

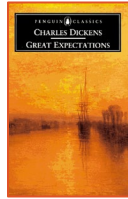
# EPS SUMMER READING: 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## THE ASSIGNMENT

The eighth-grade Big Question is “What Does It Mean to Be Human?” In Literary Thinking 3, you will use your summer reading to begin exploring this question. In preparation, each student will read a *bildungsroman*, or coming-of-age novel. Please choose a book that you have not read before. Note that books range in subject matter and maturity. You may choose one from the list below, or select your own (other examples include *The Poet X*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Snow Like Ashes*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Tell The Wolves I’m Home*, and *The Meaning of Birds*).



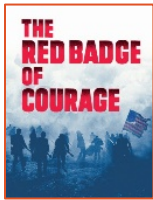
*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott



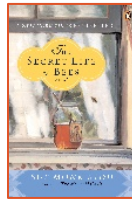
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens



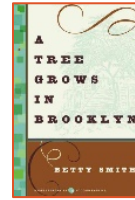
*Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell



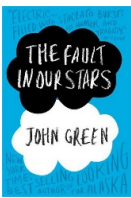
*The Red Badge of Courage*  
by Stephen Crane



*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd



*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith



*The Fault in Our Stars*  
By John Green



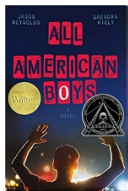
*Scythe* by Neal Shusterman



*The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas



*Pet*  
By Akwaake Emezi



*All American Boys* By Jason Reynolds

## AFTER YOU READ

Prepare a thoughtful set of notes on the following questions (1-2 pages in length) and bring them to class on the first day of school:

1. What is a coming-of-age story? How was your book a coming-of-age story?
2. Describe 2-3 events or challenges or choices that are marking your coming-of-age story in life.
3. What does it mean to be human? Write a short description and response to this question.
4. In the book you chose to read, what does it mean for a character to act with humanity?

### *Special Choice Book for 2021-22 CLASS BOOKLIST*

*For our poetry unit in class this coming year, you have the option to choose and buy ONE of the following books of poems by contemporary American poets. Students, please review the book and the author and decide which poet appeals the most to you and your reading interests.*

#### **1. *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* by Ross Gay**

Ross Gays's website: <http://rossgay.net/>

#### **2. *No Matter The Wreckage* by Sarah Kay**

Sarah Kay's website: <https://kaysarahsera.com/>

#### **3. *Laughing Out Loud, I Fly* Poems in English and Spanish by Juan Felipe Herrera**

Background and info on Juan Felipe Herrera: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/juan-felipe-herrera>

#### **4. *Electric Arches* by Eve Ewing**

Eve Ewing's website <https://eveewing.com/>