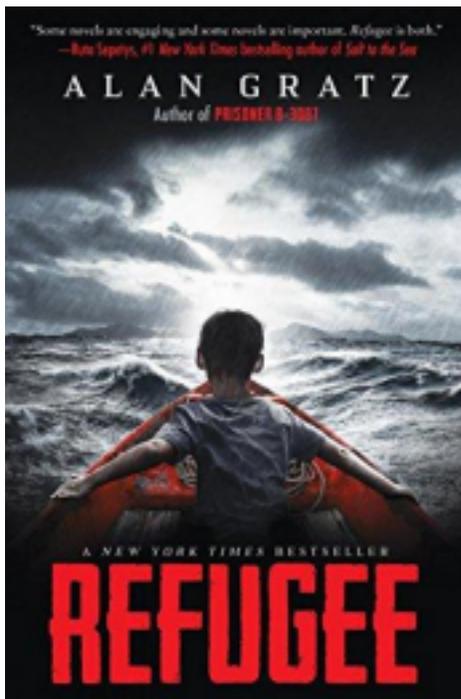# Middle School English
Summer Reading Assignment (Grade 8)
2022-2023

All students enrolled in 8th grade English in the fall must read the required text selection below. After reading, students should complete **one** of the Summer Reading Project Choice assignments **and** generate a list of thought-provoking questions about the novel for class discussion.

Required Book

Refugee
by Alan Gratz

ISBN-10 : 9780545880831
ISBN-13 : 978-0545880831

Josef is a Jewish boy living 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 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 kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home. - Amazon.com

I hope you have an enjoyable summer and find time to relax, read, and reflect! Please contact me via email with any questions.

See you in August,
Mrs. David
davids@houstonacademy.com

Refugee Summer Reading Project Choices

Directions: After reading the novel *Refugee,* **choose ONE** of the following writing activities to complete. The assignment should be printed and turned in on the first day of school and will be graded for completion.

Critical Thinking	*Creative Writing*	*Analysis*
Research Project Research a current refugee crisis that is happening in the world today. Pretend you are a reporter writing an article for a school newspaper or blog. Write an article explaining the important events surrounding this crisis. You may simply **inform** about the events to bring awareness to the situation, or you may take a position and write an **opinion** piece to discuss what you think should be done or offer a call to action. Be careful to **paraphrase** (not plagiarize) your sources! ❏ The article has a headline that captures the reader's attention ❏ The lead sentence ("hook") grabs the reader's attention and introduces the reader to the topic ❏ The article adequately addresses the 5 W's (Who, What, When, Where and Why/How) to provide a clear summary of the topic ❏ Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage ❏ Sources of information used in research appear on a separate works cited page ❏ Word Count: 250-500	**Alternate Ending** Create a new ending to *Refugee* by writing an additional chapter. The tone and attitude of the characters must be consistent with the characters in the book, in addition to the setting details. Furthermore, the ending should be written in the same style as the author, but you may write from the point of view of another character. ❏ Establish a problem, situation, or setting. ❏ Use events and transitions to create a smooth progression of experiences. ❏ Use dialogue, thoughts, reflection, pacing and description to develop your narrative. ❏ Use precise words, telling details and sensory language to create a vivid picture of events, setting, and characters. ❏ Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved. ❏ Use correct pronouns to establish point of view ❏ Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage ❏ Word Count: 500-1,000	**Literary Analysis Essay** In this novel you've read about characters who have experienced difficult situations and learned valuable lessons. Identify a **theme topic**, also called a motif (ex. love, trust) and decide what the characters learned about that topic. Determine a **theme** (the message) that the author wants readers to understand (ex. trust is essential in relationships, love conquers all). Then analyze how at least two of the characters have experiences that reveal this theme and how the author develops the theme over the course of the novel. ❏ Thesis is clearly stated, specific and relevant to the task. ❏ Demonstrates a logical and clear organizational structure ❏ Includes strongest, most relevant text evidence to support thesis and overall analysis of the text ❏ Explanations draw connections between thesis and evidence ❏ Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage ❏ Word Count: 350-750

Student-Generated Questions:

After reading the novel, generate a list of **FIVE** thought-provoking questions that you would like to have answered. They can be about the novel itself or how the novel compares/connects to life in 2022.

Examples:
➢ What do you think would have happened if _____?
➢ Why do you think _____ reacted to _____ the way they did?
➢ Why do you think the author chose _____?
➢ How did you feel when _____?
➢ What do you think you would have done if you were faced with _____?
➢ What can we learn from the novel about _____?
➢ How does _____ compare with _____ today?

Non-Examples
➢ Questions that elicit one-word responses (i.e. "yes" or "no")
➢ Questions about specific details in the text (i.e. what color shoes was the character wearing?)
➢ Questions that are too abstract or not related to the text (i.e. what if there were no gravity?)

1. _____

   _____

2. _____

   _____

3. _____

   _____

4. _____

   _____

5. _____

   _____