

Hello 6th Grade!

I hope you will find *Refugee* by Alan Gratz an interesting book. I feel it gives names and faces to important parts of our history and our present.

In this book, you will encounter cultures that may or may not be familiar to you. You might want to research and become familiar with these terms before or as you read:

For Josef's story: Adolf Hitler, Kristallnacht, Dachau, bar mitzvah, minyan, yarmulke, tallisim, Führer

For Isabel's story: Batista, Fidel Castro, el norte, clave, mañana

For Mahmoud's story: Bashar al-Assad, Aleppo, Daesh, Mecca, hijab, EU (European Union)

For those of you that like to listen to books as you read, or are auditory learners, we have found an audio recording available of *Refugee* on YouTube. Here is the link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJTEsOd7jLQjAQYj_w-cDVPxbc3Un79Is

When we come back to school, we will take an AR (Accelerated Reader) quiz on the book in the first few days. **We will also spend the first two or three weeks of school working with this novel, so it is very important that you read this book carefully (not just a summary) and come to school with your novel.**

There are **two** things I would like you to do with this novel before you come to school:

1. As you read, I would like you to highlight the sentence (or two if they are together) that you feel is the most important moment **of each chapter**. (The chapters are not numbered, but instead they are given the characters' names and dates. There are a lot of chapters in the book...52 I think!) **Choose carefully, we will be working with these when we start school.**
2. Imagine you are either Isabel or Mahmoud when they are in their 60s. Write a page detailing what their life is currently like, and what they have done from their teenage years into their 60s. How did their journey impact their life and life choices? If you fully read the book, there will be a helpful character for this assignment.

Please type this assignment in a Google Doc. Your font should be size 12 Times New Roman. Your writing should be double-spaced. I will walk you through the process of submitting your document into our Google Classroom when we come to school. You just need to have it ready to go.