

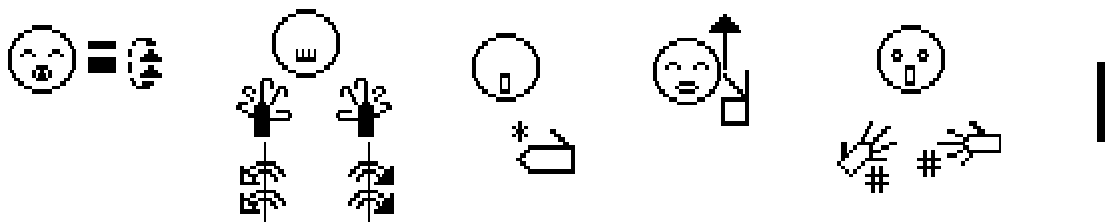
Deaf Children Around the World

Express Their Grief Over The Terrorist Attack



SignWriting provides an avenue of expression for Deaf children

Irina, age 9, in Germany writes:



“Ich habe einen Film im Fernsehen gesehen. Darüber war ich sehr erschrocken...”
“I have seen a film on television. I was very frightened...” ...see page 4-5...



Above: Cecilia Flood teaches Deaf children in Albuquerque to type SignWriting. Julio is typing on the computer. His SignWriting is on page 3.

Albuquerque Deaf students also write SignWriting by hand. Writing directly in Sign Language can be a source of personal expression for deaf children.



Deaf Children in Albuquerque, New Mexico

A Message Posted on the SignWriting List
September 12, 2001

I thought it 'timely' to post one of our primary Deaf student's written commentary on this week's tragic historic event. Kate, the classroom teacher started the day anticipating that the students' would be arriving at school with many questions and comments about the horrific events that occurred on the east coast. One student requested time to express himself using one of the four SignWriting computers set up within the classroom. He recruited another peer to join him at the computer to 'write' about what had happened the day before and how they were feeling about it. The teacher reported that the two boys were seated at the SignWriting computers for an hour 'co-writing' the following commentary (see page 3). The teacher added the English 'cues' for the student's parents so that they could read their son's 'reflections'....

Cecilia Flood
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School Counselor
Hodgin Elementary School
Albuquerque, New Mexico

SignWriting Literacy Project
Albuquerque, New Mexico
<http://www.SignWriting.org>

9/12/01

I feel sad



Sad



Feel

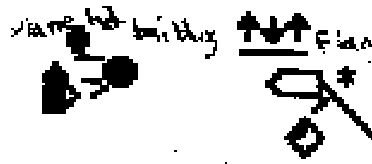


me

Building: A plane flew into a building



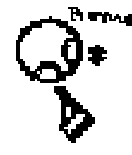
Building



A plane flew into a building



A plane flew into a building



Mom

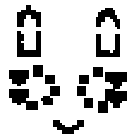


Dad

A plane hit another building. Mom and Dad lowered the



Flag



Here



Safe School

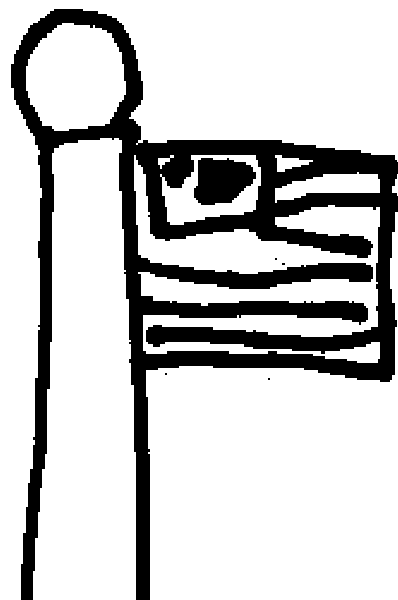


me



Far

not



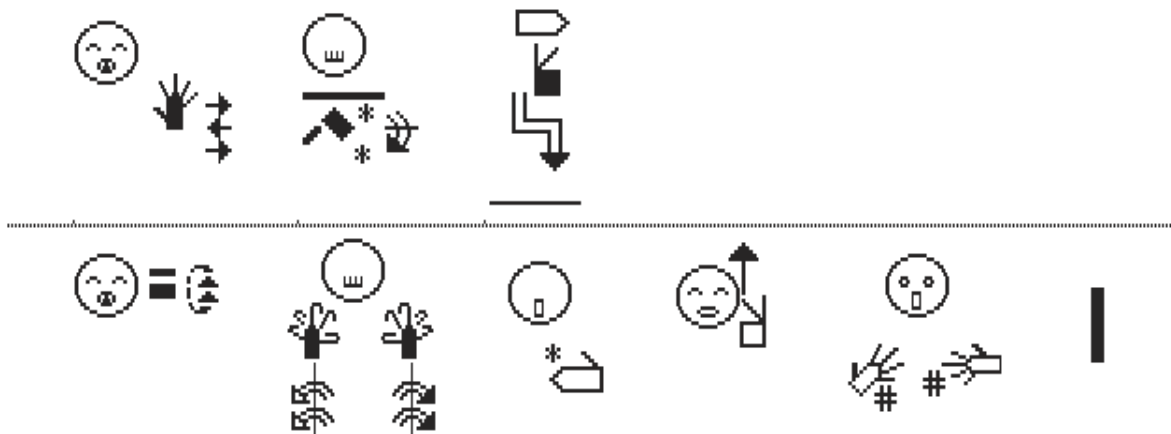
Julio

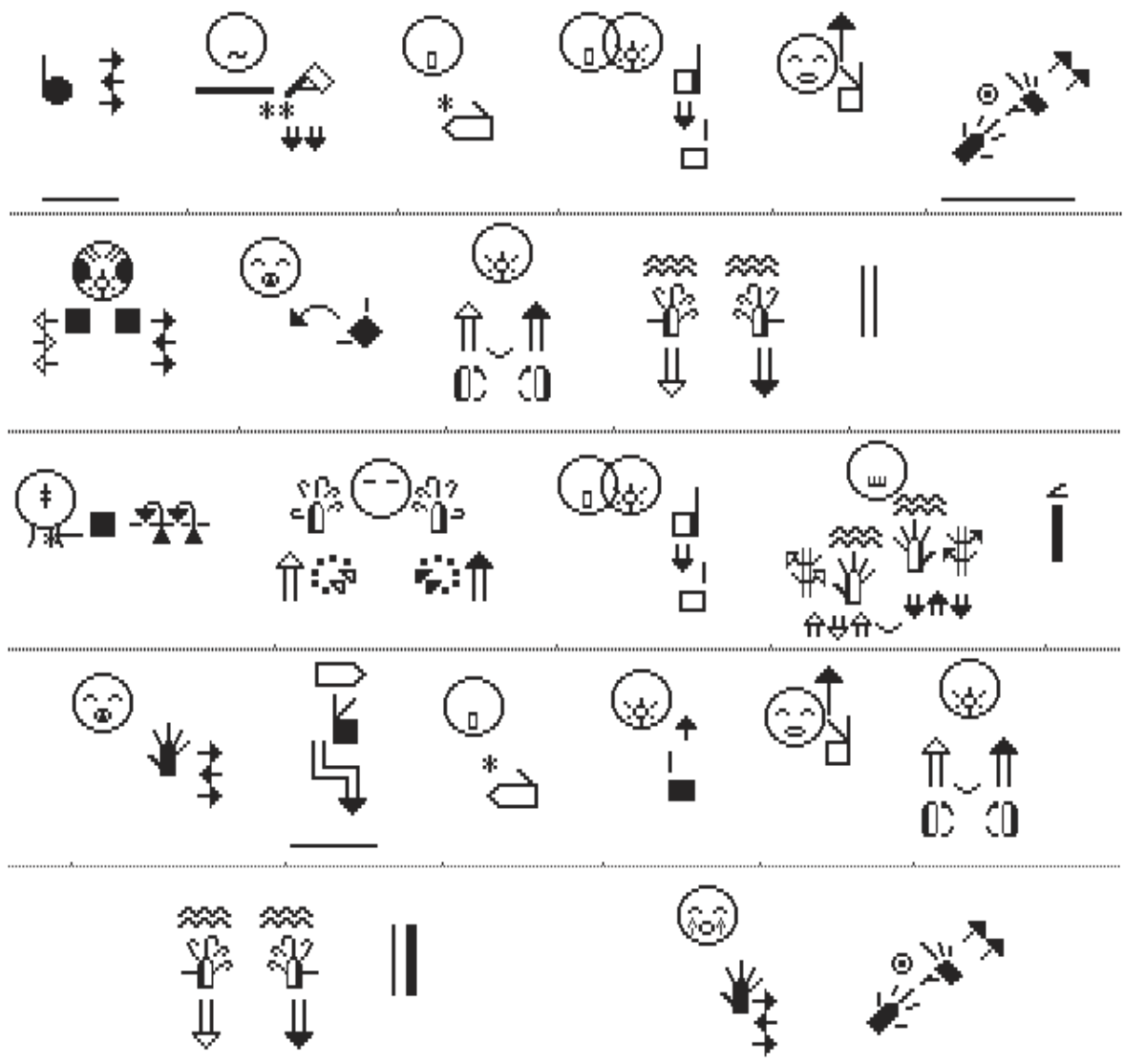
Irina, age 9, in Osnabruck, Germany



Reporter berichten vom Unglücksort;
Brief von Irina an Valerie Sutton anlässlich
der Terrorakte in Amerika.

Reporting about the sad events;
Letter from Irina to Valerie Sutton
about the terrorist attack in America





Die Übersetzung lautet:
 "Hallo Frau Valerie Sutton,
 Ich habe einen Film im Fernsehen gesehen. Darüber war ich sehr erschrocken. Danny hat mir Bescheid gesagt. Dann habe ich den Film auch gesehen. Fürchterlich - das Flugzeug fliegt gegen das Hochhaus. Das Hochhaus stürzt ein. Da ist Schmutz und Qualm - da ist auch Feuer. Hallo Valerie, hast du gesehen, wie das Hochhaus eingestürzt ist? Tschüss Irina"

Translation reads:
 "Hello Valerie Sutton,
 I saw a film on television. I was very frightened. Danny informed me. Then I also saw the film. The airplane flew into the skyscraper. The skyscraper collapsed. There was dirt and smoke. There was also fire. Did you see how the skyscraper collapsed? Bye, Irina"

...continued next page...



Irina, age 9, in Osnabruck, Germany



Stefan Woehrmann in class with his Deaf students.

Valerie Sutton's answer to Irina in American Sign Language.



Translation:

"Hello Irina. Thank you for your letter. I was happy to read it. The world is sad, but now people help each other, and give support and love. We are becoming a world family."

Valerie Sutton
Inventor, SignWriting
Sutton@SignWriting.org

Brief von Irina an Valerie Sutton anlässlich der Terrorakte in Amerika.

A letter from Irina for Valerie Sutton about the terrorist attack in America.

September 14, 2001

SignWriting List

Irina bittet mich, einen Brief in GebärdenSchrift an Valerie Sutton - die Erfinderin der GebärdenSchrift - zu schicken. Irina steht neben dem Computer, gebärdet, liest, korrigiert, formuliert neu - und liest abschließend ihren Brief. Sie freut sich auf Valeries Antwort! Irina war erstaunt. Bereits am nächsten Montag konnten wir Valerie Suttons Antwort im Internet anschauen. Eine interessante Erfahrung für die Kinder. Es gibt GebärdenSprachen, die sie nicht verstehen können. So gebärdet man also in Amerika. Dank der GebärdenSchrift können wir die Gebärden ausführen. Die englische Übersetzung hilft uns, den Inhalt zu verstehen.

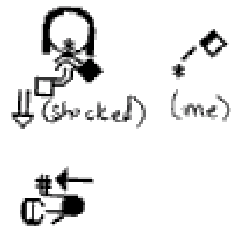
Irina asked me to give a letter written in SignWriting to Valerie Sutton - the inventor of SignWriting. Irina stood near the computer and signed, read, corrected and created new sentences, creating this letter in SignWriting. She waited for Valerie's answer! Irina was astonished. Promptly, on the next Monday, we could read Valerie Sutton's answer on the Internet. This was an interesting experience for the children. It was in a Sign Language they could not understand...Ah ha! So that is how they sign in America!.. Thanks to SignWriting, we could produce the movements of the signs. The English translation also helped us to understand the meaning.

Stefan Woehrmann
stefanwoehrmann@gebaerdenschrift.de

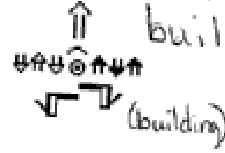
Teacher of Deaf Children
Osnabruck, Germany
<http://www.gebaerdenschrift.de>

Lila in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

I am Shocked .



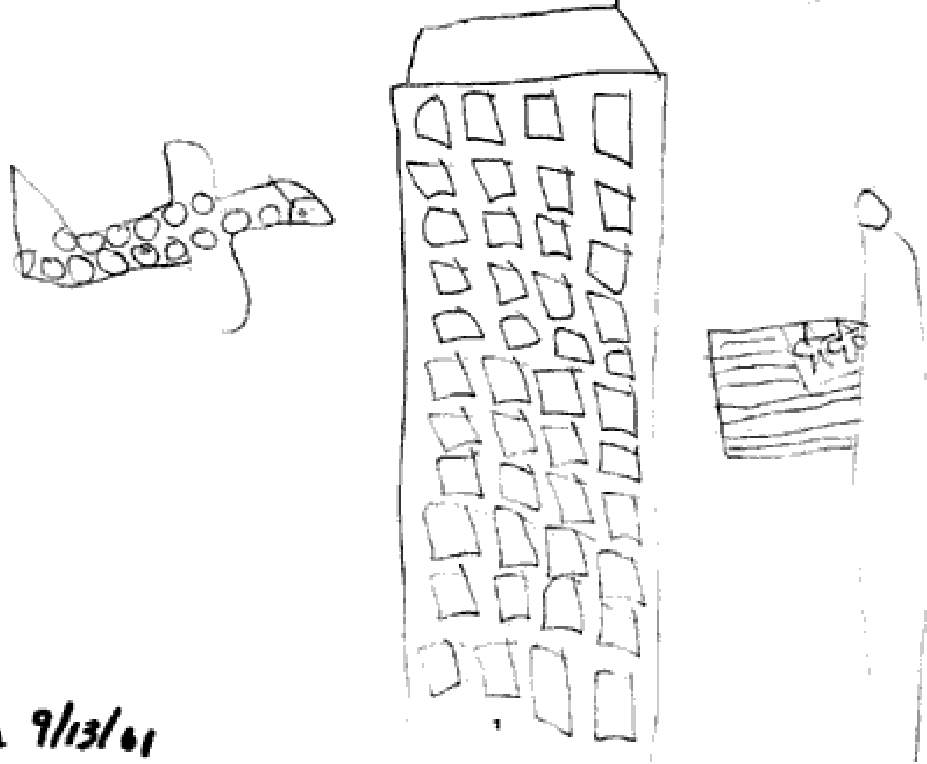
The airplane flew into the building.



People died.



People cried.



Lila 9/13/01

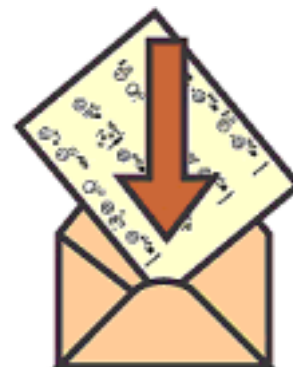
This student dates her comments two days after the event. Her very first comment, written by herself in SignWriting, was one of 'shock'. The simplicity of her statements is profound. The juxtaposition of the aircraft approaching the building not yet destroyed and the prominence of the flag's position may be significant for us all.

Cecilia Flood
School Counselor
Hodgin Elementary School
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Children Around The World Correspond in Written Sign Language

SignWriting Pen Pal Letters Bring
Deaf and Hearing Children Closer Together

Nicole in Canada, age 11, writes to Irina in Germany



Gore Bay,
Ontario, Canada

SignWriting List
September 28, 2001

Well, here are some drawings and writings from our children in Canada, all hearing, to our children friends in Germany and New Mexico.

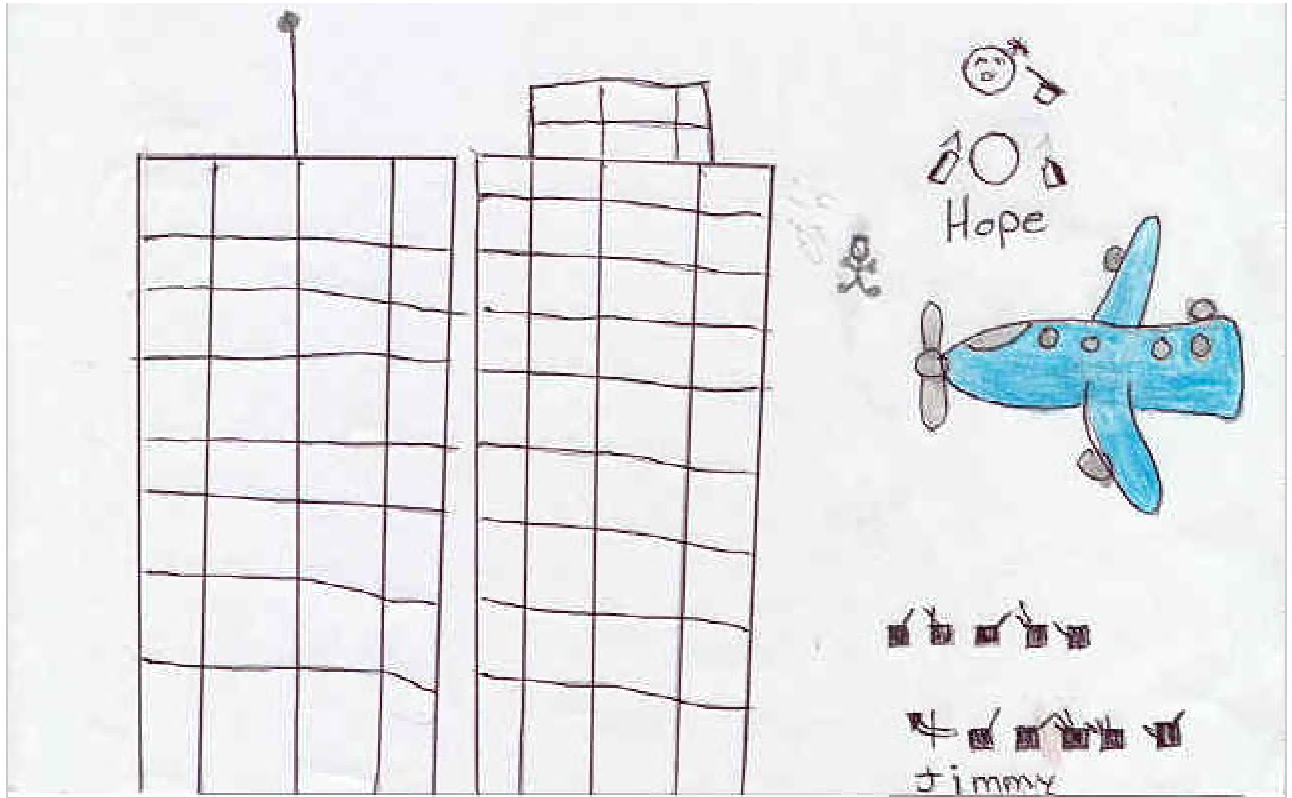
As you can see from the pictures we talked about "HOPE".

We had a good conversation together, the children and I, about the terrorist attack.

The result you see from the pictures....

Tini Pel, Teacher
hpel@ONLINK.NET

Jimmy in Canada (age 10) writes to Irina in Germany.



Paul in Canada writes to Eduard in Germany



A plane hit a building. I feel Sad. I was filled



with silence.



At home, I watched TV. Mom

was sad. The flag was lowered. Here I'm:



safe. Far away is not.



Darin, right, worked at the computer with Julio. (Julio is in the photo on page 2, typing at the computer). Their teacher, Kate Lee, pictured below, reported that the two boys were 'writing' at the computer for almost an hour, expressing their reflections about the terrorist attack on New York. Darin's writing (above) is similar to Julio's (page 3) but with significant differences. Darin attempted to express a feeling of overwhelming silence...

