

All-School Summer Reading

Humanities (English, Social Studies, World Language, and Art) and Religion

*Please note that select courses within these disciplines may require additional work not related to this reading. Please be sure to check summer reading assignments for all of your courses.

All students and faculty will read *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

Upon return to the classroom in September, teachers will assess engagement in the reading through class discussions and reflection. In addition, we will foster community by exploring our thoughts and reactions to our reading in an all-school collaborative event.

To prepare, students are asked to answer the following discussion questions thoroughly and in complete sentences except where otherwise noted. Answer lengths may vary. **Please complete this work in a typed Google Doc.** This will be due on the first day of classes and instructions for handing this in will be given at that time.

To aid in your reading, research and become familiar with following terms before your read (this does **not** need to be included in your Google Doc:

For Josef's story: Adolf Hitler, *Kristallnacht*, Dachau, bar mitzvah, *minyán*, *yarmulke*, *tallism*, *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)

After reading, complete the following:

1. Discuss the reasons why Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud's families have to 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?
2. Discuss the personalities of each of these young people: Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud. In what ways do each of them have to take charge of their families' plights at different points in their story? Describe the points at which each young person has to act as an adult.
3. 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?

4. The theme of a piece of literature is often described as the “big idea,” the “underlying message,” or “the author’s statement about life.” What do you think the author wanted us to understand after reading this book?

5. The seven Hallmarks of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and Notre Dame learning communities are:
 1. We proclaim by our lives even more than by our words that God is good.
 2. We honor the dignity and sacredness of each person.
 3. We educate for and act on behalf of justice and peace in the world.
 4. We commit ourselves to community service.
 5. We embrace the gift of diversity.
 6. We create community among those with whom we work and with those we serve.
 7. We develop holistic learning communities which educate for life.

Choose at least two of these Hallmarks and discuss how they relate to your reading of the book.

If you have any questions regarding this assignment, please contact Susan Butler at sbutler@nda-worc.org

Have a wonderful summer!