

# Summer Reading ~ 7th Grade

## I. Fiction

### *Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz

Every student will read this novel. Please answer the attached questions on a separate piece of paper or type it in a Word document. Fill in the Story Map and the Reader's Sketchbook. This is due for a grade when school opens in the fall.

## II. Non-fiction

Choose ONE of the following novels and complete the (attached) nonfiction form.

### A) Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South by Andrew Mariniss

The New York Times bestselling book STRONG INSIDE is the untold story of Perry Wallace, who in 1966 enrolled at Vanderbilt University and became the first African-American basketball player in the Southeastern Conference. STRONG INSIDE is not just the story of a trailblazing athlete, but of civil rights, race in America, a campus in transition during the tumultuous 1960s, the mental toll of pioneering, decades of ostracism, and eventual reconciliation and healing.

This fast-paced, richly detailed and meticulously researched biography digs deep beneath the surface to reveal a more complicated, illuminating and rewarding story of sports pioneering than we've come to expect from the genre. First-time author Andrew Mariniss masterfully unfolds the unique life story of Wallace, the rare slam-dunking basketball star who was also a valedictorian, engineering double-major, law school graduate, and university professor. Wallace's unusually insightful and honest introspection reveals his inner thoughts throughout his journey.

### B) Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia. This book, based on Swanson's adult bestseller, "Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer," is a true account for young readers about John Wilkes Booth's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States.

### C) Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir by Margarita Engle

Margarita is a girl from two worlds. Her heart lies in Cuba, her mother's tropical island country, a place so lush with vibrant life that it seems like a fairy tale kingdom. But most of the time she lives in Los Angeles, lonely in the noisy city and dreaming of the summers when she can take a plane through the enchanted air to her beloved island. Words and images are her constant companions, friendly and comforting when the children at school are not.

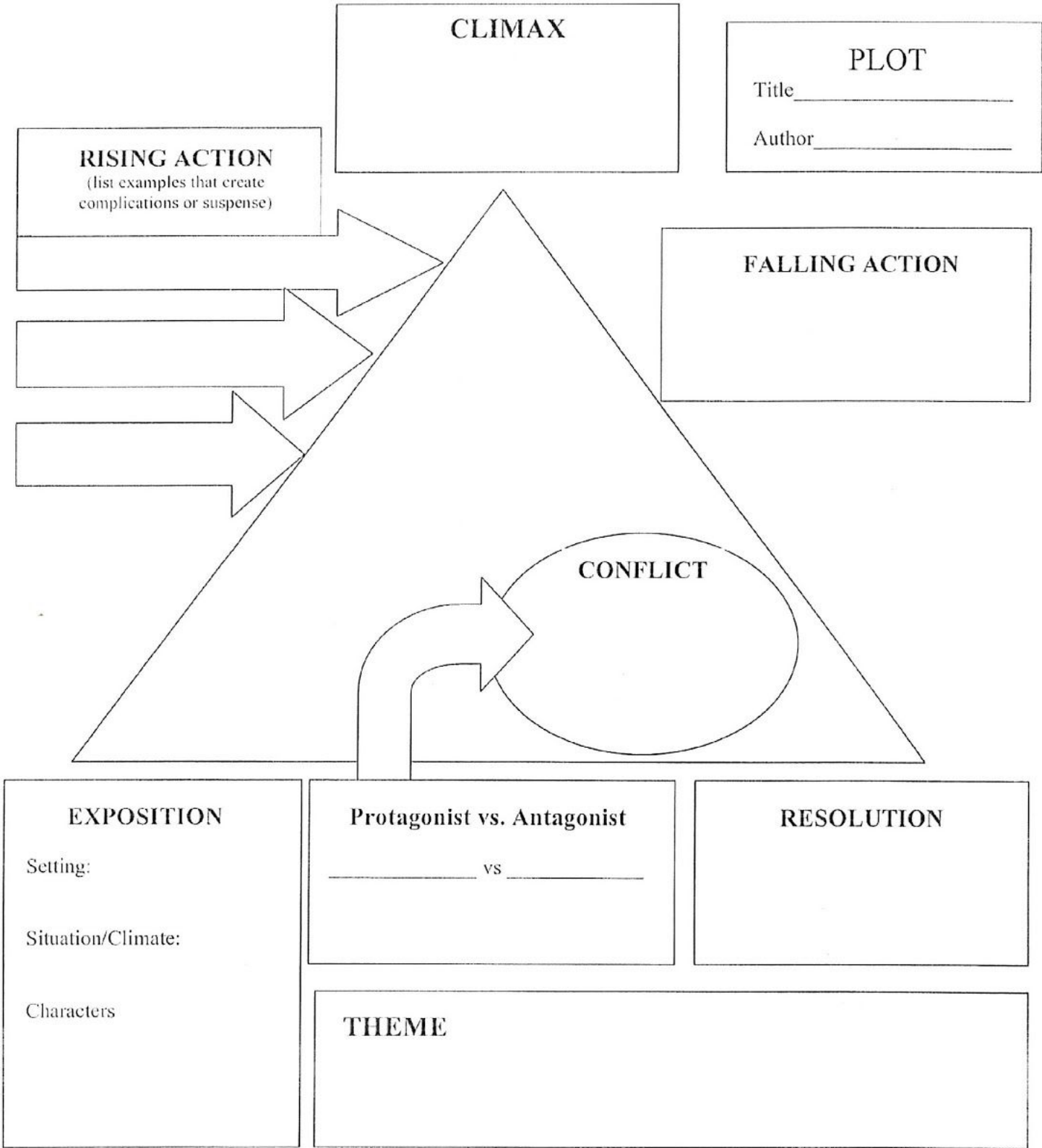
Then a revolution breaks out in Cuba. Margarita fears for her far-away family. When the hostility between Cuba and the United States erupts at the Bay of Pigs Invasion, Margarita's worlds collide in the worst way possible. How can the two countries she loves hate each other so much? And will she ever get to visit her beautiful island again?

***Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz**

**Comprehension Questions**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper so that you have plenty of room to write and answer the questions thoroughly.

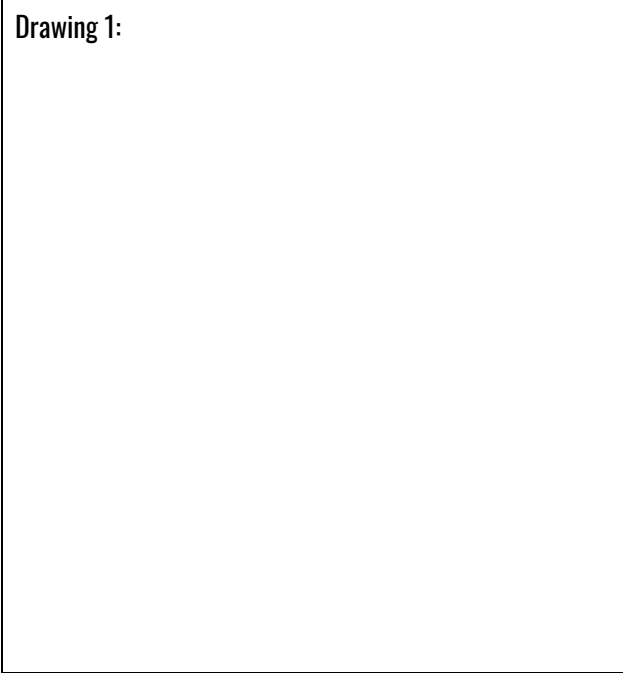
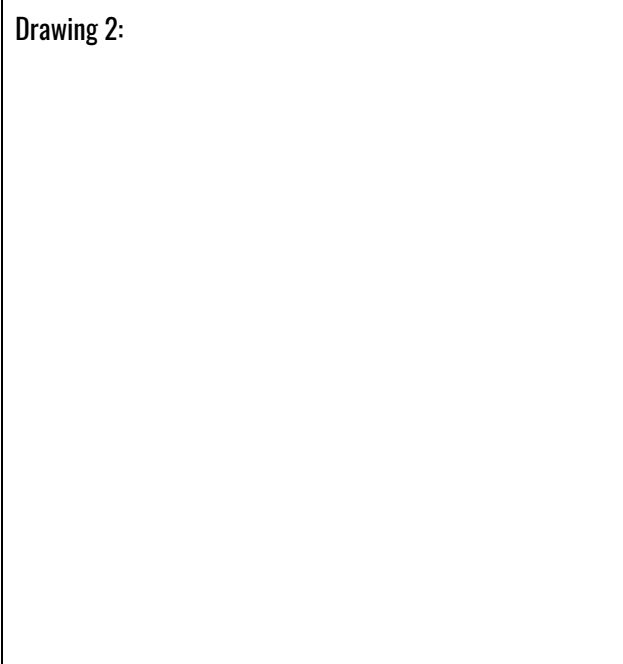
1. The book is dedicated “To Jack, who survived” Who do you think Jack is?
2. Yanek says that he would have done more if he had known what the next 6 years would be. What are some of the things you’re grateful for in your own life? (Chapter 1)
3. Which character in the book are you able to relate to most? Why/How do you relate to them? (Chapter 3)
4. Yanek’s dad states, “Life is but a river. It has no beginning, no middle, no end. All we are, all we are worth, is what we do while we float upon it. How we treat our fellow man.” What is the purpose for sharing this quote with him? (Chapter 6)
5. Yanek says: “Now I am officially a prisoner, I thought. I almost laughed- in truth I had been a prisoner since the Nazis walled off the Krakow ghetto, but now I finally looked the part.” When do you think Yanek really becomes a prisoner? (Chapter 9)
6. Why is Yanek surprised to see beauty in the salt mine? (Chapter 13)
7. Yanek is thrilled to eat the dirty snow that lands along the grate of the train. Along with this, what types of things has Yanek done that has kept him alive and healthier than other Jews? (Chapter 15)
8. Above the gates to Auschwitz and other concentration camps, is written “Arbeit Macht Frei” which means “Work makes you free”. Do you think the Nazis really believe this? Why? (Chapter 19)
9. How does Sachsenhausen compare to the other concentration camps Yanek has been in? (Chapter 23)
10. How do the Czechs show compassion to the prisoners? Was this a brave or foolish thing for them to do? (Chapter 27)
11. Yanek is shocked to find out that he has his own bed! What do you think would be most surprising about being freed from 6 years of imprisonment? (Chapter 30)
12. What did you learn from this book? Are there any life lessons that you learned? Did you learn anything about the Holocaust?



**STORY MAP**

## **Reader's Sketchbook**

**Directions:** Artists like Leonardo da Vinci thought in pictures. Cartoonists blend pictures and words to communicate their ideas more effectively. We use our brain differently if we combine images and words. Sketch boards are the backroom of the artist's mind. A sketch board is the place where they practice, rehearse, and experiment- where they think. It's like a journal, except you use images. In each box provided below, draw two events that are the heart of your two favorite chapters. The drawing **MUST** contain specific details from this chapter to show that you read it closely.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Drawing 1:</p>   | <p>Chapter number/title:</p> <p>Write a short summary of the chapter you are sketching (at least 25 words)</p> |
| <p>Drawing 2:</p>  | <p>Chapter number/title:</p> <p>Write a short summary of the chapter you are sketching (at least 25 words)</p> |

**Nonfiction Book Report**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Place & date of publication: \_\_\_\_\_

In complete sentences, explain eight facts that you learned from the book.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe **two** strengths (reasons why you liked the book) and weaknesses (areas for change) of the book.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

How is the title related to the content of the book?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does the book seem to be completely factual, or do you suspect that some fiction (not real) material has been included? Explain.

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What three questions would you ask the author(s) if you could meet him/her? This should be something that has not already been answered in the book!

1. -----
2. -----
3. -----

What kinds of illustrations or cover art is used in your book? How did they help you to understand the book? If there were no illustrations, do you think they should be added? Why or why not?

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List and define 5 new words you learned from this book. Use each in a sentence.

1. ----- : -----  
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2. ----- : -----  
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3. ----- : -----  
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4. ----- : -----  
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5. ----- : -----  
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