

THE DEAN
ACADEMY

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4th December 2020
Education • Development • Community

Richard Brand, Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

'Beyond Words': The Dean Academy whole school reading programme starting January 2021

As a school, we are passionate that all students develop confidence, skills and a keen interest in reading and we are excited to be able to offer an opportunity to do this in a more structured and sustainable way from January. We are introducing 'Beyond Words', a reading programme where students tackle challenging, age-appropriate books in tutor which build their word and world knowledge, exposing them to a wider vocabulary and an increasing understanding of new and interesting global and local issues.

The vision for 'Beyond Words' is to ensure that every student interacts with high quality, ambitious texts as their tutor (or a guest reader from middle or senior leadership) reads aloud and supports their understanding of key vocabulary and events. This will allow students to develop skills to think creatively and critically, while enjoying reading and becoming young people who read both at school and at home.

The 3 Key Aims of Beyond Words:

1. Word Knowledge - increase student's reading ability and vocabulary through the use of the 'whole word method', incidental vocabulary instruction and word attack strategies.
2. World Knowledge – research suggests that when you read about an experience you feel it as if it happened to you, not just the character you are reading about; in Beyond Words students read a wide variety of books from a wide variety of perspectives and this encourages students to be more tolerant of others and develop their Cultural Capital.
3. Love Reading – we want all of our students to develop a lifelong love of reading - to be able to, and have experience of, reading a wide variety of texts.

The books selected for Beyond Words have been carefully chosen to be entirely age-appropriate and will provide students with a variety of literary experiences. This may mean that, on occasion, they are exposed to some words or references which are of a sensitive nature e.g., sexual references or swear words. As with any such content, staff will approach this appropriately and explain the context required for students to accept these issues with maturity and understanding.

We have created curriculum time for this valuable intervention so that students in Year 7 to 10 receive a 25 minute Beyond Word session three mornings a week before our normal school day begins. Our aim is to enthuse students through this reading opportunity, and we ask that as parents and carers, you show interest at home and discuss their Beyond Words book with your child, even if it is not something you have read yourself. Further guidance on supporting students with literacy at home can be found on our website here <https://thedeacademy.org/beyond-words/>. On this page you can find a summary and a parent guide alongside our reading list.

Yours sincerely


Richard Brand
Headteacher

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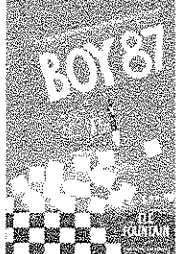

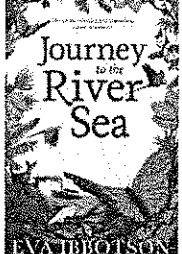

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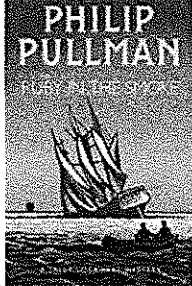


BOOK LIST
YEAR GROUPS
DECEMBER 2020

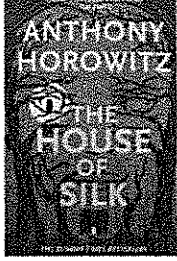
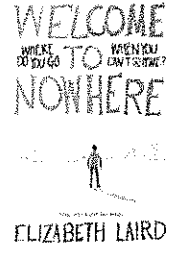
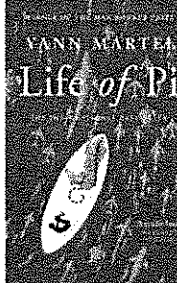



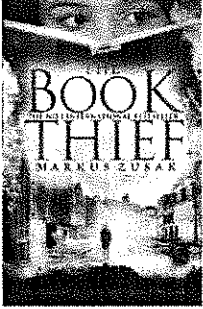
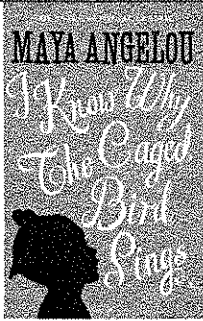
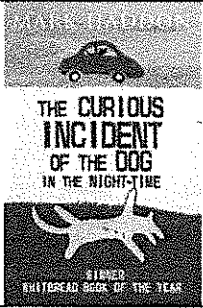
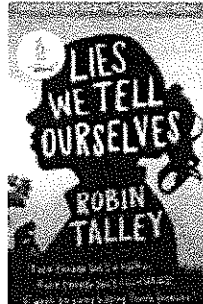
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Book Lists: Beyond Words

Year 7		
<p>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</p>		<p>The Story of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland includes the main character of Alice, a girl who mysteriously falls down a rabbit hole which uncovers an amazing dreamland world known as Wonderland. Here she experiences the most interesting, yet marvelous adventures. Which include the introduction of characters such as a rabbit who has a pocket watch, playing a game of croquet with the Queen and even the experience of attending the Mad Hatter's Tea Party</p>
<p>Boy 87</p>		<p>Shif is just an ordinary schoolboy who loves chess and playing with his best friend. But, one day, he is forced to leave home to avoid conscription into the army. He embarks on an epic journey, in which he encounters dangers and cruelties - and great acts of human kindness - as he bravely makes his way to a future he can only imagine. Told in the powerful first person, this startling debut novel will encourage understanding and empathy in young readers and allow the news headlines of the day to resonate with the humanity involved in creating them.</p>
<p>The Secret Garden</p>		<p>Frances Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden is an enchanting story that has delighted generations of readers.</p> <p>Mary Lennox has grown up in India surrounded by colour and life but when her parents die, she is sent to her uncle's cold and unwelcoming manor on the Yorkshire moors. But then she discovers a garden full of secrets...</p>
<p>Journey to the River Sea</p>		<p>Eva Ibbotson's Journey to the River Sea is an enchanting read that proves that every kid should live their life full of adventure.</p> <p>The story of an orphan shipped to her distant relatives, Maia is disappointed when she is not welcomed with the open arms, she was expecting... but the wonders of the Amazonian rainforest soon make up for this!</p> <p>When she meets a mysterious boy who lives alone on the wild river shores, things become even more extraordinary. A beautiful, traditional adventure story, we just know you will adore this book</p>
<p>Wonder</p>		<p>A poignant book that made all of us laugh and cry in equal measure, R.J. Palacio's Wonder is told using different voices but at its centre is the honest and courageous character of 10-year-old August, a boy who was born with a severe facial disfigurement.</p> <p>August is about to start middle school after being home-schooled by his mum for years. The challenge is a tough one for someone like August and he must tackle bullies and childish cruelty in his journey. But August's resilience, humour and bravery really shine through, making this an uplifting novel that will linger in the reader's thoughts for a long time to come.</p>

Year 8		
Kick		<p>Budi's plan is simple. He is going to be a star. Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it is not only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life. A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes, and never letting anything stand in your way.</p>
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl		<p>A deeply moving and unforgettable portrait of an ordinary and yet an extraordinary teenage girl. First published over sixty years ago, Anne Frank's Diary of a Young Girl has reached millions of young people throughout the world.</p> <p>In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed.</p>
The Ruby in the Smoke		<p>The first book in Philip Pullman's classic SALLY LOCKHART quartet in a beautiful new edition to celebrate the 30-year anniversary. Soon after Sally Lockhart's father drowns at sea, she receives an anonymous letter. The dire warning it contains makes a man die of fear at her feet. Determined to discover the truth about her father's death, Sally is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London, at the centre of which lies a deadly blood-soaked jewel.</p>
Oliver Twist		<p>The story of orphaned Oliver, who runs away from the workhouse only to be taken in by a den of thieves. Plunged into a dark criminal underworld of vivid and memorable characters - the arch-villain Fagin, the artful Dodger, the menacing Bill Sikes and kind-hearted Nancy - Oliver struggles to survive and find his real family. A rich, powerful look at London poverty from Charles Dickens.</p>
Noughts and Crosses		<p>Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Sephy is a Cross — a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a Nought — a “colourless” member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses.</p>

Year 9		
The House of Silk		<p>It is November 1890 and London is gripped by a merciless winter...</p> <p>Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are enjoying tea by the fire when an agitated gentleman arrives unannounced at 221b Baker Street. He begs Holmes for help, telling the unnerving story of a scar-faced man with piercing eyes who has stalked him in recent weeks.</p> <p>Intrigued, Holmes and Watson find themselves swiftly drawn into a series of puzzling and sinister events, stretching from the gas-lit streets of London to the teeming criminal underworld of Boston and the mysterious 'House of Silk'.</p>
Welcome to Nowhere		<p>From the multi-award-winning author of The Garbage King and The Fastest Boy in the World, this powerful book tells the story of a young boy and his family as they face the dangers of civil war. Twelve-year-old Omar and his family were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes...</p> <p>Before long, bombs are falling, people are dying, and Omar and his family must flee their home with only what they can carry. Yet no matter how far they run, the shadow of war follows them - until they have no other choice than to attempt the dangerous journey to escape their homeland altogether. But where do you go when you cannot go home?</p>
Life of Pi		<p>One boy, one boat, one tiger . . . After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orangutan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and best-loved works of fiction in recent years.</p>
Trash		<p>Raphael, Gardo, and Rat are dumpsite boys who spend their days wading through mountains of steaming trash in search of anything that they can sell in order to survive. Then, one day a small leather bag falls into their hands and soon they are running for their lives.</p>

<p>Year 10</p> <p>The Book Thief</p>		<p>Set in 1939 Nazi Germany, the country holds its breath, waiting on the brink of war. Young Liesel's life is changed forever as she stands by her brother's grave and picks up The Gravedigger's Handbook from the snow, committing her first act of book thievery and changing her life forever...</p> <p>So follows her love affair with books in an increasingly dangerous time. When her foster family hide a Jewish boy in their basement her world is both opened up and shut down, but the power of words and the ability for books to feed the soul is explored and enjoyed by both youngsters.</p> <p>Superbly crafted and incredibly moving, children aged 11 and over simply must read this award-winning tale which has proved to be one of the most enduring and respected of recent times.</p>
<p>I know why the caged bird sings</p>		<p>Maya Angelou's six volumes of autobiography are a testament to the talents and resilience of this extraordinary writer. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a Black woman she has known discrimination and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration. In this first volume of her six books of autobiography, Maya Angelou beautifully evokes her childhood with her grandmother in the American south of the 1930s. She learns the power of the white folks at the other end of town and suffers the terrible trauma of rape by her mother's lover. 'I write about being a Black American woman, however, I am always talking about what it's like to be a human being. This is how we are, what makes us laugh, and this is how we fall and how we somehow, amazingly, stand up again' Maya Angelou.</p>
<p>The Curious Incident of the Dog</p>		<p>The narrator of Mark Haddon's <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i> is 15-year-old Christopher who, has a form of autism called Asperger's Syndrome.</p> <p>His obsessive and unusual take on life creates lots of hilarious situations but also brings incredible poignancy to the story. Christopher finds it hard to relate to people, particularly their emotions and feelings, so when he finds a dead dog and decides to solve the mystery of its death, his quest leads him into a difficult and unfamiliar territory that threatens to upset his carefully ordered existence.</p>
<p>The Lies We Tell Ourselves</p>		<p>Robin Talley's <i>Lies We Tell Ourselves</i> is a beautiful yet painful reminder of America's history of segregation, desegregation, and integration. Talley begins her first novel in 1959, in the hallways of Jefferson High School located in the fictional town of Davisburg, VA.</p>