

Canadian Heroes

Grades 5-8

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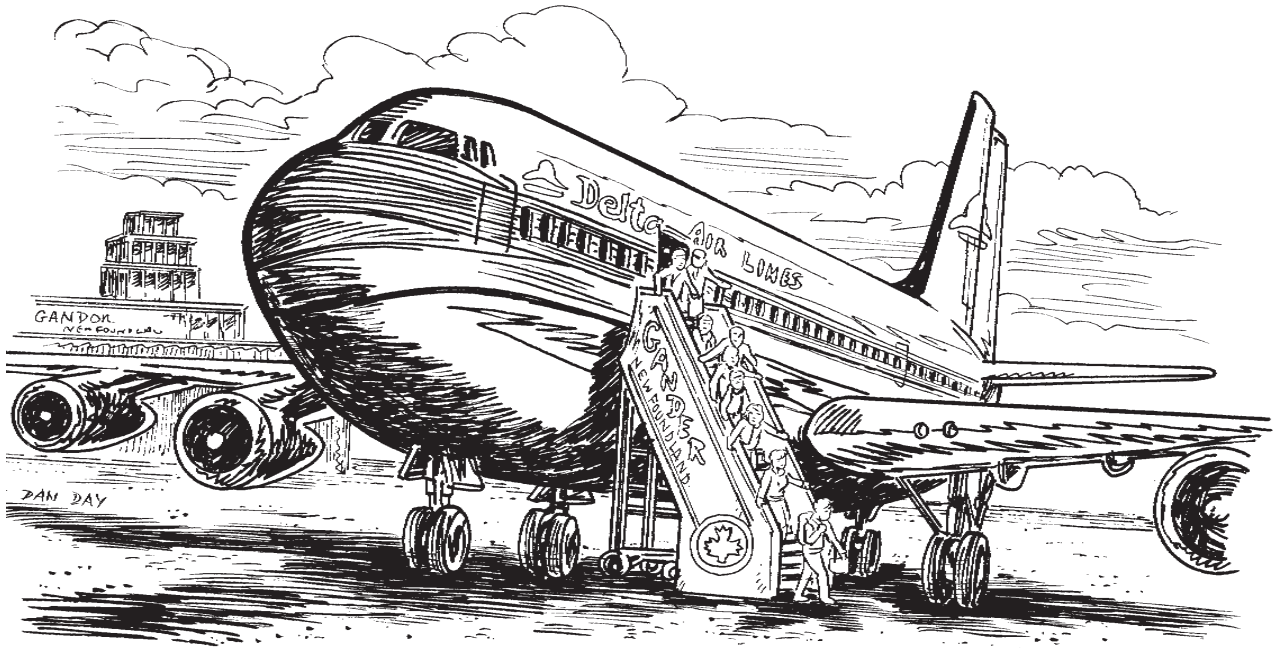
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On September 11, 2001, a terrible series of events took place in the United States. Men wishing to attack America hijacked four airliners and crashed them into buildings in New York and Washington. Thousands of people were killed and ordinary people around the world were horrified. It seemed more like something from a movie rather than real life. (1)

Every day thousands of planes carry thousands of people into, out of, and around the United States. When authorities learned of these hijackings, they ordered all airliners to head for the nearest airport and land as they feared that many planes may have been hijacked. Many of the airplanes coming from Europe landed in Canada. This story is about one of those places in Canada used for an emergency landing stop. (2)

Gander is a town of about 10,500 people in the north central section of the province of Newfoundland. It has an airport that once was used as a refueling spot for many overseas

flights, but it is not as important anymore. On September 11, 2001, over 50 planes landed at Gander bringing more than 10,000 people, which is about as many as live in the town. We do not know the stories of all the planes and people, but we do know the story of one Delta Airlines flight. It is probably very close to the experiences of most other flights and people. (3)

Delta Flight 15 was going from Frankfurt, Germany, to the United States. About five hours out of Frankfurt, the flight crew received a message that all airports in the United States were closed and that they should land at the nearest airport. Gander was the closest. Permission was asked of the Canadian air controllers, and was quickly given. At this time the crew of the airplane learned about the attacks in New York, but didn't tell the passengers. They said that there were instrument problems. Forty minutes later the plane landed in Gander. There were already 20 other planes scattered around the airport. After the plane landed, the captain told the



passengers about the attacks. The passengers were shocked and many were terrified. (4)

It was approximately 12:30 pm Gander time. No one was allowed off the planes nor was anyone allowed on. People were trying to use their cell phones but were unable to make connections with the United States. In the next short while there were 53 planes at Gander airport, of which 27 were U.S. planes. They were told that every plane would be unloaded one at a time, and the Delta flight would be number 14 among the U.S. planes. The passengers eventually learned that the World Trade Center in New York had collapsed. They were confused, upset, and emotionally exhausted. The Canadian authorities said that they would be taken off the plane at 11:00 am the next morning. You can imagine how the passengers felt stuck in a foreign country, not knowing what was happening at home and not knowing when they would get home. (5)

The next morning a convoy of school buses arrived at the airplane and the passengers were taken to the terminal, while the crew was taken to a different section to go through immigration and then register with the Red Cross. The passengers were told that all the high schools, meeting halls, lodges, and other large gathering places had been taken over in order that passengers would have a place to stay. This applied to all places within a 75 kilometre radius of Gander. All high school students in the area were required to look after someone. The 218 passengers of Delta 15 were taken to Lewisporte, about 45 kilometres from Gander. The elderly passengers were put up in private houses, while one young lady who was pregnant stayed in a house right across the street from a 24 hour urgent care facility.

There were both male and female nurses available. Phone calls and e-mails, once a day, were also provided so that people could keep in touch with their families. (6)

Excursions to local historical sights, local forests, and cruises were made available for those who wanted something to do. For those who stayed in the local school, food was cooked by the residents of Lewisporte and brought to them. Others were driven to restaurants if they wished. Passengers were given tokens to laundromats to wash their clothes because their luggage was still on the airplane. (7)

The passengers were delivered back to the airport right on time when it was time to go home. They were now like one big family, swapping stories, exchanging addresses. They had become friends. (8)

The passengers of Delta 15 were flown to Atlanta and it was, according to the crew, like a big party. One passenger spoke over the PA and recalled what they had been through. He asked the passengers if they would like to contribute to a collection to thank the people of Lewisporte. He said the money would be used to set up a trust fund that would help students from Lewisporte go to university. The passengers collected \$20,000. The man who organized the collection said that he would match the fund and look after the administration. (9)

Many times, difficult circumstances bring out the best in people. Both the people of Newfoundland and the American passengers of Delta 15 proved this. (10)





HEROES

A. Reading for Meaning: Answer the following questions from the story using complete sentences. Reread or skim through the story. Record your answers on the lines provided.

1. What happened September 11, 2001, that dominated the news for months afterwards?

2. Gander was once a very busy town. Do you know why?

3. Why is it that so many planes landed at Gander on September 11?

4. If you were in charge in Gander, how would you organize a plan to feed, shelter, and amuse thousands of people? Who would you contact to help you?

5. How do you think the passengers would feel after learning of the attack and not knowing when they could go home? _____

6. Where were the passengers from Delta flight 15 taken to stay?

7. When the plane finally left Gander, where did Delta 15 go?

8. How did passengers on Delta 15 attempt to repay the kindness of the people of Lewisporte? _____

B. Working with Words:

Word Meanings - Good readers look for clues in order to learn the meaning of a word. They often look at the words near it in the passage. This is called using context. Find the words that match the following meanings. Record your answers on the lines provided.

1. a large number to count (2) _____

2. governmental agencies, someone in command (2) _____

3. providing with additional fuel (3) _____

4. to let through, allow, give consent (4) _____

5. to strike with surprise, terror, horror, or disgust (4) _____

6. to have broken down completely (5) _____

7. a large line of vehicles (6) _____

8. a freight or passenger station that is central to a considerable area (6) _____

9. a line from the center of a circle to the curve (6) _____

10. money or property placed in one's care or keeping (9) _____



Synonyms: A synonym is a word with the same or almost the same meaning as another word. Match the synonyms in columns one and two using a straight line.

Column 1

1. series (1)
2. ordinary (1)
3. problems (4)
4. allowed (5)
5. arrived (6)
6. contribute (9)

Column 2

- difficulties
- give
- reached
- sequence
- regular
- permitted

Antonyms: An antonym is a word with the opposite meaning. Match the antonyms in columns one and two with a straight line.

Column 1

1. exhausted (5)
2. confused (5)
3. urgent (6)
4. elderly (6)
5. exchanging (8)
6. collected (9)

Column 2

- clear
- retaining
- young
- distributed
- fresh
- unimportant

C. Language Explorations: The following statements are about the events that happened on and after September 11, 2001. They are, however, out of order. Number the statements in correct sequence.

- _____ Excursions to local points of interest were organized.
- _____ Delta Flight 15 landed at Gander at about 12:30 pm local time.
- _____ Passengers were delivered back to the airport when it was safe to leave.
- _____ On September 11, 2001 four airliners were hijacked in the United States.
- _____ Delta Flight 15 from Frankfurt, Germany, headed for Gander.
- _____ The passengers from Delta Flight 15 were taken to Lewisporte.
- _____ Delta Flight 15 landed safely in Atlanta, U.S.A.
- _____ Passengers were taken off the plane at 11:00 am the next morning.
- _____ On the flight home to Atlanta, passengers took up a collection.
- _____ All U.S. flights were ordered to land at the nearest airport.

Craig Keilburger

Most young people think of being a hero as something that adults do. They have seen and heard of great athletes such as hockey or basketball players being called heroes. They have also heard of the brave deeds that policemen or firefighters have performed. Usually they don't consider that children can be heroes, but this story shows that it is possible. Heroes are not measured by size or age, they are measured by their actions. (1)

Craig Kielburger, as he tells it, was 12 years old and was reading the newspaper one morning in 1995. As he was looking for his favourite comics he saw a headline that got his attention. It was about a young boy, the same age as Craig, far across the world who had been killed. The boy's name was Iqbal Masih. At the age of four, he had been sold into slavery for \$16.00. He spent the next several years working in a carpet factory chained so he could not get away. By the age of 12, he was free and travelling the world, telling anyone who would listen about the horrors of child labour. While riding his bicycle one day, he was shot and killed. Some say it was by the owners of carpet factories who had threatened him. (2)

Because of that story, Craig decided to research child labour in the library to find out more about the terrible conditions in which children had to work throughout the world. He was angry and frustrated and wondered what a 12 year old could do. He thought of his brother Marc who was older and was a great role model for getting things done. (3)



When Marc was 13, he had created a grade eight science project that tested the harmful effects of household cleaners on our water system. Marc replaced the harmful ingredients in the cleansers with environmentally friendly items like lemon, vinegar, and baking soda and showed that they worked just as well.