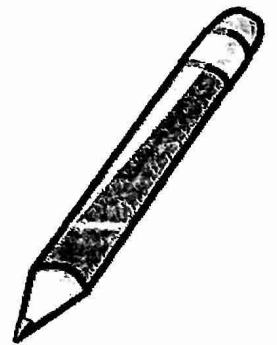


Parent Prompts to Help Kids Rehearse Their Writing

- ★ How will your (story/essay/article) start?
- ★ Read the assignment/prompt to me. Let's take a look at your brainstorm. (You do not have one? Okay, let's take a moment and generate ideas.)
- ★ Tell me about the parts/paragraphs? What will you talk about first? Then what will come next?
- ★ How do you think you want to end?
- ★ What will be the most important moment in the piece?
- ★ What will be the tricky part--where might it get confusing? Let me know when you're at that part, and we can talk it out if you want.
- ★ Try out a couple of leads on me. Let's see which ones really get a reader interested.
- ★ What do you want your reader to know right away?
- ★ What do you want your reader to wonder about?
- ★ Who is your audience?
- ★ Do you have to explain any technical vocabulary?
- ★ From where did you find this information? Show me how you should cite the source.
- ★ Is there a particular perspective or point of view you want to represent?
- ★ Will you do anything to acknowledge other points of view in this piece?
- ★ Let's reread the assignment/prompt. Have you met all of the requirements?

Parent Prompts to Help Kids Elaborate

- ★ There was something you said before that struck me...Tell me more about this.
- ★ When you were talking about this, I jotted down this one idea/phrase that was very cool...Is this something you want to add?
- ★ Add an example of this.
- ★ What's your favorite sentence? This is mine because you...I'd like to see more of this.
- ★ You know, thinking about how strong this piece is, it might be worth thinking about the beginning [or the ending] a little more...
- ★ Let's read this part aloud. See how it doesn't make sense? What can you say instead?



Ways a Parent Can Help with **READING**

1

Let your child see you reading!

Have magazines and books in your home.

2

Help your child find appropriate word & reading games on the computer.

Keep a dictionary on hand. Help your child look up new words they read or hear.

3

Read mysteries with your child and try to figure out the clues together.

4

Movie version coming out

Read the book together first, then talk about which you each liked better.

5

Set aside a time and place for your child to read.

like a comfy chair and a reading light in a quiet place.

6

Visit your public library regularly.

Look for and read together the books that were your favorites when you were a kid.

7

Encourage your child to write.

letters, thank you notes, emails, journals, lists, stories about their own trips, events, and daily life.

8

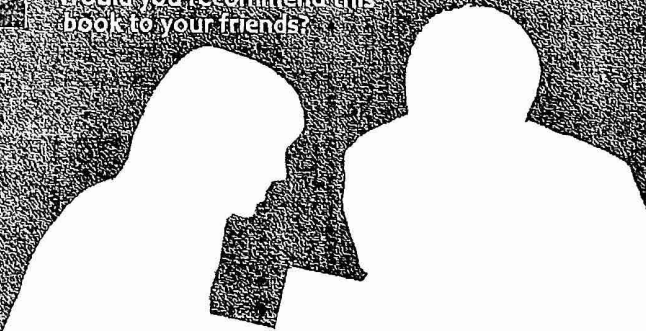
Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading, such as:

What is the story about?
Who are the important characters in the story?
Where does the story take place?
Why do you think the character made that choice?
Why did that happen?
How did you know about...?
Would you recommend this book to your friends?

9

Ask your child to draw a comic strip about what happens in the story.

Provide word searches, crossword and other word games and puzzles, or help your child make his/her own



Share with your child about what you're reading... and encourage your child to do the same

Language Arts 8

Lawrence Middle School, 2018-2019
Course Syllabus



Course Description

The purpose of the 8th grade English curriculum is to continue to develop an appreciation of a variety of genres and themes in English literature while strengthening students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The course aims to accomplish this by providing students with opportunities to read literature that inspires them, shows them how history has an effect on the choices characters, make characters come to life on stage, and explores alternate societies in dystopian literature. In addition to the book covered during a particular unit, students will read, analyze, and discuss a variety of challenging and engaging literature.



Late Work & Absent Policy

Late

If work is submitted after the due date without an excused absence or prior discussion with the teacher then the student will not receive full credit. Every day an assignment is late the student will lose 10 points. *(Weekends Included)*

Absent

If a student is absent he/she needs to check the Absentee bin, Google classroom, and/or reach out to a fellow classmate. If a student is still confused about the assignments missed please see Ms. Cusack. If a student knows he/she will be absent they need to request work at least 3 days in advance. Students will have 3 days to make up the missed work.

Contact Information

Ms. Kathryn Cusack

kcusack@ltps.org

kcusack@ltps.info

(609) 671-5520 ext.4913

Supplies

An important part of middle school is developing effective organizational strategies and habits. The following tools are recommended to help keep you organized:

- Charged Chrome Book
- Pen/Pencil/Highlighter
- Binder or Folder
- Composition Book
- Independent Reading Book



Grading Policy

Assignments will fall into one of four categories. Please note, all descriptions include, but are not limited to, examples of assignments that would typically be assigned.

• **Assessments (30%)**

Test, Quizzes, reading assessments, projects

• **Curriculum Communication (30%)**

Socratic discussions, speaking/ listening task, debates, presentations, book talks

• **Writing (30%)**

Narratives, literary analysis, argumentative writing, poetry, notebook, explanatory writing, research

• **Classwork/Homework (10%)**

Completion of assignments on Google Classroom, reading and annotation of various types of writing, completion of in class assignments.

*"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."
— J.K. Rowling*



Google Classroom

Assignments, reminders, and announcements will be posted on the Google Classroom site. Each class has their own Google Classroom. Below is the student access code for their class. Parents/ Guardians will receive an access code once students are signed up via email.

Independent Reading

- Students are expected to read an individual reading book in and out of the classroom.
- It needs to be brought to class everyday
- Students do not have to read a book they do not like!
- Students will be expected to write about their book and engage in book talks with their peers.

EXPECTATIONS

Be Prepared

- Come to class on time. This means being in your seat at the start time, focused and ready to learn.
- Come to class with the necessary supplies (binder, composition book, novel, planner and writing utensil) every day.

Be Respectful

- Respect yourself and others.
- Respect our class time and our materials.

Do Your Best

- Be responsible for your learning; work hard and do your best.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.



Sign up for important updates from Ms. Cusack.

Get information for Lawrence Middle School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for Language Arts 8:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/cusack18

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

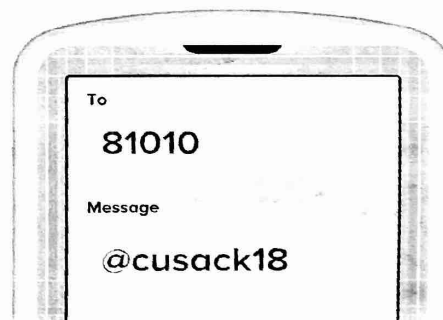


B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @cusack18 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @cusack18 to (270) 200-4022.

** Standard text message rates apply.*



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/cusack18 on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Global Read Aloud Reading Schedule

Week One: October 1st
Pages 1-55

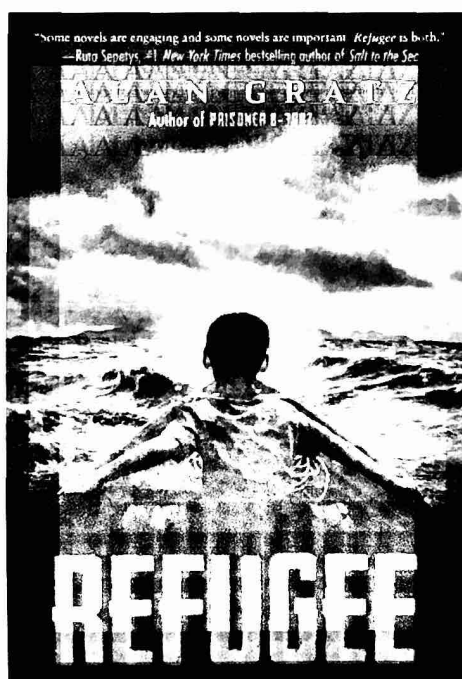
Week Two: October 8th
Pages 56-92

Week Three: October 15th
Pages 93-146

Week Four: October 22nd
Pages 147-196

Week Five: October 29th
Pages 197-252

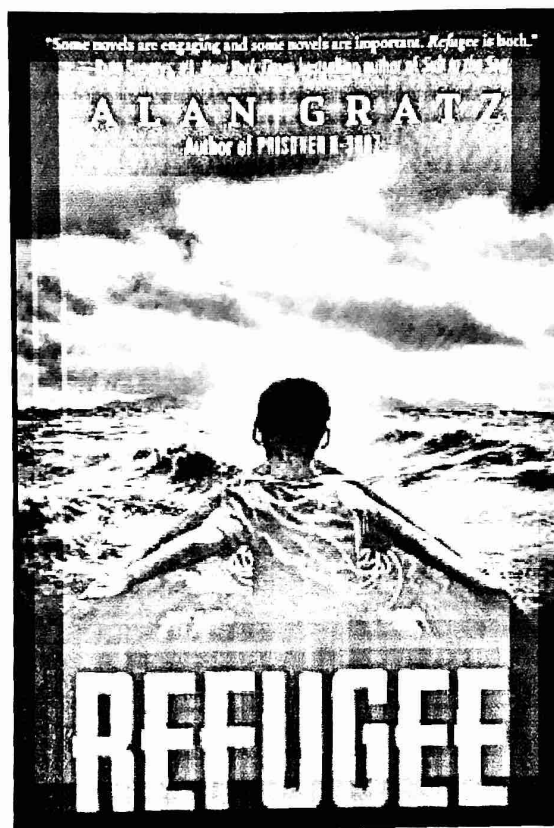
Week 6: November 6th
Pages 253 - End



FALL FAMILY BOOK NIGHT

Monday, Nov. 12

6:00 - 7:30



Three different kids. One mission in common: ESCAPE.

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America...

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...

All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers - from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together.

2018 Fall Family Book Night

Student Name: _____

Grade Level: _____

House: _____

LA Teacher: _____

Parent/guardian, please sign and return this form by **Friday, Oct. 26.**

Will your student and a family member attend our spring discussion on **Monday, Nov. 12?**

Yes _____ No _____

Who will read *Refugee* and attend the discussion with your student? Please print clearly. Thank you!

Attendee's Name: _____

Relationship to student: _____

Attendee's email: _____
(We will contact all attendees with updated information and reminders.)

You, as parent/guardian, or _____, as a trusted family member, will be responsible for your student's transportation to and from LMS.

Students and family members are invited to enjoy refreshments and stimulating conversation from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Please meet in the LMS library at 6:00. We'll break down into small groups. We are looking forward to another wonderful night!

(Print Parent/Guardian Name)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)