

Arrowhead Union High School
Language Arts Department
Book Rationale

Book Title and Author	<i>Refugee</i> by Alan Gratz
Course	Eng/SS Block 9
Teachers	Elmergreen & Taylor

How is this book particularly appropriate for the students in this course?	We are doing a unit on the immigrant/refugee experience. This novel gives three fictional historical and current perspectives.
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How is this book especially pertinent to the objectives of this course and/or unit of study?	We will be pairing fictional accounts with nonfiction memoir excerpts to show the reality of historical fiction. We also will analyze this book for the literature terms required for English 9.
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Identify any special problems that might arise and list activities/lessons that will address these issues.	This book is written for young adults, so the content is appropriate for 9th graders. There is some mention of guns, racial taunts, discrimination, violence, harsh realities of war, description of a shark attack, but those will be addressed on a case by case basis
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Provide a summary of the book.	Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.
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List awards or other accolades the book has received.	2019 PYRCA Award Winner, Grades 6-8 2019 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award Winner 2019 Sequoyah Book Award Winner, Intermediate 2019 Flicker Tale Award Winner, Fiction 2019 Beehive Award Nominee 2019 North Carolina Children's Book Award Winner, Junior Book 2018 YouPer Award Honor
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	ALA-CBC Building a Home Library Booklist - 2018 Buckeye Children's Book Award 2018 MSL Cream of the Crop - 2018 2018 NCTE Charlotte Huck Award Honor 2018 Judy Lopez Memorial Award Winner for Children's Literature 2018 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner, Older Readers YALSA 2018 Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers Selection YALSA 2018 Best Fiction for Young Adults 2018 E.B. White Read-Aloud Honor, Middle Reader ILA Children's Choices - 2018 ILA Teachers' Choices - 2018 2017 CYBILS Award Winner, Middle Grade Fiction <i>Kirkus Reviews</i> Best Books of 2017, Middle Grade Summer 2017 Kids' Indies Next List, Ages 9 to 12 <i>Publishers Weekly</i> Best Books of 2017, Middle Grade Amazon.com Best Books of 2017, Ages 9–12 <i>The New York Times</i> Notable Children's Books of 2017, Middle Grade Chicago Public Library Best Books of 2017, Fiction for Older Readers CSMCL Best Multicultural Children's Books of 2017 Brightly Best Children's Books of 2017, According to Kids New York Public Library Best Books for Kids 2017
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