

## 8th Grade / May 2019

Dear Sacred Heart Catholic School Parents:

At SHCS, students are encouraged to read for pleasure over the summer. Summer reading provides many advantages for students, including maintaining skills, fostering independent learning, and promoting a lifelong love of reading. Additionally, students who are in Middle School are expected to read an appropriately challenging work of literary merit over the summer to create an initial common framework for course discussion and study.

For the summer of 2019, students will carefully read the following novel:

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

The guiding question below provides the student with a focus for his/her reading. After classroom instruction, the guiding question and the summer reading text will provide the basis for discussion and writing in the fall semester.

#### **Guiding Question:**

What events advance the story, and how does each event lead to or foreshadow future events?

In addition to reading the novel and considering the guiding question, students are required to keep a **reading journal in a composition book**. Students must write a journal entry (5-10 sentences) for **EACH** of the following questions. The reading journal will be due for a QUIZ grade on the first day of Literature: Wednesday, August 14th.

1. What is the setting of the novel? If multiple locations, describe each in detail.
2. Describe three main characters from your novel - please think both physical characteristics as well as personality traits. What events in the novel shape who they are as a character?
3. How would you summarize this novel?
4. What questions would you ask in an interview with one of the main characters? Why?
5. What was your favorite part of the novel? Why?
6. What is one choice a character made that you disagree with? Why?
7. If you were to give this novel a 1-5 star rating (1 being lowest, 5 being highest), what would you rate this novel? Why? Would you recommend it to another eighth grader? Why or why not?
8. Define FIVE vocabulary words you are unfamiliar with. List the word, its definition, the sentence you found it in and the page number you found it on.
9. How would you improve the novel? Discuss characters, setting or conflicts you would enhance or change.
10. What did you learn about the Holocaust you didn't know before? What surprised you? Did anything make you angry or evoke a strong emotion? Why?

If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, do not hesitate to email me at [jjirving@shcstx.org](mailto:jjirving@shcstx.org).