

Reading beyond the classroom Years 7 – 9.

BYRCHALL HIGH SCHOOL

While in Years 7, 8 and 9, students should try and read a wide variety of books. This selection of books, plays and autobiographies will stimulate the brain, inspire imagination and awaken interest in the dramatic arts.

Newspapers and magazines are a good source of reading and these types of text will help to release your inner thespian. There are a number of high-quality websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zk6pyrd>

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

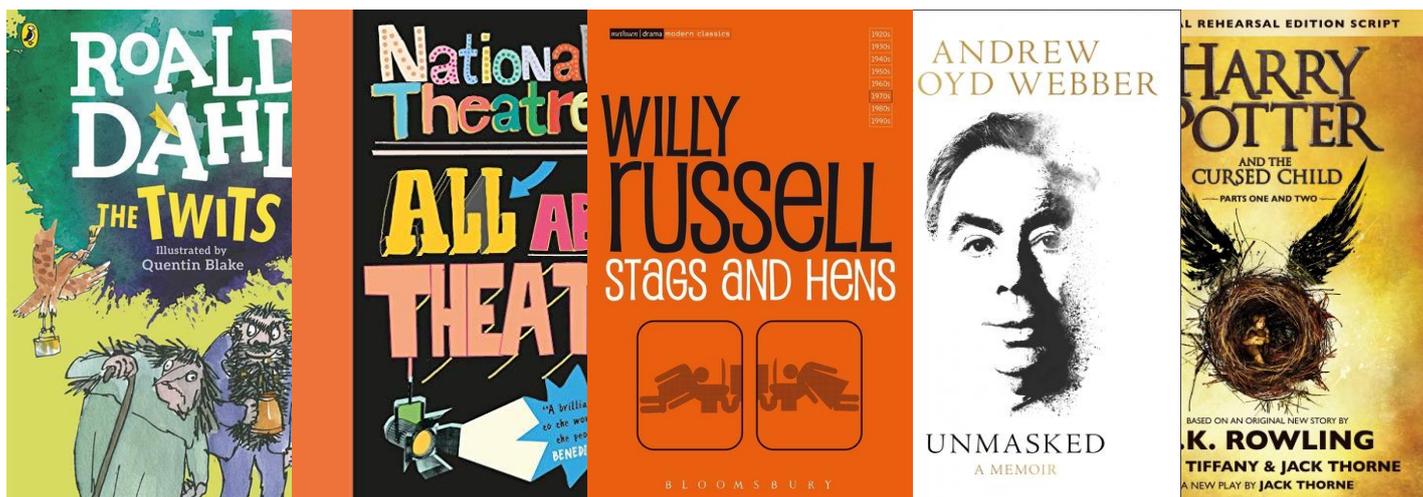
<https://www.digitaltheatre.com/>

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/>

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

<https://www.whatsonstage.com/>

In addition to this, our recommendations follow below. These texts do not form part of our schemes of work so reading them will not spoil students' enjoyment of future lessons. They will most likely complement the work we do.



Priyanka Chopra

Unfinished

This is the remarkably honest and inspiring story of Priyanka's life.

From her childhood in India, raised by her grandparents and her parents - two army doctors committed not only to their children but to their careers and to philanthropy - before being sent to boarding school at an early age.

Through her formative teenage years in the U.S. living with extended family in the Midwest, Queens, and suburban Boston, where she endured bouts of racism.

To her return to India, where she unexpectedly won the national and global beauty pageants that launched her acting career.

With a glimpse into what it takes to succeed in the Indian film industry, to an honest account of the challenges Priyanka faced navigating her career both in India and Hollywood, *Unfinished* is warm, funny, sassy, inspiring, bold, and rebellious. Just like Priyanka herself.

Roald Dahl

The Twits

Mr Twit is a foul and smelly man with bits of cornflake and sardine in his beard.

Mrs Twit is a horrible old hag with a glass eye.

Together they make the nastiest couple you could ever hope not to meet.

Down in their garden, the ghastly, evil Twits keep Muggle-Wump the monkey and his family locked in a cage. But not for much longer! Because the monkeys are planning to trick the terrible Twits and make their escape, once and for all . . .

John Godber***Bouncers***

Lucky Eric, Judd, Les and Ralph are the original men in black as they tell the tale of one night in a Yorkshire disco in the 80's in this outrageous parody of Saturday Night Fever! All the gang are out on the town, the boys, the girls, the cheesy DJ, the late-night kebab man and the taxi home, all under the watchful eyes of the Bouncers.

John Godber***Shakers***

In a not-so-chic London bar called Shakers, we meet Carol, Adele, Nicky and Mel, four friends who have taken to waitressing in desperation. *Shakers* gives a wickedly funny glimpse of this world as seen through the eyes of the four long-suffering waitresses, offering a fascinating view of the reality that lurks behind the plastic palms and the Pina Coladas.

National Theatre***All About Theatre***

Described by Benedict Cumberbatch as "a brilliant introduction to theatre", this fascinating book by the National Theatre shows how plays like *War Horse* and many others are made. The book is packed with interviews with famous directors and actors, like Lenny Henry, Meera Syal, Julie Walters and Ben Whishaw, and productions like *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Hear from experts at the world-famous National Theatre about every aspect of stagecraft, including prop-making, set building and lighting design, and discover, from first idea to final curtain, how plays are made.

Adam Peck & Sally Cookson***A Monster Calls: The Play***

In this powerful new adaptation from visionary director Sally Cookson, the bestselling novel by Patrick Ness is brought to the stage to tell the stunning story of love, loss and courage anew. Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started that treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany & Jack Thorne***Harry Potter and the Cursed Child***

In this powerful new adaptation from visionary director Sally Cookson, the bestselling novel by Patrick Ness is brought to the stage to tell the stunning story of love, loss and courage anew. Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started that treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

Willy Russell***Stags & Hens***

Stags and Hens takes place in the Gents' and Ladies' loos of a tacky Liverpool club, where Dave and Linda have decided, unbeknownst to each other, to hold their stag and hen parties ...a bleakly funny and perceptive study of working-class misogyny, puritanism and waste.

Will Smith***Will***

One of the most dynamic and globally recognized entertainment forces of our time opens up fully about his life, in a brave and inspiring book that traces his learning curve to a place where outer success, inner happiness, and human connection are aligned. Along the way, Will tells the story in full of one of the most amazing rides through the worlds of music and film that anyone has ever had.

Andrew Lloyd Webber***Unmasked***

One of the most successful and distinguished artists of our time, Andrew Lloyd Webber has reigned over the musical theatre world for nearly five decades. The winner of numerous awards, including multiple Tony's and an Oscar, Lloyd Webber has enchanted millions worldwide with his music and numerous hit shows, including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera*—Broadway's longest running show—and most recently, *School of Rock*. In *Unmasked*, written in his own inimitable, quirky voice, the revered, award-winning composer takes stock of his achievements, the twists of fate and circumstance which brought him both success and disappointment, and the passions that inspire and sustain him.

“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”

Walt Disney