

This summer, all middle school students will read the novel, *Refugee*, by Alan Gratz. The novel has won multiple awards since its publication in 2017. It is thought provoking, inspirational, and timely.

**Students will receive a copy of the novel before they leave campus for the summer break.**

The following is a synopsis taken from the author's website:

*Three different kids. One mission in common: ESCAPE.*

**Josef** is a Jewish boy in 1930's 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 towards 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 the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.*

The English and History departments will work collaboratively to develop activities, short assessments, and/or writing assignments to be completed during the first week of school. Students are encouraged to take notes on the three main characters or annotate their novel as they read. Students are **not** to take an AR test on this novel during the summer.