

# Ground Zero

6th Grade Summer Reading

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ground Zero Part 1 (Chapters 1-4)

1. Why wasn't Brandon in school?  
A. He had a broken arm.      B. He was suspended.  
C. He didn't like his teacher.      D. He wanted to be homeschooled.
2. What job does Brandon's dad have? (Kitchen manager)  
A. Office manager      B. Janitor  
C. Stock broker      D. Kitchen manager
3. What is Windows on the World?  
A. A restaurant      B. A book  
C. A tour      D. A song
4. Where does Reshmina live?  
A. Pakistan      B. Colorado, USA  
C. Israel      D. Afghanistan
5. Why does Brandon leave the restaurant?  
A. To find a restroom      B. To buy his dad a birthday gift  
C. To go to the mall      D. To meet up with a friend
6. Why were American soldiers in Reshmina's village?  
A. They were looking for food.      B. They were looking for Reshmina's father.  
C. They were looking for weapons.      D. They were looking for an American soldier.
7. Why is Reshmina surprised at the translator?  
A. The translator has an accent.      B. The translator is a woman.  
C. The translator is tall.      D. The translator speaks German.
8. Why did the Taliban start the rumor about the village?  
A. They hated Reshmina's village.      B. They wanted to attack the village.  
C. They wanted to cause riots.      D. They wanted to attack the Americans.
9. What language is Reshmina learning?  
A. English      B. Farsi  
C. German      D. French
10. Brandon gets upset when his Dad calls him a bully. What does his dad tell Brandon?

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11. Brandon describes "feeling" the silence. Have you ever "felt" silence before?

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12. How has war effected Reshmina's family?

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## Ground Zero Part 2 (Chapters 5-8)

1. Why does Brandon go on the elevator?

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2. Why does Brandon wrap a cloth napkin around his head?

- A. It is fashionable.    B. He is trying to hide.  
C. It filters smoke.    D. He is trying to impress his father.

3. Why is Brandon trapped on the 85th floor?

- A. There is too much smoke.    B. There are no exits until the 78th floor.  
C. A fire started on the 84th floor.    D. All of these

4. What is badal?

- A. Revenge    B. Love  
C. History    D. Prayers

5. Why did Brandon need an ax?

- A. To enter the fire escape    D. To break a window  
C. To break the drywall    D. To chop down wood

6. Why does Brandon decide to go up the tower?

- A. To get a phone signal.    B. To call for help  
C. To find his dad    D. To jump off the tower

7. What does Reshmina's grandma, Anaa, explain to her about her mom?

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8. Reshmina is not allowed to touch a man who is not a relative. How does she help the wounded American soldier?

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9. How does Pagoon react to seeing Taz?

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10. Reshmina runs to stop her brother from what?

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11. Brandon and Reshmina are faced with many different choices. Sometimes, there is no direct "right" or "wrong" answer. Describe one of these choices.

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## Ground Zero Part 3 (Chapters 9-12)

1. Why does Brandon feel he has continually let the "team" of him and his father down?

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2. What are some things that Reshmina thinks of on her way to find Pason?

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3. Why couldn't the helicopter help Brandon?

4. Both Brandon and Reshmina's chapters end on a cliffhanger. Who do you think rescued Brandon?

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5. How does Pason respond to Reshmina falling off the cliff?

A. He laughs

B. He runs away

C. He tries to help her

D. He pushes her

6. How do you think Reshmina will survive the American machine gun and the cliff?

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7. Brandon believes that skateboarders "learn how to fall." What does this mean?

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8. Describe a time when you had to "fall" - figuratively or literally - and had to persevere.

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## Ground Zero Part 4 (Chapters 13-16)

1. What do the Kochi people live without?

A. Homes

B. Rugs

C. Camels

D. Wood

2. Why did the Americans shut down the logging camp?

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3. Describe the Kochi people's lifestyle.

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4. What happens when the woman on the elevator runs through the blue flames?

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5. How does Reshmina stop Pashoon from running off?

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6. What was happening on the day Hila died?

A. Her 18th birthday

B. She was getting married.

C. Reshmina was at school.

D. Reshmina's parents were arguing.

7. Why does Pashoon want to join the Taliban?

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8. Many people are dying around Brandon. How does he react?

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## Ground Zero Part 5 (Chapters 17-20)

1. What happened to Richard when he was nine, the same age as Brandon?  
A. He skipped a grade.      B. His father died in Vietnam  
C. He got braces.      D. He flew to New York for the first time.
2. Which office do Brandon and Richard go in to?  
A. Cosmos Services      B. Window of the Worlds  
C. Cantor Fitzgerald      D. McDonalds
3. Who is Daphne?  
A. Richard's wife      B. Brandon's mom  
C. Anson's guide dog      D. The burned woman
4. What does Reshmina find in the hidden cave?  
A. Weapons      B. Medical supplies  
C. Books      D. Shoes
5. What causes a fire to break out in the cave?  
A. Pason fires a gun.      B. Reshmina drops a lighter.  
C. The Taliban drops a match.      D. Reshmina drops the lantern.
6. Who does Brandon call on the phone in Richard's office?  
A. His dad      B. Cedric  
C. Pason      D. His teacher
7. While Brandon is talking on the phone, what happens?  
A. Daphne runs away.      B. A fire breaks out in the office  
C. Anson faints      D. Another plane hits the south towers
8. Why does Pason start shooting into the empty camp?  
A. To warn his father      B. To scare Reshmina  
C. To call the Taliban      D. To signal Brandon
9. What does Pason do to Reshmina that surprises and shocks her?  
A. Hits her      B. Kisses her cheek  
C. Puts down the rifle      D. Twists her arm
10. After hearing Richard's story about forgetting his father's death, Brandon says that he doesn't want to forget what he has just witnessed in the elevator. Why do you think he says this?  
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11. What does Reshmina mean when she says she has lost her brother?  
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## Ground Zero Part 6 (Chapters 21-24)

1. What tragic event happened at the World Trade Center in 1993?  
A. A bombing                      B. An earthquake  
C. Everyone fainted              D. The power went out
2. Why were people in the sky lobby calling out numbers?  
A. They were favorite numbers      B. They were important dates  
C. They were saying their ages      D. They were connecting with others on the same floor
3. What plant was often used by people in Reshmina's village to make heroin that helped them forget painful memories?  
A. Poison ivy                      B. Poppies  
C. Roses                              D. Maple trees
4. What conditions made it hard for farmers in Afghanistan to grow regular food crops?  
A. Swampy land                      B. Lack of available land  
C. The mountain atmosphere      D. The hot and dry climate
5. Who does Reshmina see while walking through the poppy field?  
A. A soldier                        B. Pason  
C. Taz                                D. Brandon
6. What caused the great crash that Richard and Brandon heard?  
A. Another plane hit the building      B. An elevator crashed down  
C. An explosion                      D. A window broke
7. Who tells Brandon to "get out of this building and survive and do something worth living for?"  
A. His dad                        B. Richard  
C. Anson                            D. Esther
8. What did Reshmina do to distract the soldier?  
A. She coughed loudly.              B. She yelled for Pason.  
C. She crawled into a hidden cave.      D. She threw a rock in the opposite direction.
9. What did the sighting of the snow leopard symbolize to Reshmina?  
A. Fear of the future              B. Anxiousness  
C. Strength and solidarity      D. Compassion
11. Have you ever experienced loss or grief? What are some things that helped you?

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12. Why do you think Reshmina started sobbing after escaping from the soldier in the poppy field?

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## Ground Zero Part 7 (Chapters 25-28)

1. Why were discarded shoes, laptops, and other items on the stairs?  
A. People going down had left them.      B. Looters had raided the floors.  
C. Angry people had thrown them.      D. Firefighters were using them as stair markers.
2. What caused the people on the stairs to start cheering?  
A. They saw rescue helicopters.      B. Firefighters appeared.  
C. A TV crew showed up.      D. The elevators began working again.
3. Who was at Reshmina's home when she arrived?  
A. Her best friend      B. Paoon  
C. The Taliban      D. Two Afghan men with rifles
4. Where does Reshmina suggest they flee to?  
A. Kabul      B. The caves  
C. America      D. Both A and B
5. What did the rocket hit and subsequently explode?  
A. The community center      B. The school  
C. Reshmina's home      D. The hospital
6. What did Brandon see when he got to the lobby of the plaza?  
A. His dad      B. Working computers and phones  
C. A bustling restaurant      D. Hundreds of injured people being treated by paramedics
7. Why were the police directing people to the basement stairs instead of directly out of the building?  
A. The route was faster.      B. Paramedics would be able to meet them in the basement.  
C. There was falling debris.      D. They were trying to trap people inside.
8. Why did Reshmina pause to look back after the explosion?  
A. She was tired.      B. She realized her home had been destroyed.  
C. She realized Taz was in the house.      D. She saw Paoon among the Taliban fighters.
9. What white, blue, and brown thing did Brandon see falling through the sky?  
A. A child's toy      B. A body  
C. A wheelbarrow      D. A dog
10. How did Richard and Brandon accidentally get separated?  
A. The stairs were too crowded.      B. Richard tried a different route.  
C. Policemen picked up Brandon.      D. Brandon decided to take the elevator.
11. Why does Reshmina say she "shouldn't have been surprised that her brother had joined the Taliban...all the boys did eventually?"

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## Ground Zero Part 8 (Chapters 29-32)

1. Why were Brandon's clothes soaked almost as soon as he entered the underground mall?  
A. Heavy rain was coming in ceiling cracks.      B. The fire sprinklers had gone off  
C. People were spraying water at the walls      D. The pipes had burst
2. While Brandon and Richard are walking through the mall, what sudden noise do they hear?  
A. A rumbling      B. Another explosion  
C. Screams      D. Loud music
3. Why did a man warn the people in the cave to be careful with the discarded electronics and weapons?  
A. He didn't want the Taliban to hear them.      B. They would need those weapons later.  
C. He didn't want anything to explode in the cave.      D. He was trying to keep everyone calm.
4. Who became frightened of the dark while the townspeople hid in the cave?  
A. Richard      B. Brandon  
C. Pason      D. Taz
5. What happened after a bomb hit right on top of the cave?  
A. The Taliban rushed in.      B. The ceiling caved in.  
C. A plane came into view.      D. Pason yelled loudly.
6. What does Brandon notice as soon as he wakes up after the implosion?  
A. The air smells bad.      B. He is blind.  
C. He can't hear.      D. Another plane has crashed.
7. What was floating in the water near Brandon?  
A. A plastic hot dog      B. A Spiderman comic book  
C. a phone      D. A set of toy Wolverine claws
8. What did Gayle, Pratik, and Brandon hear in the pitch darkness?  
A. A siren      B. Screaming  
C. Singing      D. A phone ringing
9. Who was singing *Momardene Afghane* in the darkness of the cave?  
A. Grandmother      B. Zahir  
C. Pratik      D. Pason
10. When Brandon sees the mall, he describes it as "incredibly garish." Why does he suddenly see the lights as "too bright" and the music as "too happy?"  
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11. Taz says he is scared of the dark. Everyone has fears. What are some things that you are scared of?  
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## Ground Zero Part 9 (Chapters 33-38)

1. How does Brandon know they are going the wrong way when he is reminded of bananas and pink grapefruit?

A. The sounds

B. The sights

C. The smells

D. The feel

2. What is a shrine?

A. A prayer

B. A memorial

C. A gun

D. A type of country

3. What stuffed animal does Richard tell Brandon to keep?

A. Tasmanian Devil

B. Mickey Mouse

C. Daffy Duck

D. Oswald the Lucky Rabbit

4. What major American historical event was Reshmina surprised about?

A. Pearl Harbor attacks

B. Obama's inauguration

C. September 11 attacks

D. The Louisiana Purchase

5. Who adopted Taz after his father died?

A. Brandon

B. Daphne

C. Reshmina

D. Richard

6. What felt different about Manhattan when Brandon and the others exited the Twin Towers?

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7. What does "We're here because we're here" mean to Taz?

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8. What was the most memorable part of *Ground Zero*, in your opinion?

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9. Do you think the title *Ground Zero* fits well? What other name do you think would fit the story?

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10. Author Alan Gratz researched the attacks extensively while writing this story. Did you learn anything about the September 11 attacks?

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