**Refugee**

Alan Gratz

**GENRE:** Adventure, Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction

**BOOK SUMMARY**

Josef, Isabel and Mahmoud are three kids who live in different time periods; but they do have one thing in common--they are refugees. In 1939, Josef and his family hope to escape Nazi Germany on the MS St. Louis; Isabel’s family hopes to escape Cuba in a homemade boat to Miami in 1994; Mahmoud and his family flee war torn Aleppo in 2015 by any means possible. This book gives a face to past and current refugee crisis.

**BOOK TALK**

*Refugee* takes you to three different time periods with three remarkable children: Josef in 1939 Germany, Isabel in 1994 Cuba, and Mahmoud in 2015 Syria. Travel along with them as they go on a harrowing journey in search of a new home. Experience with them the dangerous route that refugees have taken yesterday and today to achieve a better life.

**LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES**

- **Official Book Trailer:** [https://youtu.be/89sO3y75hF8](https://youtu.be/89sO3y75hF8)
- **Official Website:** [https://www.alangratz.com/writing/refugee/](https://www.alangratz.com/writing/refugee/)
- **Author:** [https://www.alangratz.com/](https://www.alangratz.com/)
- **Other:** [https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/books/refugee-by-alan-gratz/](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/books/refugee-by-alan-gratz/)
- **TeachingBooks.net through INSPIRE:** [https://www.teachingbooks.net/qlperxt](https://www.teachingbooks.net/qlperxt)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss the reasons that made Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud leave their homes.
2. On page 18, Josef says “It was like they were invisible… people chose not to see them.” Discuss this statement. Was this true for Isabel? Mahmoud?
3. Discuss what you learned from the book about the Syrian conflict that caused Mahmoud and his family to leave Syria.

**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO**

- **Refugee Experience:** *The Day of the Pelican* by Katherine Paterson
- **Refugee Experience:** *So Far from the Bamboo Grove* by Yoko Kawashima Watkins
- **Refugee Experience:** *Shooting Kabul* by N.H. Sendai
- **Refugee Experience:** *Lost Boys* by Darcy Rosenblatt
- **Historical Fiction:** *Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan

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