

# Summer Reading for Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

All students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2021-22 school year are required to read two (2) books during the summer, one book listed below and one self-selected book.

\*Both summer reading books will be assessed upon returning to school in September. Students should be familiar with the elements of plot (setting, characters, theme, conflict, climax, resolution,).

\*A story map is provided to help prepare students for the assessment. **This map is a reference for students, NOT a paper that must be turned in to their teachers.**

## Book 1

### **Refugee** by Alan Gratz



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. (Summary from Amazon.com)

## Book 2

### **Self-selected book (grade/reading level appropriate)**

Check out <https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/teen> for some great suggestions!

# *Story Map*

Setting:

Main characters: (include traits of each)

Conflict (problem):

Resolution (how is problem solved):

Climax (Turning Point):

Theme (lesson or message):