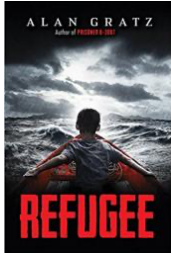


8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment



Refugee by Alan Gratz ISBN: 9781338229592

Description: Three different kids.

One mission in common: ESCAPE.

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America...

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...

All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always hope for *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.

About the Author: Alan Gratz is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of seventeen novels for young readers, including *Ground Zero*, *Refugee*, *Allies*, *Grenade*, *Prisoner B-3087*, *Projekt 1065*, and *Ban This Book*. A Knoxville, Tennessee native, Alan is now a full-time writer living in Asheville, North Carolina with his wife and daughter. Learn more about him online at www.alangratz.com.

New York Times Notable Middle-Grade Children's Book 2017

YALSA 2018 Best Fiction for Young Adults

2019 Oklahoma Sequoyah Intermediate Book Award Winner

Rationale: This book will serve as a springboard for classroom discussions about drawing upon personal experiences that lead to lessons in life and following God's path that He has paved for us. It is a story about what unites us all...love, family, and perseverance. In addition, this historical book is a foundation for understanding various perspectives of what matters in life and finding answers to the essential question: When is it right to take a stand?

Assignment: The student will read the book before the first day of school. Each student will need to bring a personal copy of the book to class. It needs to be one where the student can write notes on the pages. The student will respond to the piece of literature by creating an original poem, an original piece of art, or another creative, original reflection of the book and its themes. See the Creative Responses attachment for ideas and guidelines. The test will be given during the first 2 weeks of school.