

Reading beyond the classroom

Dance, Years 7 – 11.

BYRCHALL HIGH SCHOOL

While in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 students should try and read a wide variety of books. These books are designed to help students to explore the history, theory, and science of their art while developing their physical skills.

There are some high-quality websites where pupils can access various different styles of Dance:

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

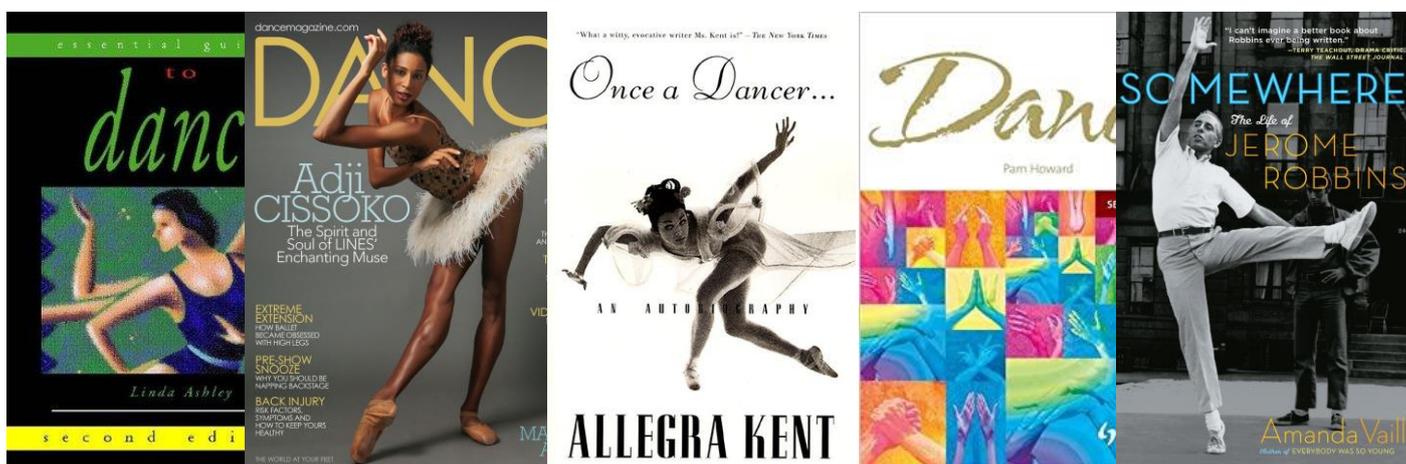
<https://www.1st4sport.co.uk>

<http://londondance.com/>

<https://www.dancing-times.co.uk/>

<https://www.insidedance.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.



Lower School

Hans Christian Anderson *The Red Shoes*

Have you ever wished for something so hard that you could think of nothing else? When Karen becomes entranced by a pair of beautiful red dancing shoes in a shop window, they fill her every thought and dream. One fateful day, she is able to buy the shoes for herself, only to learn later, as the shopkeeper tells her, to "be careful what you wish for, because it may come true."

I read this story when I was a child but it was a much earlier education than this one.

It seems very strange today that this story was intended for children's ears but many from a different era seem quite disturbing today. An interesting classic children's story.

Noel Streatfeild *Ballet Shoes*

Pauline, Petrova and Posy are orphans determined to help out their new family by joining the Children's Academy of Dancing and Stage Training. But when they vow to make a name for themselves, they have no idea it's going to be such hard work! They launch themselves into the world of show business, complete with working papers, the glare of the spotlight, and practice, practice, practice! Pauline is destined for the movies. Posy is a born dancer. But practical Petrova finds she'd rather pilot a plane than perform a pirouette. Each girl must find the courage to follow her dream.

Reginald Jacobs

Covent Garden: Its Romances and History

A historical and topographical account of one of the most interesting spots in the metropolis. This work charts the history of the area, world-famous as the location of the Royal Opera House and Covent Garden Market. It records interesting facts about Covent Garden, covering such well-known places as St Paul's church, and Bow Street.

Linda Ashley

The Essential Guide to Dance

This highly illustrated textbook filled with tasks and activities to cover all aspects of current dance courses. Clear explanations of choreography, performance and appreciation of dance are provided alongside contemporary photographs and the book is written in a highly engaging style.

Katherine Teck

Making Music for Modern Dance

Wow! A book with such glorious content and organisation that I would enthusiastically use it in my own courses, and recommend it to students and all readers in modern dance history, music for dance, collaborative and interdisciplinary arts, and American music history. How wonderful to have all these primary sources (many rare or previously unavailable) under one cover, each one placed in a clear context. A fantastic contribution illuminating an often neglected subject.

Upper School

Pam Howard

AQA Dance Textbook 2nd Edition

This best-selling textbook has been completely revised and updated for the new specification. An essential text for any student of AQA GCSE Dance.

Allegra Kent

Once a Dancer

Allegra Kent joined the New York City Ballet at the age of fifteen and, only two years later, inspired Balanchine's unforgettable *The Unanswered Question*. Beautiful, sensuous, and mysterious, she quickly became an essential Balanchine dancer-and the story of her personal life is as dramatic as they story of her rise to fame. Her account of a bizarre childhood, a magnificent if curious dance career, a charged, complicated domestic life with photographer Bert Stern, and a never-ending struggle with emotional, physical, and financial pressures is fascinating-as are her portraits of the other great dance figures who punctuated her life, from Balanchine to Baryshnikov.

She's weird and fascinating. She seems to exist in sort of this half world between reality and total absurdity. She has strange observations about people and writes in weird metaphors. Her writing is intricate and extremely intimate. I kind of like her. As a dancer, I would describe her as "far out" in a totally 60s sense of the word.

Robert Gottlieb

George Balanchine: The Ballet Maker

Written by the gifted author, editor, and dance critic Robert Gottlieb, *George Balanchine* describes the life and art of the celebrated, revolutionary ballet choreographer. Here is a necessary and singular look at the life of one of the great figures of the 20th Century: the dynamic Balanchine, founder of The New York City Ballet, collaborator of Stravinsky, and inspiration to countless fans over the course of his long and storied career.

Meredith Daneman

Margot Fonteyn

Margot Fonteyn - born plain Peggy Hookham - was dreamed into existence by the architects of British ballet: Ninette de Valois, Frederick Ashton and Constant Lambert. Carried to fame on a wave of wartime patriotism, Margot's sense of duty rather than ambition propelled her forward. Yet her gifts were such that her pre-eminence would come to eclipse the careers of subsequent generations. Ballet is a fairy-tale world; if Margot, like the pure and poetic heroine of *Swan Lake*, was a natural Odette, she would also have to contend with virtue's raw shadow-side in the guise of Constant Lambert, Roberto Arias and Rudolph Nureyev - the men who, like Von Rothbart, were to take possession of her heart.

Suzanne Farrell

Holding on to the Air

Suzanne Farrell's autobiography is absolutely beautiful, and it brought me to tears on several occasions. The way in which she describes dance is so poetic and is a demonstration of her passion and depth of understanding. I feel like I could forge a close friendship with someone like her—she is paradoxically realistic and measured and at the same time romantic and spiritual. I wish I could have seen her dance on stage rather than on video, but at least there is some legacy of her artistry. This book is also a meditation on her friendship with George Balanchine. Despite a substantial age difference, this was a relationship built upon empathy, respect, and love, which made it transcendent—we could all learn something from that kind of limitless generosity.

Amanda Vaill

Somewhere: The Life of Jerome Robbins

To some, Jerome Robbins was a demanding perfectionist, a driven taskmaster, a theatrical visionary; to others, he was a loyal friend, a supportive mentor, a generous and entertaining companion and colleague. Born Jerome Rabinowitz in New York City in 1918, Jerome Robbins repudiated his Jewish roots along with his name only to reclaim them with his triumphant staging of *Fiddler on the Roof*. A self-proclaimed homosexual, he had romances or relationships with both men and women, some famous—like Montgomery Cliff and Natalie Wood—some less so. A resolutely unpolitical man, he was forced to testify before Congress at the height of anti-Communist hysteria. A consummate entertainer, he could be paralyzed by shyness; nearly infallible professionally, he was conflicted, vulnerable, and torn by self-doubt. You will not be able to put this book down!

Varley O'Connor

The Master's Muse

Copenhagen, 1956: Tanaquil Le Clercq, known as Tanny, is a gorgeous, talented, and spirited young ballerina whose dreams are coming true. She is married to the love of her life, George Balanchine—the famous mercurial director of New York City Ballet—and she has become a star around the world. But one fateful evening, only hours after performing, Tanny falls suddenly and gravely ill; she awakens from a feverous sleep to find that she can no longer move her legs. Tanny is diagnosed with polio and Balanchine devotes himself to caring for his wife. But after Tanny discovers she will never walk again, their relationship is challenged as Balanchine returns to the company, choreographing ballets inspired by the ever-younger, more beautiful and talented dancers. Their marriage is put to the ultimate test as Tanny battles to redefine her dreams.

James Spada

Judy and Liza

A truly wonderful, fact-filled book, dealing with the relationship between a mother and daughter, who just happened to be the superstars of their generations. I've kept this book all these years, having been published originally in 1983, and occasionally pull it from the shelf, relax and peruse its pictures and chapters. I highly recommend the book. So many of the older books on Garland are now almost impossible to find. When you can, buy them! Rarely are you disappointed, if for nothing else, the pictures are so enjoyable! Judy had to be one of the most photographed women of her time.

Susan Rosenberg

Trisha Brown Choreography as Visual Art

As the title of her new monograph implies, Rosenberg's this book explores the creative development of one of the twentieth century's most renowned choreographers through the valence of her relationships with visual artists and their work. This book does not repeat the history with which most dance scholars are familiar. Rosenberg glosses over Anna Halprin and Judson Church, focusing instead on Brown's interdisciplinary collaborations with composers and visual artists that structured her unique orientation to a broader artistic field.

David Velasco

Sarah Michelson MoMA Dance

MoMA Dance is a new series of monographs exploring dance makers in the twenty-first century. Each volume focuses on a single contemporary choreographer, presenting a rich collection of newly commissioned texts along with a definitive catalogue of the artist's projects. Accessible, informative, and inspiring, they are indispensable guides to contemporary dance for fans and scholars alike. Born in Manchester, England, Sarah Michelson has lived and worked in New York since 1991, where she has become a fixture of the downtown dance community. Her works are known for their

athleticism, rigor, beauty, and attention to architectural space. Her choreography, she has written, “risks rejection” and “denies safety”; deliberately difficult, it inspires both adoration and debate. The book—featuring original essays, an interview with Michelson, and a cultural history of her oeuvre written by her peers—explores the concepts and content of the choreographer’s work, bringing it vividly to life.

Peggy Caravantes
Spy

The Many Faces of Josephine Baker: Dancer, Singer, Activist,

With determination and audacity, Josephine Baker turned her comic and musical abilities into becoming a worldwide icon of the Jazz Age. *The Many Faces of Josephine Baker: Dancer, Singer, Activist, Spy* provides the first in-depth portrait of this remarkable woman for young adults. Author Peggy Caravantes follows Baker’s life from her childhood in the depths of poverty to her comedic rise in vaudeville and fame in Europe. This lively biography covers her outspoken participation in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, espionage work for the French Resistance during World War II, and adoption of 12 children—her “rainbow tribe.” Also included are informative sidebars on relevant topics such as the 1917 East St. Louis riot, Pullman railway porters, the Charleston, and more.

‘There are shortcuts to happiness, dancing is one of them’

Vicki Baum (Writer)