



SUGGESTED READING & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *DEAR EVAN HANSEN*

(also available on the AHS website AND Instagram @onebookoneamity):

We will use these questions in our all-school book discussions in the fall. Think about them as you read *Dear Evan Hansen*. You might even talk about them with your friends or family as they read the book too.

1. How does each of the book's characters struggle to be true to himself or herself?
2. How did you feel about Evan's lying about the letter? Why do lies sometimes spin out of control? What kind of relief comes with telling the truth, even if the truth is painful?
3. Social media plays a major role in this story. Is social media really social, or does it further disconnect characters? How does it impact characters negatively and/or positively in the novel? IRL?
4. Why do people respond to The Connor Project when they don't know any of the people involved? Why does it become a phenomenon? Can you think of a real-life example of something similar?
5. Evan struggles with severe social anxiety. Many of the other characters struggle with other kinds of pressures. Why do teenagers feel so much pressure? Where does it come from? How can it be lessened or managed?
6. How does Evan change throughout the novel? What does he learn?
7. With which characters or parts of the book did you most identify? What did the book mean to you?
8. What kind of resolution is reached at the end? Why is it important that everything isn't neatly resolved?
9. Select some sections or passages of the book that you especially liked. Be ready to share them in your discussion groups and talk about why you found them important.

10. Evan writes to himself: "Today is going to be an amazing day and here's why..." Think about your own life. How can you adopt some of this positive thinking? What will make your day, week, year, life be amazing?

11. Feel free to come back to school with your own questions and observations about the book to contribute to the discussion.