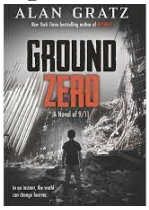
SOARING TO EXCELLENCE
EMS EASTCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

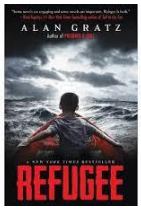
EMS 8th GRADE SUMMER READING!

There's nothing like sitting in a shady spot and reading a great book during the summer. Educational experts agree that students who read regularly perform better in class, on exams, and on standardized tests like the SAT. Plus, reading makes you more interesting; really, it does! The Library Media Specialists and your English teachers have done a lot of wonderful work compiling a summer reading list of books that appeal to your interests. Here's what you need to do for **book one**:

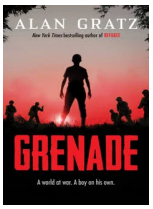
- Pick ONE of the following novels by Alan Gratz: ***Heroes, Refugee, Ground Zero, Allies, or Grenade,*** and complete the assignment listed below.











1. Before reading:

Using the cover and the brief descriptions on the cover and inside jacket, please make and record two predictions about the novel.

2. While reading:

- Double Entry Journal: take active notes on how each protagonist grows and develops from the conflicts he/she faces by using a double entry journal style.
  - *Split your page down the middle, vertically. Record **four pieces of text evidence** on the left side of the page and the reason you chose the piece of evidence on the right side of the page.*

Guiding Questions for Notes - please have these questions answered in complete sentences or bullets, if you prefer.

- When and where does the novel take place? Be specific!
- What is the moment the problem starts? What is the climax of the story? What is the resolution?
- What are the messages or themes that Alan Gratz wants readers to learn as they see these characters grow in the face of conflict? *Find at least two examples of text evidence to support this lesson and add them to your double entry journal.*

3. After reading, answer the following Essential Question:

- Why is it important to see others' perspectives, even if they differ from your own?

Please note, the information compiled above will be used for an activity that will be completed during the first week of school.

SOARING TO EXCELLENCE
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8th Grade Free Choice Book List

These suggestions include titles at multiple reading levels and from a variety of genres that Middle School students have enjoyed in the past. Students are welcome and encouraged to choose books that are not on this list, based upon their own interests. Eastchester Middle School values partnership with parents when choosing reading material for students. ***Please preview your child's choices to be sure that the books are appropriate for your child and your family.***

Please select at least one from the list to read to maintain and improve your reading stamina.

(Lexile Level appears in parentheses after each title.)

REALISTIC FICTION

Holt, K.A. *House Arrest (610)*
Mikaelson, Ben *Touching Spirit Bear* (670)
Thompson, Lisa, *The Goldfish Boy (750)*
Crutcher, Chris. *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* (920)
Van Draanen, Wendelin. *The Running Dream* (650)
Goldberg Sloane, Holy Counting By 7s (770)
Creech, Sharon *Absolutely Normal Chaos (900)*
Giles, Lamar *The Getaway (920)*
Bruchac, Joseph *Code Talker (980)*

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

Grant, Micahel *Gone (620) a series*
Pfeffer, Susan *Beth Life as we Knew it* Susan Beth Pfeffer (level Z from F & P 770)
Anderson, M.T. *Feed* (770)
Dashner, James. *The Eye of Minds* (790)
O'Brien, Robert C. *Z for Zachariah* (820)
Luy, Marie Continue the *Legend* series-Marie Lu

HISTORICAL FICTION

Hood, Susan*, Lifeboat 12 (610)*
Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light* (700)
Sharenow, Robert, *The Berlin Boxing Club (880)*
Other Alan Gratz books: *Prisoner B-3087 or Projekt 1065*

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Castellucci, Cecil and Rugg, Jim. *Plain Janes* (NP)
Lai, Remi *Pie in the Sky*
Folman, Ari *The Diary of Anne Frank*

NON-FICTION or MEMOIRS

Coffey, Wayne *The Boys of Winter: the Untold Story of a Coach, a Dream and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team*
Stone, Tanya Lee. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream (*980L)
Sheinkin, Steve. *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* (920)
Bradley, James *The Flags of Fathers: The Heroes of Iwo Jima* (950)
Bascomb, Neal**.** *The Nazi Hunters* (1000)
Hakim, Joy. *Einstein Adds a New Dimension* (1000)
Freedman, Russell. *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* (1010)
Dell, Pamela. *The Women Behind Rosie the Riveter*
Douglass, Frederick. *The Narrative of the Life* (1040)
Blumenthal, Karen. *Steve Jobs: the Man Who Thought Different* (1110)
Lowery, Linda Blackmon and Leacock, Elspeth. *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March*
O'Brien, Alice. *Alice in France: The World War I Letters of Alice O' Brien*

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Weiss, aweiss@eufsdk12. Good luck, happy summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

8th Grade ELA Department