



St. James Catholic School
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St. James Catholic School believes in the importance of reading to strengthen fluency, vocabulary, phonics, and comprehension throughout the summer. Therefore, Summer Reading Assignments are upon us.

For the 2026-2027 school year, it is **mandatory** that all students:

- ❖ Read the Required Summer Reading book for his/her entering grade level.
- ❖ Read a second book of his/her choice at grade level.
- ❖ Complete the book report for the **required** book with parent/guardian assistance.
- ❖ Complete the reading ***Bingo Card*** for the second book.
- ❖ All assignments will be collected the first week of school.

Happy reading and enjoy your summer! 📖☀️

Required Summer Reading 2026 Entering Grade 7

Refugee

By Alan Gratz

Three different kids. One mission in common: ESCAPE.

Josef is a Jewish boy 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 and freedom 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 young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.



Book can be purchased from:

Amazon \$10.49

Barnes and Noble \$17.99

Mandatory Summer Reading Book Report 2026-2027

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences

Pages 1–75 (Introduction to Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud)

1. How does each character’s country and time period shape their experiences?

2. What dangers does each family face at the start of their journey? How are they similar and different?

3. Why does Mahmoud say, “Being invisible is how we survive”? What does this say about his world?

Pages 76–130 (The Journey Begins)

1. How do the three characters show bravery in their decisions to leave home?

2. Why does Isabel trade her trumpet for gasoline? What does that decision reveal about her?

3. What role does hope play for the families so far? What keeps them moving forward?

Pages 131–200 (The Journey Continues)

1. How do the characters begin to lose or gain trust in others during their journeys?

2. What hardships do Isabel and her family face on the boat, and how do they cope?

3. Why is Mahmoud's decision to give up Hana both heartbreaking and courageous?

4. How does Josef begin to take on more adult responsibilities? How does this affect his character?

Pages 201–265 (Danger & Turning Points)

1. How do all three families show resilience in the face of tragedy?

2. What does Mahmoud's story teach us about the modern refugee crisis?

3. Why is Isabel's story especially powerful when her grandfather reflects on leaving Spain during a civil war?

Pages 266–End (Final Decisions)

1. What is the emotional impact of the ending? How did each character’s story resolve?

2. How is Josef’s story a tragic lesson about choices and sacrifice?

3. What message does the author send by intertwining these three refugee stories from different eras?

4. What lessons did you learn from *Refugee* about empathy, justice, and the cost of silence?

Book Report #2

Your Name (first and last name)

Name of Book

Author

Directions: Complete the Bingo Reading Card. The goal is to complete **five squares in a row**-across, down, or diagonally.

B	I	N	G	O
List 5 characters from your book and describe them.	Create a PowerPoint or Storyboard retelling the story of your book in ONLY 6 slides.	If you could save one character in your book from a disaster who would it be and why? (paragraph at least ½ page).	Create a travel brochure for the place your book is set.	Write and label five examples of figurative language in your book.
Create a word search with 10 words from your book.	Write a poem about the main character. The poem should be at least 15 lines.	Make a plot diagram for your book. Include exposition, 3 rising action events, the climax, 2 falling action events and resolution.	Using a site such as piktochart.com create an infographic about your book.	Write a newspaper article about an event in your book. Remember to answer the 5 w(s) and the how.
Make an illustrated timeline with at least 5 major events in the story.	Draw a character map with a picture of the main character in the middle and at least 5 traits.	<u>Free Choice</u> 	Write diary entries for two consecutive days as a character from your book.	Design a movie poster for your book. Tell who will play the characters, when the movie premieres and a slogan for the movie.
Write an alternate ending to your book. Must be at least 1 page.	Find one of each of the four types of sentences in your book and label them.	Make a soundtrack for your book with at least five songs. Explain why you chose each song.	Compare and contrast the main character in your book to another fictional character. Must be at least 1 page.	List 5 unfamiliar words in your book. Write their pronunciation and meaning.
In paragraph form describe the setting (time & place) in your book.	Create an online quiz about your book with at least 10 questions.	Write a letter to a character in your book. Telling them how you relate to what they are going through.	Create a radio announcement to advertise your book. Write it in paragraph form.	On plain white paper draw the setting of your book. Leave no white space

Standard Book List for 7th - 8th Grades

Author	Title
Corbett, Sue	12 Again
Blos, Joan W.	A Gathering of Days.
Donnelly, Jennifer	Deep Blue (Grade 8)
Korman, Gordon	Swindle
DuPrau, Jeanne	The City of Ember
Korman, Gordon	Restart
Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet
Paul, Donita K.	DragonQuest
L'Engle, Medeleine	A Wrinkle in Time
Frank, Anne	The Diary of a Young Girl: (Grade 8)
Paterson, Katherine	Jacob Have I Loved
Ryan, Pam Munoz	Esperanza Rising
Forbes, Esther	Johnny Tremain
George, Jean Craighead	Julie of the Wolves
Yousafzai, Malala	I am Malala (Grade 8)
Spinelli, Jerry	Maniac Magee
Gelason, Colleen	The Chess Queen Enigma (Grade 8)
Levine, Ellen	If Your Name was changed at Ellis Island
Burnford, Sheila	The Incredible Journey
Fox, Paula	One-Eyed Cat
Creech, Sharon	Walk Two Moons
Curtis, Christopher	The Watsons Go to Birmingham
Clements, Andrew	School Story, The
Babbit, Natalie	Tuck Everlasting
Flake, Sharon	The Skin I'm In (Grade 8)
Soto, Gary	Taking Sides
Taylor, Mildred	Road to Memphis, The
Lowry, Lois	The Giver
Rita Williams-Garcia	One Crazy Summer
Taylor, Mildred D	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (Grade 8)