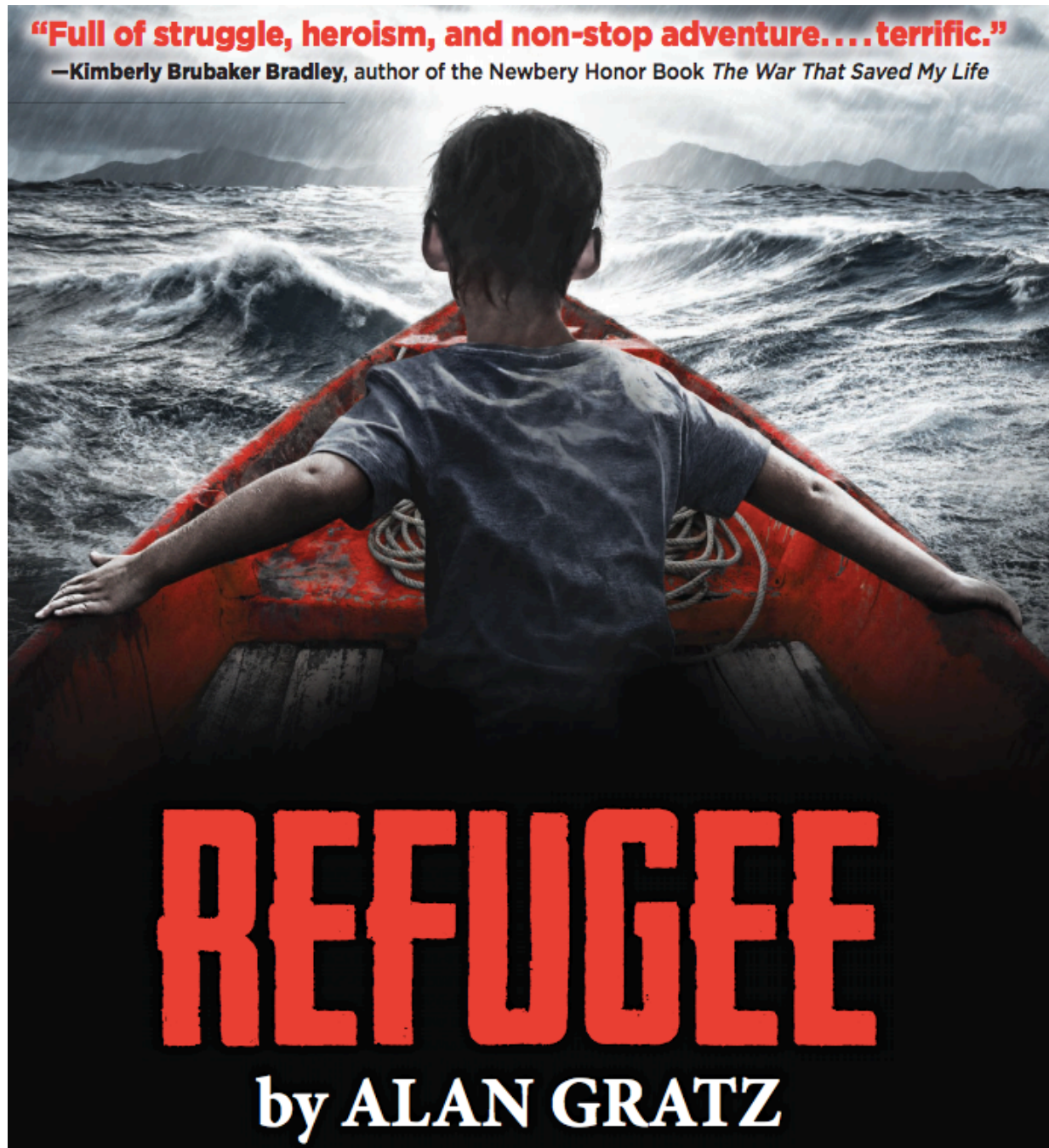


## **Refugee: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expedition “Finding Home” takes place during the Fall/Winter. So that incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders can be familiar with the subject of the expedition – refugees – all students are expected to read the novel *Refugee* by Alan Gratz and complete the assignment detailed below. A limited number of copies of the novel are available from the front office to borrow and return.

**DUE DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH**

**THIS ASSIGNMENT COUNTS AS 10% OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER GRADE**



## SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

1. **Pre-reading Activity:** In the book *Refugee* by Alan Gratz, you will encounter cultures that may or may not be familiar to you. Choose one of the three main characters below and then research and become familiar with the associated terms before you read:
  - a. **Josef:** Adolf Hitler, Kristallnacht, Dachau, bar mitzvah, minyan, yarmulke, tallisim, Führer
  - b. **Isabel:** Batista, Fidel Castro, el norte, clave, mañana
  - c. **Mahmoud:** Bashar al-Assad, Aleppo, Daesh, Mecca, hijab, EU (European Union)
2. **After-reading Activity:** Choose one question from each of the 3 columns below to answer after reading the book. Follow the guidelines below. You will answer THREE questions total.

Key Ideas and Details	Craft and Structure	Integration of Knowledge & Ideas
1. Discuss the reasons that Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud's families leave their homes. What are the situations in each of their lives that force them to flee? How are their situations similar and how are they different? Provide evidence to support your ideas.	4. Why do you think the author chose to tell these three stories in alternating chapters? What is the effect on the reader of moving back and forth between the stories from different periods of history?	7. Research the history of <b>one</b> of the three dictators in these stories—Adolf Hitler, Fidel Castro, and Bashir al-Assad. Discuss how the policies and beliefs of this leader has affected the lives of the character in the story. Are the lives of the people in this place still the same today or have their lives improved?
2. What is the theme of this book as expressed through the central characters? What do you feel is the most important idea in each of these stories? Provide examples in the plot of each story to support your ideas.	5. Who are the helpful people in each of these three journeys? Why do others treat the refugees with meanness and disrespect? How do these experiences affect each of the families and lead to the survival of certain family members?	8. Find out about places in our local community that are helping refugees to settle into a new life and share what you learned about them. Discuss ways that you could help children that have been affected by a refugee experience become acclimated to a different country with different customs.
3. How do the parents in each of these families change in the course of their journeys? Compare the fathers and mothers of Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud, and discuss the ways that events in each story shape their responses to their situation. Back up your comparison with evidence from the novel.	6. How does the author develop the point of view of each of the characters? What is the impact of seeing how many days each character has been away from home at the start of each section? How do the stories of these three children intersect in the end, even though they are separated by many years?	Check out this website for ideas: <a href="https://www.wned.org/community/makingbuffalohome/">https://www.wned.org/community/makingbuffalohome/</a>

### Guidelines:

1. For the pre-reading activity: write the word/phrase followed by its meaning.
2. Each response must be at least 7 sentences in length, written neatly and **in complete sentences** on lined paper (you may also type your answers and print them out).
3. **Clearly** indicate which question you are responding to by either rewriting the question at the start of your response or writing the question number at the start of your response.
4. The details used to support your claim can be in the form of a quotation (word for word directly out of the book with “quotation marks” around the text), paraphrase, or description. You **MUST** include the page number(s) where the information is located in your book in parentheses after you provide the detail.
5. The writing cannot present a simple summary of a passage or chapter.