

Reading beyond the classroom Years 10 – 11.

BYRCHALL
HIGH SCHOOL

While in Years 10 and 11, 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/>

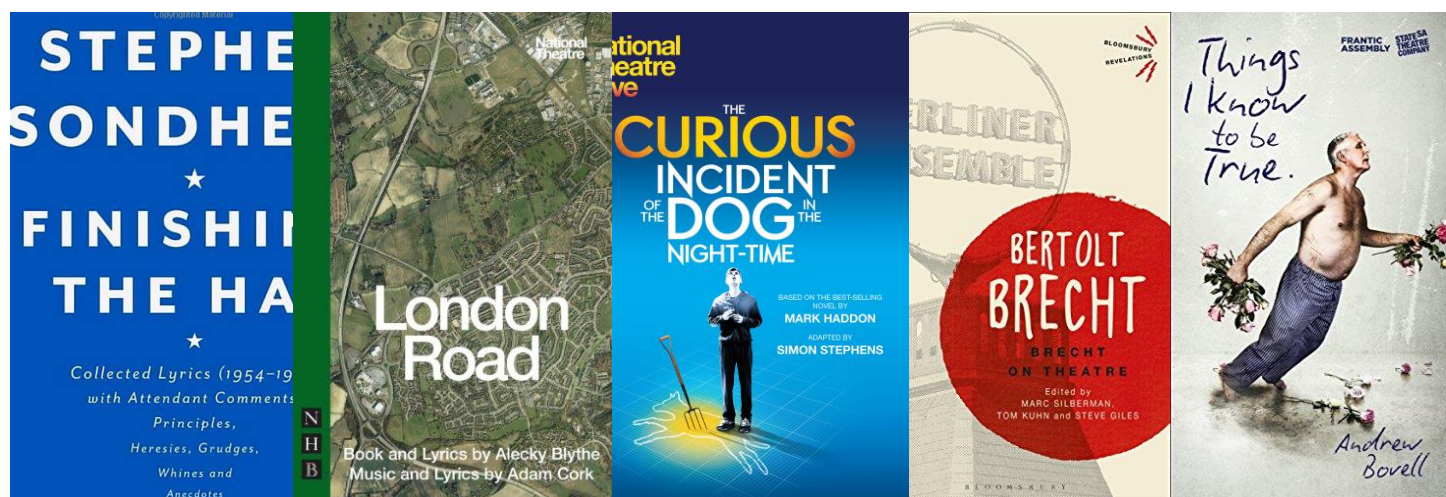
<https://www.digitaltheatre.com/>

<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.



Anthony Banks

National Theatre Connections Monologues

This anthology of 100 monologues is the ideal resource for teenagers and young people attending auditions either in the amateur or professional theatre world; students leaving secondary school to audition for drama school; as well as teachers of English and Drama looking for suitable dramatic for their students to engage with and perform. It provides suitable scene-study books that are suitable and relevant to the student in terms of tone, style and content. Young actors who have searched for audition material written in the voice of teenage characters will welcome this resource.

Cicely Berry

Voice and the Actor

Voice and the Actor is the first classic work by Cicely Berry, Voice Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company and world-famous voice teacher. Encapsulating her renowned method of teaching voice production, the exercises in this straightforward, no-nonsense guide will develop relaxation, breathing and muscular control - without which no actor or speaker can achieve their full potential.

Illustrated with passages used in Cicely Berry's own teaching, Voice and the Actor is the essential first step towards speaking a text with truth and meaning. Inspiring and practical, her words will be a revelation for beginner and professional alike.

Malorie Blackman***Noughts and Crosses***

With echoes of Romeo and Juliet, *Noughts and Crosses* is an electrifying, bittersweet love story set in a society divided by racial bigotry and a world rocked by terrorism. Sephy (a Cross) is the daughter of the Deputy Prime Minister. Callum is the son of a Nought agitator. United by a shared sense of injustice as children, and separated by intolerance as they grow up, their desire to be together begins to eclipse all family loyalty sparking a political crisis of unimaginable proportions.

Alecky Blythe***London Road***

A ground-breaking new musical unlike anything you've ever seen. Premiered to huge acclaim at the National Theatre in 2011.

Playwright Alecky Blythe collaborates with composer Adam Cork to tell the true-life stories of a small community thrust into the spotlight by a series of murders in their midst. In the autumn of 2006 the everyday life of the quiet rural town of Ipswich was shattered by the discovery of the bodies of five women. The residents of London Road had struggled for years with the soliciting and kerb-crawling that they frequently encountered. As Steve Wright, the occupant of No. 79, was arrested, charged and then convicted of the murders, the immediate community grappled with what it meant to be at the epicentre of this tragedy.

Andrew Bovell***Things I Know To Be True***

Bob and Fran have worked hard to give their four children the opportunities they never had. Now, with the kids ready to make lives of their own, it's time to sit back and smell the roses. But the change of the seasons reveals some shattering truths, leaving us asking whether it's possible to love too much.

Bertolt Brecht et al.***Brecht on Theatre***

Brecht on Theatre is a seminal work that has remained the classic text for readers and students wanting a rich appreciation of the development of Brecht's thinking on theatre and aesthetics. First published in 1964 and on reading lists ever since, Brecht's writings are presented in this definitive edition featuring the wholly revised, re-edited and expanded text produced for the 50th anniversary of the first English publication. With additional texts, illustrations and editorial material, and with almost half the material newly translated, this edition provides a far fuller and more accurate account of the development of Brecht's work and writings.

Michael Bryher***National Youth Theatre Monologues***

An exciting and invaluable collection of audition speeches, all chosen from plays produced by the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, spanning more than sixty years as one of the world's leading companies for young performers.

Featuring seventy-five monologues by acclaimed writers such as Zawe Ashton, Moira Buffini, Carol Ann Duffy, Brian Friel, James Fritz, James Graham, Dennis Kelly, Rebecca Lenkiewicz, Gbolahan Obisesan, Evan Placey, Sarah Solemani and Jack Thorne, the book offers rich and diverse roles ranging from teens to adults.

Alexi Kaye Campbell***The Faith Machine***

On a beautiful September morning in New York Sophie forces Tom into a decision. The choice he makes, and the events of that day, will change their lives forever. Travelling from America to Britain to a remote Greek island, this epic new play explores the relationship between faith and capitalism and asks fundamental questions about the true meaning of love. First seen at the Royal Court Theatre, London in September 2011.

Chris Chibnall***Kiss Me Like You Mean It***

Three A.M. on a hot midsummers night in Manchester. A party taking place in a shabby Victorian terrace house. In the back garden Tony and Ruth meet, thanks to a stolen can of beer. On the floor above, Don and Edie are having a party of their own. As the night progresses, love is definitely in the air but then so is the smell of cheap lager. And even cheaper aftershave. *Kiss Me Like You Mean It* was shortlisted for the Meyer-Whitworth Award, and has subsequently been produced in various venues around the world, including a successful three month run in Paris in 2004.

Shelagh Delaney***A Taste of Honey***

A Taste of Honey became a sensational theatrical success when first produced in London by Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop company. It was made into a highly acclaimed film in 1961. The play is about the adolescent Jo and her relationships with those about her - her irresponsible, roving mother Helen and her mum's newly acquired drunken husband, the black sailor who leaves her pregnant and Geoffrey the homosexual art student who moves in to help with the baby. It is also about Jo's unshakeable optimism throughout her trials. This story of a mother and daughter relationship set in working class Manchester continues to enthral new generations of readers and audiences.

Laura Eason and Jules Verne***Around the World in 80 Days***

The fabulously wealthy Victorian gentleman Phileas Fogg wagers his life's fortune that he can circumnavigate the globe in just eighty days. Along with his hapless valet Passepartout, he sets out on a dazzling escapade that takes him from the misty alleys of London to the exotic subcontinent and on to the Wild West as they race against the clock on a dizzying succession of trains, steamers, a wind-propelled sledge and an elephant.

Tanika Gupta***The Empress***

It is the Jubilee! Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, 1887. At Tilbury Docks, Rani and Abdul step ashore after the long voyage from India. One has to battle a society who deems her a second class citizen, the other forges an astonishing entanglement with the ageing Queen who finds herself enchanted by stories of an India she rules but has never seen. The Empress uncovers remarkable unknown stories of 19th century Britain, the growth of Indian nationalism and the romantic proclivities of one of our most surprising monarchs.

Mark Haddon and Simon Stephens***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***

Christopher, fifteen years old, stands beside Mrs Shears's dead dog. It has been speared with a garden fork, it is seven minutes after midnight, and Christopher is under suspicion. He records each fact in the book he is writing to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington. He has an extraordinary brain and is exceptional at maths, but he is ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched and he distrusts strangers. But Christopher's detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that turns his world upside-down.

Denis Kelly***DNA***

A group of teenagers do something bad, really bad, then panic and cover the whole thing up. But when they find that the cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their otherwise fractious lives, where's the incentive to put things right? DNA is a poignant and, sometimes, hilarious tale with a very dark heart. A contemporary play for younger people, DNA opened at the National Theatre in February 2008.

Danny Khan and Sophie Ross***Dear Audience***

Looking for that perfect coffee table book? Put this at the top of your pile. This theatrical textbook of sorts is filled with over 140 pages showcasing the West End's rich history. As well as exclusive imagery, personalised letters to audiences, there's contributions from hundreds of West End stars.

Arthur Miller***The Crucible***

Arthur Miller's classic parable of mass hysteria draws a chilling parallel between the Salem witch-hunt of 1692 - 'one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history' - and the American anti-communist purges led by Senator McCarthy in the 1950s. The story of how the small community of Salem is stirred into madness by superstition, paranoia and malice, culminating in a violent climax, is a savage attack on the evils of mindless persecution and the terrifying power of false accusations.

Willy Russell***Blood Brothers***

Blood Brothers is a musical with book, lyrics, and music by Willy Russell. The story is a contemporary nature versus nurture plot, revolving around fraternal twins Mickey and Eddie, who were separated at birth, one subsequently being raised in a wealthy family, the other in a poor family. The different environments take the twins to opposite ends of the social spectrum, one becoming a councillor, and the other unemployed and in prison.

Stephen Sondheim***Finishing the Hat***

Not a summer goes by without a Stephen Sondheim musical staged either in the West End or Broadway, so get the lowdown on his biggest shows from the man himself. Having worked with Golden Age icons including Ethel Merman and Harold Prince, the multi-award-winning lyricist dissects songs from *Gypsy* and *Sweeney Todd*. There are previously unseen photographs from original productions too, to help illustrate how the art of song writing comes to life.

Francis Turnly***The Great Wave***

On a Japanese beach, teenage sisters Hanako and Reiko are caught up in a storm. Reiko survives while Hanako is lost to the sea. Their mother, however, can't shake the feeling her missing daughter is still alive, and soon family tragedy takes on a global political dimension.

“The novel is more of a whisper, whereas the stage is a shout”
Robert Holman