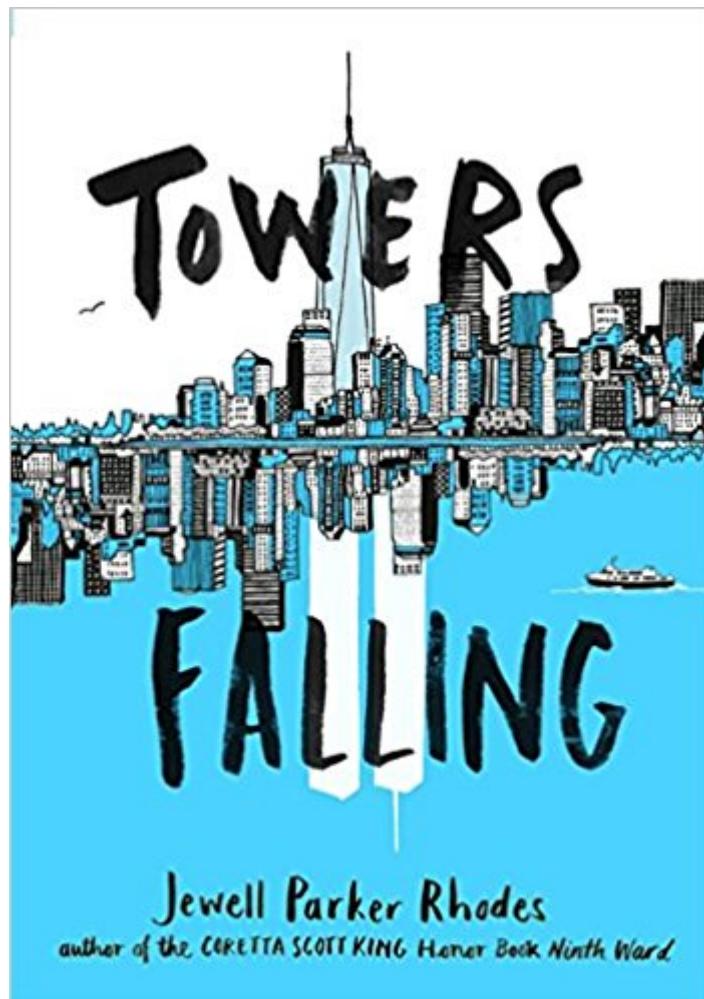


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# Towers Falling



## **Synopsis**

From award-winning author Jewell Parker Rhodes, a powerful novel set fifteen years after the 9/11 attacks. When her fifth-grade teacher hints that a series of lessons about home and community will culminate with one big answer about two tall towers once visible outside their classroom window, Deja can't help but feel confused. She sets off on a journey of discovery, with new friends Ben and Sabeen by her side. But just as she gets closer to answering big questions about who she is, what America means, and how communities can grow (and heal), she uncovers new questions, too. Like, why does Pop get so angry when she brings up anything about the towers? Award-winning author Jewell Parker Rhodes tells a powerful story about young people who weren't alive to witness this defining moment in history, but begin to realize how much it colors their every day.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 410 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; 3rd edition (July 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316262226

ISBN-13: 978-0316262224

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 80 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,459 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #33 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States #170 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 4-6-As the 15th anniversary of September 11, 2001, approaches, it brings with it a time for profound reflection. Rhodes's new novel offers a way to discuss the events of 9/11 with children too young to remember this pivotal event. This well-paced novel follows Deja, a fifth grader whose father suffers from a chronic cough, depression, and anxiety, all of which prevent him from maintaining a job. As a result, Deja and her family have lost their apartment and are now living in a

group home in Brooklyn. When Deja begins at a new school, she makes friends with a Muslim girl and a boy whose father is an Iraq War veteran. When their teacher begins a lesson about September 11, the three friends learn how the day's events relate to them as individuals and as part of their wider community. This is a welcome contribution to children's literature, on a topic not many authors have broached for this age group, and it will function well as a teaching tool. It reads easily and offers educators the opportunity to not only address the events of September 11 from a historical perspective but also from a social one. Themes include community, diversity, and socioeconomic disparities. VERDICT Recommended as an addition to middle grade collections and as a classroom group reading title to help facilitate classroom conversations about 9/11.-Pilar Okeson, Washington DC Public LibraryÂ  Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Praise for Towers Falling:"History made personal--and what a person! Deja's voice is real and memorable, her compelling story one of hope unmarred by sentimentality." Â¢Linda Sue Park, Newbery Medalist and New York Times bestselling author"This tender retelling of tragedy is a solid vessel to help young readers understand the gravity of 9/11 and how it touches all Americans, no matter where we come from. "Â¢Kirkus Reviews

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