Dear Mrs. Geurin,

I have recently read a book and I would like to recommend it to you. I read Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer. The book was based on the 9/11 terrorist attacks, but from another side of the story, told from a little boys point of view. This boy, Oskar Schell, lost his father in the collapsing twin towers. He was also an inventor. About a year after his father’s passing he finds a key in an envelope, the envelope says BLACK on it. This is where the book gets interesting.

The best parts of the book were definitely all the parts where he was out and about searching for answers to the key. He was always a surprising character that went beyond his own fears but at this early of an age. Meeting all the characters that Oskar went and found was also a great part because you saw different sides of the society, from rich to poor. The worst part of the book was when a long huge letter came up that you had to read, it wasn’t that it was boring, but you sometimes lost track of who was talking or if it was written in the letter. It was very confusing.

I think by far the most important word in the book would be inventing. The reason behind this is in the book, Oskar always invents, whether it was inventing on how his dad died, or inventing the world’s next best thing. An example of the word inventing is; “All I wanted to do that night was fall asleep, but all I could do was invent.”(pg.90)

I think the most important passage is when he is reminiscing his father and what he could have done, or what should have happened. It shows that he really cares about his father and he wants to remember him. But he is always blaming himself, well except for when he says stuff about terrorists. He always invents on what his father’s death was like and he always wants peace between these things. Whenever he listens to the messages you can tell he is blaming himself, he should have picked up the phone, like he always says.”He needed me, and I couldn’t pick up. I just couldn’t pick up. I couldn’t.”(pg.310)

The most important Event in this book would have to be the part where he finds out that his mom actually knows what he is doing, and why these people are always waiting for him. He tries to figure out why she would do this and she just can’t. He finally knew why she never questioned what he was doing and why he was doing it or where he was going, but she trusted him.”Don’t you want to know where I was,” said Oskar “I trust you” said Oskar’s mom (pg.322).

The thing that surprised me most was that Oskar, as a little boy with all his fears of the world, goes out and searches within the boroughs of NYC, at some times, all on his own. I know I wouldn’t have the guts to do that. He was also as friendly with strangers as he was with his friends. The letters always make me wonder because I never know who is talking in the beginning but eventually I figure it out. The thing that confuses me is, why would his grandma keep his grandpa a secret? She always tells Oskar that he is the renter, why couldn’t he just be called grandpa and be part of the family again? There were a lot of things you had to comprehend before going to the next page, but overall the book was very surprising

The parts that seem most believable are the parts where Oskar is out and about trying to find the lock to the key he had found. What is unbelievable is that all these people were so friendly and so willing to help him out, would he really get that if it were real life? And would the answer to the key be so easily found? It was just one small secret that unfolded into the mysteries truth.

The author did have a lot to say about life. The one thing that was repeated throughout the book was that “Life is harder than death”. I think what he was trying to get at was that, life is something you can help control and you have to make decisions. Well death is as simple as, you’re dead. But he was also getting at that you need to live life with a purpose and be happy and forgiving, and to remember the good things from life and not the bad.

The issue in this book was Oskar’s dad dying in 9/11. He was crushed by it and often blamed himself. He always thought about his dad and often thought like his dad. The death of his dad really set the rest of the book around it, between looking for the lock that goes to the key, to finally accepting his dad’s death.

The title I had a little trouble personally trying to figure out what the heck it could stand for or mean, but I had an idea. The title “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” to me means that you don’t always have to talk to be close; it could just be a little thing to be close. And you don’t have to be a straight forward person to the ones you love or want to love, but to be yourself and accept who you are and who you have in your life. Don’t take advantage of them.

The ending of the book was much unexpected, that he would meet his grandfather while trying to figure out clues to his father’s riddle. I liked the way they ended it, losing someone important, but meeting someone he has heard all about and never met. The reason I liked this ending was because even though most of the book, was very saddening, the end really made you smile, knowing that things were solved and over with. I want to know why and how Oskar was so lucky to find the person that had the key, he was 12, all alone, going out and finding every person with the last name “Black” in NYC.

From,

Austin