

Notre Dame Catholic High School

Summer Reading 2018



Let's Read

Summer is a great time to read! While we will take up some of your summer by having you read *Refugee* by Alan Gratz, we want to leave you time to find and read books that you are interested in. To develop the reading habits that will help you in school and in life, we encourage you to find books you want to read. Read biographies of people who fascinate you, read histories of events or time periods you are interested in, read novels with great characters, read motivational books, read the classics, read another book by an author you love. Read as a family, read with a friend, read in the morning, read at night. Make reading a habit, as instinctual as turning on the TV or checking your phone.

We believe that reading is good and know that habitual readers do well in school. First year college students are expected to read 5,000 pages! Are you ready? Sustained reading increases vocabulary, solidifies academic gains, and helps ensure college success. It also helps us grow in empathy, knowledge, and curiosity.

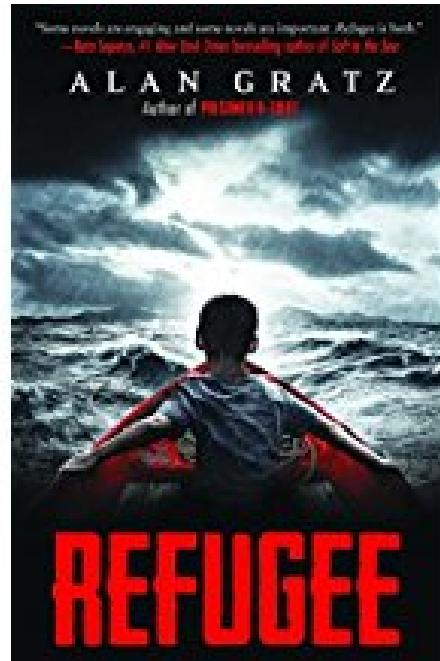
You should read at least two books of your own choosing over the summer, but sincerely hope that you read even more. You will be asked to talk and write about these books at the beginning of the year. Take a picture of each book you read.

One School, One Book

In September 2017, Pope Francis issued a call to address the growing refugee crisis. In response, Caritas International and Catholic Relief Services began a two year "Share the Journey" campaign to raise awareness of and encourage a response to this problem which now affects millions of people around the world (www.sharethejourney.org).

Inspired by this call and driven by our mission, we have chosen *Refugee* by Alan Gratz as our shared summer reading book. This moving book tells the stories of three young refugees from different time periods: a Jewish boy fleeing Nazi Germany in 1939, a Cuban girl trying to get reach the shores of America in 1994, and a Syrian boy leaving his war-torn country in 2015.

During this school year, students and teachers will engage in a series of cross-, co-, and extra-curricular activities to raise awareness of and respond to this global crisis. *Students will be expected to discuss and write about the book in the first days of school.*



Additional Books about the Refugee Experience

We chose *Refugee* in part because it is accessible to all readers. If you are looking for a more challenging book on the same theme, pick up one of these titles:

A Long Way Gone: A Memoir of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah

What Is the What by Dave Eggers

Girl at War by Sara Novic

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Exit West by Moshin Hamid

Course Specific Requirements

In addition to *Refugee*, students enrolled in certain classes have some requirements.

Students will be expected to have these books read before school begins and be able to discuss and write about them at the beginning of the year.

- High Honors Freshmen: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
- AP British Literature (HH Sophomores): *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.
- HH American Literature: *The Grapes of Wrath* by Jonathan Steinbeck
- AP Humanities (HH Seniors): *Sarum: The Novel of England* by Edward Rutherfurd

How to Find a Book

We encourage parents and students to work together to find books. If you are having trouble thinking of a book, here are a couple of questions that might help:

- Do you have a favorite athlete, artist, politician, or saint? There might be a biography on or autobiography by that person.
- Ready for a quest? Tackle something epic like *Lord of the Rings*.
- Need a new world? Find a mystery or fantasy series that will give you a world you can live in all summer long.
- Want to travel? Choose a book about a place you want to visit.
- Thinking about a career? Find books written by people who are doing the work you want to do.

- Ready for spiritual growth? Pick up a devotional or prayer book. Read Scripture.
- Want to learn a skill? Check out a self-help or do-it-yourself book.
- Are you a rising senior (or parent of one) anxious about college? *The Graduate Survival Guide: 5 Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make in College* by Anthony Oneal and Rachel Cruze

The American Library Association's YALSA awards are a great place to look for titles

(<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards>).

The Great American Read on PBS (<http://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/home/>)

Resources

Your library: A great place to go for all kinds of books and great recommendations...and it's free!

Overdrive: This app lets you download books onto a tablet or e-reader for free through your library. You can even download audiobooks free.

Audible: Download audiobooks to your phone that you can listen to while you drive, exercise, or sit on the beach.

Amazon, eBay, and Alibris are all places to shop online for new and used books.

Summary:

High Honors: *Refugee*, required book, and at least one book of choice.

Honors, CP1, and CP2: *Refugee* and two books of choice.

**If you have any questions, please email Mr. Marc Sulzycki
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