

George P.S. Mouyios

Professor Ostman

Comp & Lit 2

April 23, 2009

Response Paper 10

Sorry, no time for re-printing.  
To be honest I rushed this response paper.

OK, don't worry. It happens to everyone.

**Making Connections**

**Question 2: The speaker in "Leap" is describing one of the most horrible aspects of the World Trade Center disaster—people jumping from the buildings. But is the tone of this prose poem negative? Explain.**

In the poem "Leap," we are presented with a situation in which people are jumping to their deaths off the Twin Tower buildings on the fateful day of September 11, 2001. In a nutshell the poem gives us some insight of how various bystanders saw people plummeting to their deaths. All jumpers fell individually and in different styles except for two people who jumped holding hands. I was still in high school when I saw the news covering the tragic events that were occurring. At first I did not know what to think. I was shocked and in disbelief.

Although this poem is about one of the most disturbing scenes that occurred when the towers were collapsing on September 11<sup>th</sup> I think that the tone was not all that negative. Every character in the poem was observing or reporting "people falling" (Doyle 1217). The various observers such as the kindergarten boy <sup>observed</sup> said "that the birds were on fire" (Doyle 1217) instead of associating the people jumping to death. Other observers said as they fell they looked like "they were somersaulting" (Doyle 1217) and one "woman's dress" (Doyle 1217) was billowing as they all fell.

This is only one perspective of one boy. Restate opening of answer.

The poem mentions <sup>S</sup> negative aspects related to the people falling to their deaths but

The author washed over the gruesome details. Instead, he focuses on two particular jumpers who "leaped out the window holding hands" (Doyle 1218).

In my opinion I believe the poem is meant to focus on the positive that can come out of a deeply negative event and how people can come together. "No one knows who" (Doyle 1218) the two jumpers were, but makes you wonder why they were holding hands. I think that the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks are a perfect example that we do not know what will happen during our lives. This poem does a great job acknowledging the negative aspects that happened while the jumpers plummet to their death but also highlighted what occurred that was positive. There are many negative things that happen everyday. We could die anytime and anywhere and should live our lives as if every day is our last one.

compound word  
↓  
everyday

✓  
Bill very good!  
10  
10

Works Cited

Doyle, Brian. "Leap." Exploring Literature. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Ed. Frank Madden. New York: Pearson Education, Inc., 2009. 1217-1218.

