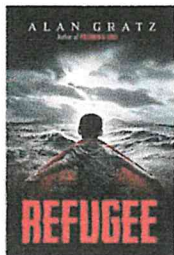


8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment SY '24-'25



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*. Although continents and decades separate Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud, surprising connections will tie their stories together.

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 must bring a 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 piece of art or another creative reflection of the book and its themes. [Click here](#) for ideas and guidelines. Here is the Grading [Rubric](#) for the projects. The test will be given during the first two weeks of school.

Grading Rubric Sound Track

Component	Elements	Possible Points	Grade
Playlist	To receive full credit, you must have 5-8 songs selected.	30	
Cover	To receive full credit, you must include a full-color cover for the album, including the title and author. It should consist of an artistic picture and/or graphics.	20	
Liner Notes	To receive full credit, you must write 3 or 4 sentences describing and explaining where each song occurs in the movie's plot (referencing specific scenes, chapter numbers, and/or page numbers).	30	
Evidence	To receive full credit, you must include why each song fits that part of the novel in the Liner Notes.	15	
Creative Flair	To receive full credit, you must include a creative element.	5	

Grading Rubric Artistic Reflection

Component	Elements	Possible Points	Grade
Art Piece	To receive full credit, you must have an art piece that reflects the themes or events of the book.	40	
Art Card	To receive full credit, you must include a complete description and explanation (3 paragraphs minimum) of your choice of color, texture, design, etc., and how it reflects the themes in Refugee by Alan Gratz.	30	
Evidence	To receive full credit, you must provide evidence from the book to support your descriptions on the Art Card.	25	
Creative Flair	To receive full credit, you must include a creative element.	5	

Creative Responses to *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

1. What would the soundtrack include if this text were made into a movie? Select 5-8 songs and create the playlist. Design a cover for the album and write liner notes on the inside.

Within the liner notes, write 3-4 sentences describing and explaining where each song would occur in the movie's plot (reference specific scenes, chapter numbers, and/or page numbers). Also, provide evidence of why each song is a good fit for that part of the novel.

2. Paint, sculpt, or construct (3D) an original piece of art that reflects your personal response to this piece of literature. Make sure you sign your art piece. Include an art card to display your art piece that describes and explains (3 paragraphs minimum) your choice of color, texture, design, etc., and how it reflects the themes in *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. Supply evidence from the book to support your descriptions.