2026 All-School Read

The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland
By Jim DeFede

On September 11th, 2001, the world changed forever. As a result of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, DC, 38 planes were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland. The residents of this small town were faced with unprecedented - and very unexpected - challenges. *The Day the World Came to Town* tells the story of the remarkable days that followed these tragic events and the way ordinary people, far from the sites of disaster, responded to these challenges.

Please consider the following questions as you read this wonderful story.

1. Which people were most memorable for you? Why? In what ways could you identify with certain characters?
2. What traits did the "newfies" exhibit that might reflect the values of St. Sebastian's? How might our community compare to the community of Gander and the surrounding towns?
3. What were the biggest problems faced by both the passengers and the residents? How were these problems solved?
4. If you had been stranded in a situation like the one presented in the book, how might you react? What would be most difficult for you?
5. How did the people from the planes change during their time in Gander? How did the residents of Gander change?
6. Have you ever experienced unexpected kindness from a stranger? How did it affect you?
7. What is the main idea of this book? What impact did it have on you?