

Reviewer Username: Dina

School: Troy High School

Grade: Sophomore

Book Title: Refugee

Book Author: Alan Gratz

Rate 1-5 (1-Lowest to 5-Highest): 4.8

Refugee by Alan Gratz contains the tails of three refugees in three very different time periods that would be beautifully connected. Josef, a Jewish thirteen year old, lived in Nazi Germany and faced the evil of the Night of the Broken Glass. His father was to be taken from him, and the man that came back from the Concentration camp would never be the same. Isabel, a Cuban trumpet player, faces the arrest of her father with her baby brother on the way. Isabel, her family, and Ivan, her friend, and his family took a journey that killed many people every year. Mahmoud, the last of the three, lived in Syria and was impacted by the Syrian Civil War, which is still going on today. Mahmoud and his family had to make a journey across Europe to Germany to find a place that would take them in. All of these choices don't come without consequences, and many of them might lead to the survival- or death- of another. From Joseph escaping Germany and docking at Cuba, to Isabel leaving Cuba and coming to the US, and from Mahmoud going from Syria to Germany yet again, the story comes full circle.

Refugee is an extremely fast-paced story with an unexpected ending. Each character's story builds up on the one from before, and there is not a table left unturned by the end. The book is an action packed adventure from the beginning to the end. The sacrifices made by Isabel, Joseph, and Mahmoud, with how Lito (Mariano), Ruthie, and Hanna play a part in their story are truly expected and heartwarming. The strength and courage that are displayed by people in this book is one that can't be seen elsewhere.

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a fast-paced adventure and to learn about the lives of people in the past and people today. This book contains every possible human emotion, from anger, despair, hopelessness, hope, happiness, and much more. The concepts and ideas in this book are simple to understand, and so are the connections. The ending to this book is one unlike any other. This book does somewhat remind me of *Every Falling Star*, by Sungju Lee, another masterpiece about the struggle for life.