***Eleven***

By Tom Rogers

Directions: Look at the questions for each meeting. Pay attention to the number of questions you are being asked to answer! Answer all questions in your CLOSE READING NOTEBOOK! Label your questions with the meeting number and the date. These answers must be in full sentences and must be done thoughtfully to get credit for this work. (May Do: You can answer more questions than what is required for extra credit!)

**Meeting 1 (Chapters 1 and 2 – Due Friday, January 11th)**

Directions: Choose FOUR questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. Why might it be important that the book start with a plane simulation?
2. Explain the importance of the author’s use of the phrase “the ultimate sacrifice” in chapter 1.
3. Why does “A-Dawg” believe he is “about to be a hero” in chapter 1?
4. What do we better understand about chapter 1 at the beginning of chapter 2?
5. Why would Alex practice his emotions in front of his mirror?
6. Why do you think Alex and Nunu have to share a room?
7. What does the story about Lolly tell us about Alex?
8. Does Alex deserve a dog? Explain your answer.

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**Meeting 2 (Chapters 3, 4, and 5 – Due Monday, January 14th)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. Does Alex regret that he said “I hate you” or does he simply hope his father didn’t hear him?
2. Why do you think the author includes the time at the beginning of each chapter?
3. We learn a little more about how close Alex is to New York City and his dad’s job in chapter 4. How might this be foreshadowing?
4. How is it possible that a kid like Jordan “never got caught”?
5. Why do you think Jordan acts like he does?
6. Why do you think the author waited until the beginning of chapter 5 to reveal the date?
7. Why might the school be closing early? How does the school’s location impact that decision?

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**Meeting 3 (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 – Due Thursday, January 17th)**

Directions: Choose FOUR questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. How does point of view change in chapter 6?
2. Make a prediction – Who is the Man in the White Shirt? Why do you think this?
3. Why is Alex’s mom’s hand shaking in chapter 7?
4. Why does Alex’s mom tell him not to watch TV?
5. Why might the Man in the White Shirt think this is an accident in chapter 8? Why does he change his mind?
6. How does hearing about the experience of being at the World Trade Center from a human perspective compare to learning about it on the news?
7. In what way is the baseball game in chapter 12 a turning point in the story?
8. Why does the author use the word “refugee” to describe the people in the streets in chapter 13?
9. What does Alex mean by saying there was a “hole in the sky” in chapter 13?

**Meeting 4 (Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 – Due Friday, January 18th)**

Directions: Choose FOUR questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. Chapter 14 is called “Terror,” but the first word is “safe.” Why might the author do this?
2. Why won’t Alex tell his mother that he loves her? Would this change if he knew what was going on?
3. Describe chapter 15. What is the purpose of including a chapter like this?
4. What does the man’s willingness to help (in chapter 16) tell the readers about his character?
5. What important events occur in chapter 17? How might this change the rest of the story?
6. What do you think about Alex’s questions in chapter 18?

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**Meeting 5 (Chapters 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 – Due Friday, January 25th)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. A new character is introduced in chapter 19. Why would the author do this so late in the book?
2. Why does Alex start to feel lonely in this section?
3. How do you think Alex felt seeing the Manhattan skyline?
4. Why does Alex replay the conversation that he had with his father?
5. Why does Alex think giving up Radar will bring his father home safely?
6. How are Alex and Mac similar? How are they different?
7. Why won’t Alex explain what is happening to Nunu?
8. What clues is the reader given in chapter 24?
9. How are the different perspectives starting to come together?

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**Meeting 6 (Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 – Due Monday, January 28th)**

Directions: Choose FOUR questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. Why does the billboard for the airline bother Alex?
2. What do you think about the use of the words “survivor” and “refugee” in chapter 25?
3. What is the purpose of including the dove in chapter 26?
4. Why might chapter 27 be important later in the story?
5. Why are there no “victims” in the hospital? What does this tell us about the attack?
6. Why haven’t Alex and Nunu gone home yet? Do you think they should have listened to their mother in the first place? Explain.

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**Meeting 7 (Chapters 31, 32, 33, and 34 – Due Thursday, January 31st)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. Why did the author include the broadcast dialogue in chapter 31?
2. Do you think it’s important for Alex to wonder WHY this has happened? What sort of conclusion does he come to?
3. What does Dottie mean on page 142?
4. Is Alex right when he says that “everything change”?
5. People often mention that it was a nice day out on the day of the attacks? Why?
6. Why might it be eerie to have no planes in the air?
7. What hints are given in chapter 34 about the identity of the Man in the White Shirt?

**Meeting 8 (Chapters 35, 36, and 37 – Due Friday, February 1st)**

Directions: Answer ALL FIVE questions in your close reading notebook.

1. Why do you think people are acting kinder than usual?
2. How would you describe Calvin? Why won’t Calvin leave Jordan?
3. How do you think Alex felt when he came home and no one was there?
4. How has Alex’s behavior changed since the beginning of the book? Is he more responsible? Explain.
5. In what ways is Alex “rising to the challenge”?

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**Meeting 9 (Chapters 38, 39, and 40 – Due Monday, February 4th)**

Directions: Choose FIVE questions from those listed below to answer in your close reading notebook.

1. What emotions do you experience in chapter 38?
2. Why do you think Dottie starts asking so many questions?
3. Why is chapter 39 called “Vigil”?
4. Why does the author choose to go back and forth between points of view in chapter 39? What effect does it have?
5. Why does Alex decorate the house?
6. Has Alex proven to his parents that he is responsible enough for Radar?
7. In your opinion, what would be worse – waiting and not knowing (like Mac was) or knowing your loved one would never come home?
8. Picture the two candles on the piece of cake at Mac’s. What could that symbolize?

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**Meeting 10 (Entire Book Discussion – Due Thursday, February 7th)**

Directions: Answer ALL FIVE questions in your close reading notebook.

1. What is one possible theme of *Eleven*? Why do you think that could be the theme?
2. How did Alex change throughout the story? Why do you think he changed?
3. Explain how the structure of the book (the chapters from multiple points of view) added to the story? Why was it important?
4. Did you like the ending of *Eleven*? Explain your answer.
5. On a scale of 1 through 5, what would you rate *Eleven* as? Why would you give it this rating?