

# The VOICE

A Newsletter of the

National Writing Project

NWP

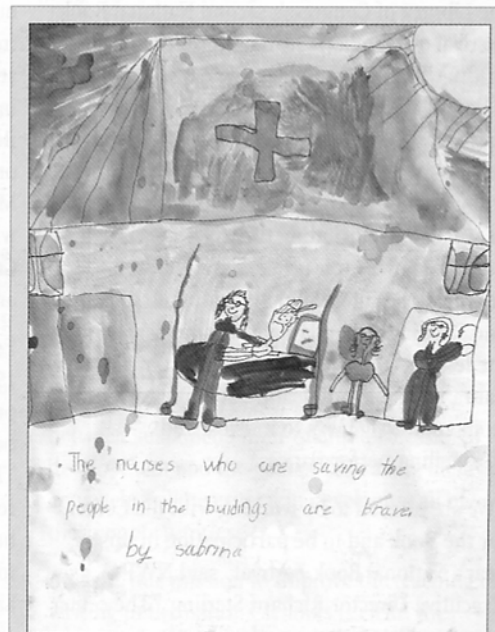
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## Remembering September 11

After the September 11 attacks, editors of *The Voice* began collecting writing from National Writing Project teachers, classrooms, and the extended community as a way to remember those events and reflect on how students and teachers across the nation struggled to come to terms with them. What is striking in the montage of responses in this special “Remembering September 11” section is the powerful sense of purpose that informs every piece, the authenticity of voice, and the sense of community created for the reader. The attacks and subsequent events have brought new relevance to the act of writing in American classrooms. Teachers and students found through their writing a way to summon courage and create meaning and community.

Each of the responses collected here embodies an act of courage, not unlike those commemorated by Dawn Imamoto’s California second-graders in their illustrated book, *Some People Are Brave*. But these commemorations of September 11 also highlight what students can learn from seeing writing as a social act that can have broad impact. So the Florida seventh-grader in teacher Michael Taylor’s classroom discovered when she was asked to read her essay for a segment of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. And Maryland teacher Rus VanWestervelt launched his statewide Project 9/11 because he “couldn’t stand the thought of adults and children . . . never getting the chance to let others know how they experienced this tragedy.” His story underscores the value of what NWP site director Sarah Robbins describes in her editorial “Writing to Build Community in a Time of Stress.”

September 11 raised complex issues for students and teachers alike. And, as NWP Executive Director Richard Sterling pointed out in his column in the November-December 2001 issue of *The Voice*, teachers would play an important role in addressing those issues. All of this is reflected in the writings presented in this special section, beginning on page 8.



A page from the book *Some People Are Brave*, produced by teacher Dawn Imamoto’s second grade students in response to September 11. In this piece, a student celebrates the brave nurses, writing “The nurses who are saving the people in the buildings are brave.”