day wrought on our world. Tense, disturbing, and thought-provoking.” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) \* —“A powerful account of how the events changed lives. . . . There are no graphic displays of violence; Baskin focuses on how her characters emerge wiser, worldlier, and more sensitive to others.” —,ç pain after surviving a profound and tragic piece of history. — (Publishers Weekly, starred review) —“Baskin’s novel reminds readers that our lives are interconnected in ways we might never understand; by focusing on four young characters, she underscores the effects September 11 had on those involved and those bearing witness . . . a gentle introduction to a difficult topic for young readers, many of whom will be too young to remember the events firsthand.” (Booklist) “Baskin creates sharply defined, emotionally compelling characters in a few elegant words . . . Daringly, Baskin saves the events of 9/11 for the last act, effectively ending her book with its inciting event. . . . Though some might wonder if a calm and bloodless novel about 9/11 misses the point, its poise allows . . . Nine, Ten . . . to honor the emotional distance many kids today feel from the tragedy.” (The New York Times Book Review)

My heart is still in my throat minutes after finishing this beautiful story. I found myself close to tears many times throughout the book. It's amazing that after 15 years, this event can still evoke an

immediate feeling of fear, tears, and sorrow for our country and the people that were alive during that time. Things will never be as we knew it pre 9/11. Children born after 9/11 will never know anything different. I loved how Nora wove the story through the eyes of four different children in the United States that were not directly involved in the terroristic act. I especially liked that none of the children experienced loss of life in their own world. The themes that students will encounter (terrorism, fear, prejudice, and healing) are very appropriate for the middle grade child (4th - 8th grade). Thank you for this beautiful book. I can't wait for school to start so that I can introduce it to my library students. BRAVO NORA RALEIGH BASKIN!!

We all know that the ripple effects of 9/11 touched people all across America. But with her customary grace, empathy, and beautiful, unforced writing style, Nora Raleigh Baskin shows us what that means, exactly, in this ingenious novel that follows four groups of very different kids before and after the fateful day: a Muslim girl in Columbus, Ohio, struggling to deal with her hijab; an African-American boy in Brooklyn who meets and befriends a local firefighter, one of the first responders; a Jewish girl in L.A. whose mother is on a business trip to a firm in the Twin Towers; and a recently orphaned boy in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where the third plane would fall. It's a gentle book despite the background of destruction and mass death, because no one from any of these close-ups dies. Esp good for Grades 4-7.

15 years after that beautifully blue day, several fantastic authors have penned novels exploring Sept. 11. This amazing book by Baskin introduces us to 4 children and the varied lives they lived as Americans in the 48 hours leading up to the day that would change us all forever. For those readers who know a lot about the events of Sept. 11th the foreshadowing and references will grip you. For those readers who know very little about 9/11 this book will provide a context for the human story beyond the headlines and facts. Baskin is careful when she considers her audience and doesn't overwhelm them with horrific details, but she shines a light on the tragedy and the implications for Americans as the world around us changed on that day. Read this book. Share this story. Learn from our history.

Whenever one tackles a 9/11 narrative, it is so easy to come off as exploitive or insensitive. Nora Raleigh Baskin has avoided both of those pitfalls with ease. Her powerful, moving book not only brings us amazing characters that leave us wanting more; it also makes us look inward as we see pieces of ourselves in them. Younger readers cannot remember or do not know of a world before

9/11. This wonderful book gives us a glimpse back to those days right before and leaves us in the aftermath but with a message of hope, love and healing. Best not to start it unless you have time to finish as you'll immediately care about these characters and worry for them as events start to unfold.

Nine, Ten is a timely novel portraying the days leading up to and following 9-11. Told through the eyes of four teenagers, this poignant tale is a wonderful way to teach today's youth about a day in history that they will never experience (we hope) as the rest of us did. Today's students will easily relate to these characters, and they will see hope through unity by the end of the book. A quick read, and definitely a five-star book!

I got this for my 12 year old daughter - she loves it! The book was recommended by her language arts school teacher.

Nora Raleigh Baskin does it again! She writes about a time in our history in such a loving, age-appropriate way. Four middle school children are going about their lives the days before 9/11. Nora developed each character in a way that makes the reader connect with, and feel for them. While describing the morning of 9/11, she reveals how each of the four children were connected to, or found out about, the events of that day. Nora provides the perfect amount of detail to let the reader understand the emotions that we all felt that day without making it too mature for a middle grade reader. I cried while reading the ending, and they were happy tears. I recommend the book for fourth grade and up. If you are in any way hesitant about the content of this book JUST READ IT, and you will understand why it is so appropriate for children!

My daughter saw this along with a few other books about 9/11 in Barnes and Noble a few months back. After reading the backs of all of them, this one seemed like the best fit for her. Explains things from a few different perspectives of kids that day.

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and the Battle of Arnhem, September 1944 Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice: Current Issues in Cardiology, September 2004, 34:5 (Veterinary Clinics of North America, 34:5 September 2004) Ten, Nine, Eight Board Book (Caldecott Collection) Ten Hot Tales of First Lesbian Sex: Lesbian Exploration in Sexy Situations. Ten Explicit Lesbian Erotica Stories Ten Years Younger: The Amazing Ten Week Plan to Look Better, Feel Better, and Turn Back the Clock Posture, Get It Straight! Look Ten Years Younger, Ten Pounds Thinner and Feel Better Than Ever Ten Thousand Joys & Ten Thousand Sorrows: A Couple's Journey Through Alzheimer's Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes padded board book Take Ten II: More Ten-Minute Plays A More Perfect Ten: Writing and Producing the Ten-Minute Play Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes The Dealmaker's Ten Commandments: Ten Essential Tools for Business Forged in the Trenches of Hollywood The Ten-Year Turnaround: Transform Your Personal Finances and Achieve Financial Freedom in The Next Ten Years (Wealth Building Series) How God Makes Men: Ten Epic Stories. Ten Proven Principles. One Huge Promise for Your Life. ElsÄŕsser KÄŕche: Die schÄŕnsten SpezialitÄŕten aus dem Elsass (SpezialitÄŕten aus der Region) (German Edition) Gypsy Wedding Dreams: Ten dresses. Ten Dreams. All the secrets revealed.

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