



# HILL TOP

Preparatory School

Summer 2019

Dear 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

This summer, the students heading into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade will be assigned *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. This book was chosen because the 9<sup>th</sup> grade will be exploring the “modern Eastern world” and the topic of *refugees* will be talked about throughout the year.

The next page gives a very brief description of the book and provides instructions on the writing assignments that correspond to the book.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mcohen@hilltopprep.org](mailto:mcohen@hilltopprep.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Cohen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Cohen

Middle School Division Head

## 2019 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

### Refugee by Alan Gatz

*“JOSEF is a Jewish boy living 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 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 kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.” <http://www.amazon.com>*

Instructions: The book is available at many area libraries. You can also purchase the book through Barnes and Noble, Scholastic or Amazon for a hard copy (\$12-14) or ebook (\$10.99). As you read *Refugee*, keep note of important sections/quotes that you connect with and that you feel need to be discussed.

*Please answer each of these in a paragraph. Each answer should have a topic sentence and four supporting sentences.*

1. Using four examples from the book, describe how Josef showed perseverance and courage.
2. Describe Isabel's experience leaving Cuba using four examples from the book. Relate her journey to a struggle you had or have learned about.
3. How did Mahmoud and others around him show leadership on their journey? Give four specific examples to explain what leadership traits were on display.
4. Identify three things you liked about the book and three things you didn't like about the book and explain why.