

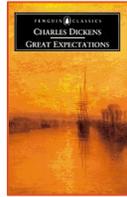
EPS SUMMER READING: 8TH GRADE

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*).



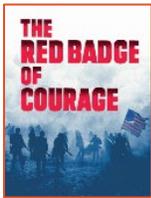
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott



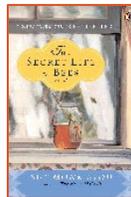
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens



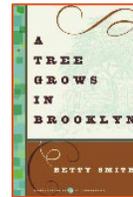
Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell



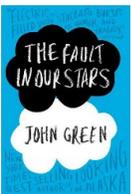
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane



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



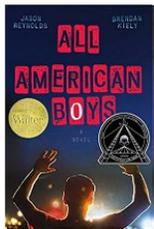
Scythe by Neal Shusterman



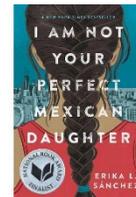
The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas



Pet By Akwaeke Emezi



All American Boys By Jason Reynolds



I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter By Erika L. Sanchez

Special Note on Classic Lit Books: Please note that there are a number of “Condensed” versions of classical books now available for purchase. These are often the first option listed at online bookstore sites. Please make sure if you make one of these selections, that you choose the complete, unabridged version of the novel to gain the full appreciation of the story and writing. 😊

AFTER YOU READ

Prepare a thoughtful set of responses to 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 2022-23 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/>