

7th Grade English

Summer Reading 2026

Dear 7th Grader,

Congratulations! You are officially a middle schooler! We are excited to meet you and support you as you begin your middle school adventures this upcoming year.

The theme for English 7 is [DEVELOPING CHARACTER](#). Your summer reading is selected with this theme in mind. Your assigned text is *Refugee* by Alan Gratz—a well-loved novel following the stories of three young people who are forced to flee their home countries in search of safety and freedom. We are confident this book will evoke meaningful reflections on life, empathy, and overcoming obstacles. The second reading experience is designed with YOU in mind—an opportunity for YOU to “develop character.” You will select a Christian non-fiction/memoir from the list provided. We pray your selection will encourage your faith this summer.

We hope your summer is filled with people and activities you love. Among these, we implore you to find rest, grow in your faith, spend time with family and friends, enjoy some sunshine, and get lost in a good book. We look forward to seeing you in August!

Warm regards,

Your Middle School English Teachers

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YOUR TASKS:

1. **Read *Refugee* by Alan Gratz** (hard copy required—no audiobooks)
(ISBN-13: 978-0545880831, Scholastic Press)

As you read, it is recommended that you annotate for any challenges that Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud face, as well as moments that show how each character grows or changes.



2. **Read a non-fiction book** of your choice from the list below. This book should be the one that captures your interest the most. Make sure your parent agrees with your selection as well.
 - Love Does* by Bob Goff
 - Live* by Sadie Robertson
 - God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew
 - Shaken* by Tim Tebow
 - Fearless* by Eric Blehm
3. **Discuss the reading** with a parent or guardian, using the questions provided on the “Parental Acknowledgment Form” (on page 2 of this document). **PRINT the Acknowledgment Form—due on the FIRST day of school (test grade).**

PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

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Directions: After you have read *Refugee* by Alan Gratz and one of the non-fiction reading options from the list provided, discuss the reading with your parent or guardian using the questions below as a guide. Print, sign, and date this document. ***This is worth a TEST GRADE and will be collected on the FIRST DAY of school.***

1. Summarize each character's journey in *Refugee*: Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud.
2. What challenges do Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud face? How does each character grow or change in light of these challenges?
3. What did YOU learn from reading your choice reading book? What are your take-aways?

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Student Name: _____

I have read, in its entirety, *Refugee* and one of the following choice book options: *Love Does*, *Live*, or *Shaken*. I have discussed the two books with my parent or guardian using the questions above as a guide.

I am prepared to bring the two books to class on the first day of school in addition to this printed and signed form.

I understand that I am responsible for the content of each book and am prepared to participate in discussions, complete in-class assignments, and take assessments on the two books.

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

Student signature

Date