

## WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK

The Dean's Readers, 2007-2008

The primary reason we chose Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* was for its unique perspective on a national tragedy. Though we often hear stories of the heroics of September 11, and about the mourning of the families and friends affected, it is not often that we hear of one person's story of the tragedy's aftermath. Through Foer's main character, Oskar Schell, readers set out on a youthful journey in which they experience the grieving process through the eyes of a child.

This book provides students a platform to discuss the most influential historical event that has happened during their generation. The rich characters and relationships in *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* allow readers, regardless of major, to empathize and sympathize with the challenges Oskar faces while on his humorous and healing journey to rediscover the safety and stability that was lost in the September 11 attacks.

Through his use of new typography and mixed media, Foer makes Oskar's journey visually stimulating and accessible. We believe that the student's enjoyment of Foer's book is essential to enhancing the classroom experience and the Dean's Book Course. We also believe that, in contrast to previous Dean's Book Course choices, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* offers not only political and historical perspectives on a life-changing event, but also emotional consequences seldom discussed at the university level.

Zainab Adeola, Accounting

Louis Auciello, Political Science

Courtney Bergquist, Science

David Botte, Hospitality & Tourism

Michael Botte, Hospitality & Tourism

Paul Creedon, History

Shannon Crosby, Psychology

Kirby Fortin, Hospitality & Tourism

Erin French, Psychology & Sociology

Jessica Guidoboni, Marketing

Candace Letizia, English

Tevin Murray, Psychology

Sarah Syed, English & Political Science

Madeline Tarabelli, Psychology

Anna Welch, Legal Studies

Erica Widegren, Communication Disorders