

# 7th Grade Summer Reading

## 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 the answers on a Word document to be printed. Fill in the Story Map and the Reader's Sketchbook. This is due for a grade on Monday, August 16, 2021.

*Prisoner B-3087* is set in Europe during the Holocaust, and this book gives students a glimpse into the historical worldview of that period. Teaching the story of the Holocaust is vital for the understanding of the modern world and an avenue to teach the importance of human rights and nondiscrimination. This equips our students to be global leaders.

In *Prisoner B-3087*, a central theme is dehumanization and thereby the importance of identity. Students focus on how one's true identity comes not from how the world labels you, but from being created in God's image, Genesis 1:27 - "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them."

## II. Non-fiction

All rising 7th grade students will read one nonfiction book of their choice. It must meet the following criteria:

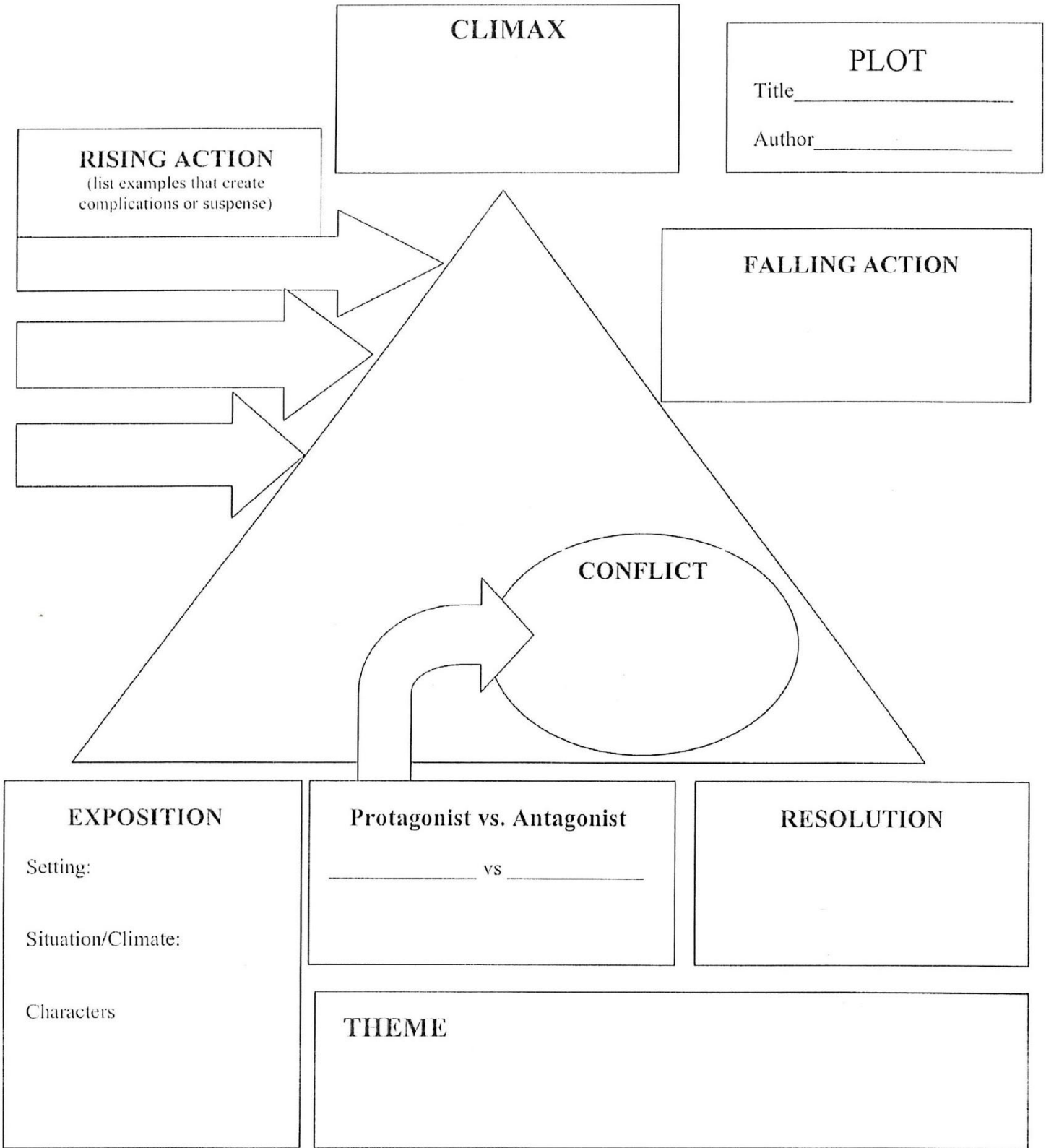
- The reading level is middle school level or above.
- The book has not been read previously.
- The subject matter of the book is appropriate for school discussions.

**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. Read Genesis 1:27. Write this verse and explain in complete sentences how this book relates to this verse.
13. 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.

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

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.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_