## SUMMER READING

GRADE 8
2023

All of us who are involved in teaching Reading and English acknowledge the value of reading all year long - not just during the school year. For that reason, we have developed a required summer reading assignment because we believe it will help students meet academic challenges in the coming year and encourage them to develop independent reading habits.

## Students MUST select one of the two books summarized below.

Refugee by Alan Gratz (historical fiction): 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.

When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson \& Omar Mohamed (nonfiction graphic novel): Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.

Directions for students entering Grade 8:

1. Read one of the two books.
2. Divide your selected book into thirds. While reading, complete Summer Reading Logs for each of the 3 sections. Reading Logs will be collected for credit on the $1^{\text {st }}$ day of school. Responses should be thorough and specific, reflecting on main events, themes, and characters; as well as, personal connections and ideas.
PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN ZERO CREDIT FOR ALL STUDENTS INVOLVED.
3. In addition to completing the Summer Reading Logs, students will be assessed on their knowledge of the book during the $1^{\text {st }}$ week of school. These assessments may include a project, discussions, test, and/or writing assignment.

Students may take Reading Counts quizzes during the summer or in September when they return to school. We advise students who purchase their book to keep them. They will find it helpful to have the books available to refer to when they return to school and start working on assignments related to their summer reading.

Sincerely,
The Eighth Grade Language Arts Teachers
$\qquad$
Period: $\qquad$ Section (circle): 123 Pages: $\qquad$ - $\qquad$

## Summer Reading Log

Directions: Three Reading Logs must be completed for each Summer Reading novel. Please divide each book into thirds, and complete the following chart for ALL reading sections.

Five EVENTS that happen: (Detailed summary of the main action in the section)
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
5.

Two IMPORTANT PASSAGES and a thorough EXPLANATION for each (3-5 sentences).
consider interesting, funny, puzzling, or important passages that stood out while reading \& make personal connections:

Page: $\qquad$

Page: $\qquad$

Student Name: $\qquad$ Book Title: $\qquad$
Period: $\qquad$ Section (circle): 123 Pages: $\qquad$ - $\qquad$

## Summer Reading Log

Directions: Three Reading Logs must be completed for each Summer Reading novel. Please divide each book into thirds, and complete the following chart for ALL reading sections.

Five EVENTS that happen: (Detailed summary of the main action in the section)
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
5.

Two IMPORTANT PASSAGES and a thorough EXPLANATION for each (3-5 sentences).
consider interesting, funny, puzzling, or important passages that stood out while reading \& make personal connections:

Page: $\qquad$

Page: $\qquad$

Student Name: $\qquad$ Book Title: $\qquad$
Period: $\qquad$ Section (circle): 123 Pages: $\qquad$ - $\qquad$

## Summer Reading Log

Directions: Three Reading Logs must be completed for each Summer Reading novel. Please divide each book into thirds, and complete the following chart for ALL reading sections.

Five EVENTS that happen: (Detailed summary of the main action in the section)
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
5.

Two IMPORTANT PASSAGES and a thorough EXPLANATION for each (3-5 sentences).
consider interesting, funny, puzzling, or important passages that stood out while reading \& make personal connections:

Page: $\qquad$

Page: $\qquad$

