

Reading beyond the classroom Art, Years 7 – 9.

BYRCHALL
HIGH SCHOOL

While in Years 7, 8 and 9 students should try and read a wide variety of books. The books selected will help students with creative thinking, broadening the mind and feeding the soul. Most importantly these books will also help with wellbeing and improving health and happiness, through being creative.

Websites are a good source of reading material and these sites will open students' eyes to the world of art. There are a number of high-quality websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6f3cdm>
<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>
<https://www.tate.org.uk/>
<https://www.arckboston.org/>
<https://www.metmuseum.org/learn/kids-and-families>
<https://artsandculture.google.com/>
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/students>

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

Mark Gonyea

A Book About Design: Complicated Doesn't Make It

This book takes a most creative approach to introducing young (and not-so-young) readers to the fundamental elements of design. Using simple shapes, lines, and a sense of humour, this book explains why complicated doesn't make it good-and why that matters. Mark Gonyea opens up the world of design and makes it accessible to young artists and non-artists alike.

Jan Greenburg

Action Jackson

One late spring morning the American artist Jackson Pollock began work on the canvas that would ultimately come to be known as Number 1, 1950 (*Lavender Mist*).

Award-winning authors Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan use this moment as the departure point for a unique picture book about a great painter and the way in which he worked. Their lyrical text, drawn from Pollock's own comments and those made by members of his immediate circle, is perfectly complemented by vibrant watercolours by Robert Andrew Parker that honour his spirit of the artist without imitating his paintings.

A photographic reproduction of the finished painting, a short biography, a bibliography, and a detailed list of notes and sources that are fascinating reading in their own right make this an authoritative as well as beautiful book for readers of all ages.

Jan Greenburg

Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Through the Gates and Beyond

In 1981 two artists -- Christo and Jeanne-Claude -- proposed an installation in New York's Central Park that would span twenty-three miles. They received a 185-page response from the Parks Department that could have been summed up in one single word: "no." But they persisted. This biography of contemporary artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude is a story of the power of collaboration, and vision, and of the creation of the spectacular Gates and other renowned artworks. *Christo and Jeanne-Claude* is a 2003 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

Roxanne Orgill

Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph

When *Esquire* magazine planned an issue to salute the American jazz scene in 1958, graphic designer Art Kane pitched a crazy idea: how about gathering a group of beloved jazz musicians and photographing them? He didn't own a good camera, didn't know if any musicians would show up, and insisted on setting up the shoot in front of a Harlem brownstone. Could he pull it off? In a captivating collection of poems, Roxane Orgill steps into the frame of *Harlem 1958*, bringing to life the musicians' mischief and quirks, their memorable style, and the vivacious atmosphere of a Harlem block full of kids on a hot summer's day. Francis Vallejo's vibrant, detailed, and wonderfully expressive paintings do loving justice to the larger-than-life quality of jazz musicians of the era. Includes bios of several of the fifty-seven musicians, an author's note, sources, a bibliography, and a foldout of Art Kane's famous photograph.

Kathleen Kruth

Lives of the Artists: Masterpieces, Messes (and What the Neighbours Thought)

In this entertaining, informative collection, readers discover the idiosyncrasies-sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic-of twenty famous artists, including Michelangelo, Cassatt, van Gogh, Kahlo, and Warhol. "Fresh, spirited, and unconventional."

Dean Robbins

The Astronaut Who Painted the Moon: The True Story of Alan Bean

As a boy, Alan wanted to fly planes. As a young navy pilot, Alan wished he could paint the view from the cockpit. So he took an art class to learn patterns and forms. But no class could prepare him for the beauty of the lunar surface some 240,000 miles from Earth. In 1969, Alan became the fourth man and first artist on the moon. He took dozens of pictures, but none compared to what he saw through his artistic eyes. When he returned to Earth, he began to paint what he saw. Alan's paintings allowed humanity to experience what it truly felt like to walk on the moon. Journalist and storyteller Dean Robbins's tale of this extraordinary astronaut is masterful, and artist Sean Rubin's illustrations are whimsical and unexpected. With back matter that includes photos of the NASA mission, images of Alan's paintings, and a timeline of lunar space travel, this is one adventure readers won't want to miss!

Natasha Wing

An Eye for Colour: The Story of Josef Albers

As a child, Josef Albers loved to watch his handyman father paint houses. When Josef grew up and became an artist, he reduced each image to its simplest shapes, breaking it down into blocks of colour.

He made an incredible discovery: he could alter the entire mood of a painting just by changing the way he combined the colours! Josef spent his entire life studying colour, and what he found revolutionized the way people look at art.

Javaka Steptoe

Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat

Jean-Michel Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City. Now, award-winning illustrator Javaka Steptoe's

vivid text and bold artwork echoing Basquiat's own introduce young readers to the powerful message that art doesn't always have to be neat or clean--and definitely not inside the lines--to be beautiful.

Jean-Vincent Senac *Meet Matisse*

This insightful exploration of Henri Matisse and his cut-out artwork provides children with a genuine understanding of the artist's signature style. French illustrator Jean-Vincent S nac's mixed-media spreads pop with colour, just like the art they feature. *Meet Matisse* is the first in Tate Publishing's Meet the Artist series, published to tie in with the Matisse cut-outs exhibition at Tate Modern and The Museum of Modern Art in 2014.

David A. Carter and James Diaz *You Call that Art?!: Learn about Modern Sculpture and Make Your Own*

You Call That Art?! first provides an overview of sculpture from prehistory until the late 19th century, then gives readers a look at ten 20th-century artists who helped define modern sculpture. Included in the book are Auguste Rodin, Constantin Brancusi, Pablo Picasso, Naum Gabo, Alexander Calder, Isamu Noguchi, Jean Arp, Marcel Duchamp, Louise Nevelson, and Lygia Clark. Carter and Diaz then invite readers to create their very own modern masterpieces. The book includes die-cut pieces that can be assembled (and reassembled) in any way the reader chooses. Ideas are provided for how to arrange the pieces, but the reader can also create his or her own original works of art. Also available by David A Carter: *Spring: A Pop-Up Book*.

Lee Bennett Hopkins *World Make Way: New Poems Inspired by Art from The Metropolitan Museum*

Based on this simple statement by Leonardo, eighteen poets have written new poems inspired by some of the most popular works in the collection of The Metropolitan Museum. The collection represents a wide range of poets and artists, including acclaimed children's poets Marilyn Singer, Alma Flor Alda, and Carole Boston Weatherford and popular artists such as Mary Cassatt, Fernando Botero, Winslow Homer, and Utagawa Hiroshige.

Roxie Munro *Masterpiece Mix*

Using reproductions of art from the National Gallery of Art by Vincent van Gogh, Judith Leyster, Claude Monet and others pivotal figures in art history, Roxie Munroe introduces readers to a variety of iconic artists, art styles, and time periods.

The sweeping painting she creates by the book's end cleverly incorporates all 37 pieces she has considered. Eagle-eyed readers will love finding the works of art in her painting and learning more about the artists in the notes in the back matter.

Robert Burlough *Edward Hopper Paints His World*

As a boy, Edward Hopper knew exactly what he wanted to be when he grew up: on the cover of his pencil box, he wrote the words EDWARD HOPPER, WOULD-BE ARTIST. He traveled to New York and to Paris to hone his craft. And even though no one wanted to buy his paintings for a long time, he never stopped believing in his dream to be an artist. He was fascinated with painting light and shadow and his works explore this challenge.

Edward Hopper's story is one of courage, resilience, and determination. In this striking picture book biography, Robert Burleigh and Wendell Minor invite young readers into the world of a truly special American painter (most celebrated for his paintings "Nighthawks" and "Gas").

Jeanette Winter *My Name is Georgia*

From the time she was just a young girl, Georgia O'Keeffe viewed the world in her own way. While other girls played with toys and braided their hair, Georgia practiced her drawing and let her hair fly free. As an adult, Georgia followed her love of art from the steel canyons of New York City to the vast plains of New Mexico. There she painted all day, and slept beneath the stars at night.

Throughout her life Georgia O'Keeffe followed her dreams--and so found her way to become a great American artist.

Amy Novesky

Me, Frida

Like a tiny bird in a big city, Frida Kahlo feels lost and lonely when she arrives in San Francisco with her husband, the famous artist Diego Rivera. It is the first time she has left her home in Mexico. And Frida wants to be a painter too. But as Frida begins to explore San Francisco on her own, she discovers more than the beauty, diversity, and exuberance of America. She finds the inspiration she needs to become one of the most celebrated artists of all time. *Me, Frida* is an exhilarating true story that encourages children to believe in themselves so they can make their own dreams soar.

Tracy Chevalier

Girl with a Pearl Earring

One of Vermeer's most famous paintings is brought to life in this story. Chevalier takes you into the world of the 16 – year old girl who had a short encounter with Vermeer and became immortalized in the process.

Vincent van Gogh

Ever Yours: The Essential Letters

Most of what we know about Van Gogh and his life comes from his letters to his brother, Theo. This book is a collection of almost one-third of those letters. We see van Gogh search for his destiny, deal with relationships with his brother and father, and yearn for the recognition as an artist that never came during his lifetime.

John Dewey

Art as Experience

This is not a book that could be described as “light reading.” But Dewey's pragmatic, thoughtful approach to art, aesthetics, and experience can give every teacher insight into what expression and art making can mean to us and our students.

‘Art is something that makes you breathe with a different kind of happiness’

Anni Albers (Textile Artist)