Center 1 Directions

Read the following excerpts from Alan Gratz's *Refugee,* a fiction novel that follows the journeys of three children in three different time periods, experiencing similar stories of oppression, immigration and courage. The three excerpts you will be reading follow the story of a 10 year old boy, Josef, who is fleeing Nazi persecution after the events of Kristallnacht in his hometown of Hamberg, Germany. Josef, his sister and his parents boarded the MS St. Louis bound for Havana, Cuba in 1939. Read the assigned passages and answer the reflection questions for each passage. Then, create a journal entry from Josef's perspective to represent how he might have felt and relate it to the historical events of the time period.

Click the link below to take you to the digital version of Refugee:

https://online.anyflip.com/fouzl/sjxu/mobile/index.html

1. Read pages 8-11, chapter titled, "**Josef**, Berlin, Germany- 1938"

Answer: Find a quote that reflects the political climate of Germany during this time. What does this passage reveal about the historical setting of Josef's story?

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2. Read pages 34-35, chapter titled, "**Josef**, Somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean- 1939, 6 Days From Home"

Answer: How do you think being a refugee affects Josef's sense of identity? Find a quote from this excerpt to support your understanding.

3. Read pages 143-149, chapter titled, "Vornay, France- 1940, 1 Year, 1 Month, and 10 Days from Home."

Answer: Josef says, 'It was up to him to take care of everything now.' Reflect on what that would feel like. Have you ever had to step up and take responsibility in a tough situation?

Writing Prompt:

Imagine you are **Josef**. After everything you've experienced, from your father being taken, to the journey across the Atlantic, to the uncertainty of life in a new country; your thoughts are heavy and your responsibilities have grown.

Write a journal entry where you reflect on:

- What you've seen and experienced so far
- How you feel about your family's situation
- What "home" means to you now
- What you hope for in the days ahead
- How you've changed since leaving Germany

Try to write in Josef's voice, as if he's writing in a private notebook. Be honest, thoughtful, and emotional. Include details that show how the journey has affected him.

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