Refugee
By: Alan Gratz

TEACHER’S NOTES

Thank you so much for your purchase! I designed this resource as a visual notetaking system for my students when reading Refugee. This resource allows students to explore different aspects of the novel and pull out the important events themselves. I hope your students enjoy this wonderful historical fiction novel!

You can choose to use this resource many different ways. Here are some ideas:
• Create a packet for students to work through at their own pace.
• Divide the chapters into sections (example 1-4, 5-8, etc) and have students meet with a group to share their ideas after reading each section and completing the organizers.
• Assign certain students to a section of chapters and have them present their information to the class and assign a new group of students to the next section of chapters.

EACH CHAPTER ORGANIZER PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

• CHOOSE IMPORTANT OR UNKNOWN WORDS
• CHOOSE AN IMPORTANT QUOTE FROM EACH STORYLINE
• SUMMARIZE KEY EVENTS FROM EACH STORYLINE
• ILLUSTRATE AN IMPORTANT SCENE OF THEIR CHOICE
• RESPOND TO A DISCUSSION QUESTION/WRITING PROMPT

I encourage students to use their graphic organizers as sketch notes. I allow them to doodle words and drawings in the white spaces and color any part of the graphic organizer. If you are new to sketch notes, you can click on the link below for a quick introduction. I also show this video to my students.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gY9KdRfNN9w
You will be reading *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. During your reading, you will analyze different aspects of the novel. Read the instructions below before completing the graphic organizers.

**In this box, you will list and DEFINE any unknown or important words.**

**List the most important events from each storyline here.**

**Choose one important quote from each storyline and write it here with the page number.**

**Choose one scene from each chapter to illustrate.**

There will be a discussion question here that you will answer for each storyline.
Before reading *Refugee*, you will need to do some research on the historical periods in which the stories take place. This novel contains three different story lines that occur in three different settings and time periods. Use the graphic organizer below to help with your research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE HOLOCAUST 1933-1945</th>
<th>CUBA RIOTS 1994</th>
<th>SYRIAN WAR 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO:</strong> Who was being affected during this time?</td>
<td><strong>WHO:</strong> Who was being affected during this time?</td>
<td><strong>WHO:</strong> Who was being affected during this time?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHAT:</strong> What was happening?</td>
<td><strong>WHAT:</strong> What was happening?</td>
<td><strong>WHAT:</strong> What was happening?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHERE:</strong> Where did this take place?</td>
<td><strong>WHERE:</strong> Where did this take place?</td>
<td><strong>WHERE:</strong> Where did this take place?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHY:</strong> Why did this happen?</td>
<td><strong>WHY:</strong> Why did this happen?</td>
<td><strong>WHY:</strong> Why did this happen?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is this event still affecting people today? If so, how?

Is this event still affecting people today? If so, how?

Is this event still affecting people today? If so, how?
Josef
BERLIN, GERMANY - 1938

Key events from this chapter
1.
2.
3.

Important quote

Isabel
JUST OUTSIDE HAVANA, CUBA - 1994

Key events from this chapter
1.
2.
3.

Important quote

Mahmoud
ALEPPO, SYRIA - 2015

Key events from this chapter
1.
2.
3.

Important quote

Write about it: Explain the conflict that has been introduced in these chapters for each character.

Josef:

Isabel:

Mahmoud:

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.

Josef:

Isabel:

Mahmoud:
Josef - 1 Day from home
BERLIN, GERMANY - 1939

KEY EVENTS FROM THIS CHAPTER
1.
2.
3.

IMPORTANT QUOTE

Josef:

Isabel
HAVANA, CUBA - 1994

KEY EVENTS FROM THIS CHAPTER
1.
2.
3.

IMPORTANT QUOTE

Isabel:

Mahmoud
ALEPPO, SYRIA - 2015

KEY EVENTS FROM THIS CHAPTER
1.
2.
3.

IMPORTANT QUOTE

Mahmoud:

Write about it: What historical information has the author provided for each character so far.

JOSEF:

ISABEL:

MAHMoud:
### Key Events from This Chapter

**Josef**
- 1 Day from home
- On a train to Hamburg, Germany - 1939

**Isabel**
- Just outside Havana, Cuba - 1994

**Mahmoud**
- Aleppo, Syria - 2015

### Write about it: What motivates each character’s actions in these chapters?

**Josef:**

**Isabel:**

**Mahmoud:**

### Important or Unknown Words

- Josef
- Isabel
- Mahmoud

### Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Refugee
BY: ALAN GRATZ

Pages 56-73

Important or Unknown Words

Josef - 6 days from home
ATLANTIC OCEAN- 1939

Isabel
JUST OUTSIDE HAVANA, CUBA-1994

Mahmoud
JUST OUTSIDE ALEPPO, SYRIA- 2015

Write about it: What mood is set in each of these chapters by the events that take place? Explain.

JOSEF:

ISABEL:

MAHMOUD:

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Write about it: List two character traits for each character below and explain your choices.

**Josef:**

**Isabel:**

**Mahmoud:**

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Write about it: Make a prediction about what you think may happen to each character based on what you have read so far.

JOSEF:

ISABEL:

MAHMOUD:
Important or Unknown Words

Josef - 11 days from home
Atlantic Ocean - 1939

Isabel - 1 day from home
The Straits of Florida, Cuba - 1994

Mahmoud - 11 days from home
Izmir, Turkey - 2015

Write about it: List one way that you can relate to each of the characters in this book.

Josef:

Isabel:

Mahmoud:

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Josef - 14 days from home
ATLANTIC OCEAN - 1939

Isabel - 1 day from home
THE STRAITS OF FLORIDA, CUBA - 1994

Mahmoud - 11 days from home
IZMIR, TURKEY - 2015

KEY EVENTS FROM THIS CHAPTER

1. 
2. 
3. 

IMPORTANT QUOTE

Write about it: Fill in the sentences below for each storyline.

JOSEF: I WONDER...

ISABEL: I WONDER...

MAHMoud: I WONDER...

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Write about it: Describe the problems that each character is facing at this point in the story.

JOSEF:

ISABEL:

MAHMOUD:

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.

Josef - 17 days from home
HAVANA HARBOR - 1939

Isabel - 2 days from home
THE STRAIT OF FLORIDA, CUBA - 1994

Mahmoud - 11 days from home
MEDITERRANEAN SEA - 2015

KEY EVENTS FROM THIS CHAPTER
1.
2.
3.

IMPORTANT QUOTE

KEY EVENTS FROM THIS CHAPTER
1.
2.
3.

IMPORTANT QUOTE

KEY EVENTS FROM THIS CHAPTER
1.
2.
3.

IMPORTANT QUOTE

Refugee by: Alan Gratz
Josef - 18 days from home
HAVANA HARBOR - 1939

Isabel - 3 days from home
CARIBBEAN SEA - 1994

Mahmoud - 11 days from home
MEDITERRANEAN SEA - 2015

Write about it: Name and describe one minor character in each of the storylines that you think is important to the story.

JOSEF:

ISABEL:

MAHMOUD:
Josef - 18 days from home
Havana Harbor - 1939

Isabel - 4 days from home
Between Bahamas and Florida - 1994

Mahmoud - 11 days from home
Mediterranean Sea - 2015

**Write about it:** Describe the settings in each of the storylines.

**Josef:**

**Isabel:**

**Mahmoud:**

**Visualize it:** Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Important or Unknown Words

Josef - 19 days from home
Havana Harbor - 1939

Isabel - 5 days from home
Between Bahamas and Florida - 1994

Mahmoud - 12 days from home
Lesbos to Athens - 2015

Write about it: Who is the antagonist in each of the story lines? Explain.

Josef:

Isabel:

Mahmoud:

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Refugee by: Alan Gratz

Important or Unknown Words

Josef - 21 days from home
HAVANA HARBOR - 1939

Isabel - 5 days from home
BETWEEN BAHAMAS AND FLORIDA - 1994

Mahmoud - 14/15 days from home
MACEDONIA TO SERBIA - 2015

Key events from this chapter

1.
2.
3.

Important quote

Write about it: What advice would you give to each of the main characters in the book.

JOSEF:

ISABEL:

MAHMOUD:

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Josef - 21 days from home
Off the American coast - 1939

1. 
2. 
3. 

Isabel - 5 days from home
Off the coast of Florida - 1994

1. 
2. 
3. 

Mahmoud - 15/16 days from home
Serbia to Hungary - 2015

1. 
2. 
3. 

Write about it: What do you think has been the most important scene so far in each of the story lines?

Josef: 

Isabel: 

Mahmoud: 

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Josef - 22 days from home
Atlantic Ocean - 1939

Isabel - 5 days from home
Off the Coast of Florida - 1994

Mahmoud - 16 days from home
Hungary - 2015

Write about it: How do you think each of these stories will end?

Josef:

Isabel:

Mahmoud:

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Refugee

by: Alan Gratz

Important or Unknown Words

Josef - 36 days from home
Antwerp, Belgium - 1939

Isabel - 5 days from home
Off the Coast of Florida - 1994

Mahmoud - 17 days from home
Hungary - 2015

KEY EVENTS FROM THIS CHAPTER

1.
2.
3.

IMPORTANT QUOTE

Write about it: Describe how the author makes you feel through his writing. What makes you feel this way?

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Write about it: Josef's story comes to an end here. The last line reads “The Nazi soldier smiled at Josef’s mother. ‘You choose.’” Who do you think she chose and why?

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
Important or Unknown Words

Isabel - Home
MIAMI, FLORIDA - 1994

Key Events from this Chapter
1. 
2. 
3. 

Important Quote

Mahmoud - Home
BERLIN, GERMANY - 2015

Key Events from this Chapter
1. 
2. 
3. 

Important Quote

Write about it: List five facts that you learned about refugees or the historical time periods from reading this novel.
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Visualize it: Choose one scene from these chapters to illustrate below.
The author's note gives us an inside look into how the author, Alan Gratz, developed this story. Many aspects of this historical fiction novel are based on true events. Fill in the t-charts below listing the similarities and differences between the fictional story and true events.

### Josef

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMILARITIES</th>
<th>DIFFERENCES</th>
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### Isabel

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### Mahmoud

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<thead>
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Thank you!

Please follow me on Instagram @oh_sosimple to see what is going on in my middle school ELA classroom.

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