



Dear Parent/Carer,

From January, there are going to be some exciting developments with reading for pleasure at DCA. Students are going to have a *Robust Reading* session for 20 minutes every day and their tutor will read aloud to them. The aim of *Robust Reading* is to ensure every student reads high quality and challenging texts so they are instilled with the knowledge to think critically and creatively. We also want our students to enjoy reading and become confident readers who read both at school and at home.

The books selected for *Robust Reading* have been carefully chosen and will provide students with a wide range of literary experiences. The selected books will not only enhance students' reading skills but also their cultural and contextual understanding. 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. Please find the proposed list of books for Year 7-10 below.

Each student will have their own book during the *Robust Reading* session and these books will be numbered so that tutors know who has each book. It is essential that students are responsible for making sure that they look after their own book and do not write in it or mark pages in any way. The school has invested a significant amount of money to provide enough books for the whole school. It is imperative that they are kept in good condition so they can be used by everyone. Consequently, if a student is found to have written in a book, or damaged a book in any way, the cost of the replacement of the book will be passed on to parents/carers.

We are hoping that students will be enthused by this daily reading opportunity and they should be coming home and talking to you about the books they are reading. Please take the time to show interest and discuss books with your son/daughter, even if it is not something you have read yourself. Further guidance on supporting students with literacy at home can be found on the DCA website at: <http://www.dixonsca.com/index.php/literacy>. If you have any concerns about any of the above please get in touch with me either via email [N.Raheem@dixonsca.com](mailto:N.Raheem@dixonsca.com) or telephone 01274 776777.

Yours faithfully,

Ms N. Raheem

(Assistant Principal – Literacy and Learning)

## **Robust Reading Books**

<b>Year 7 and 8 books</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Year 9 and 10 books</b>	<b>Author</b>
<i>Oliver Twist</i>	Charles Dickens	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	John Steinbeck
<i>Swallows and Amazons</i>	Arthur Ransome	<i>1984</i>	George Orwell
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee
<i>A Long Walk to Water</i>	Linda Sue Park	<i>Bog Child</i>	Siobhan Dowd
<i>The Inquisitor's Tale</i>	Adam Gidwitz	<i>Rani and Sukh</i>	Bali Rai
<i>A Monster Calls</i>	Patrick Ness	<i>The Woman in White</i>	Wilkie Collins
<i>Face</i>	Benjamin Zephaniah	<i>Just in Case</i>	Meg Rosoff
<i>Framed</i>	Frank Cottrell Boyce	<i>Saving Daisy</i>	Phil Earle
<i>Goodnight Mr Tom</i>	Michelle Magorian	<i>Straight Outta Crongton</i>	Alex Wheatle
<i>Holes</i>	Louis Sachar	<i>Boys Don't Cry</i>	Malorie Blackman
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Brontë	<i>Daz 4 Zoe</i>	Robert Swindells
<i>Lord Loss</i>	Darren Shan	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding
<i>Maze Runner</i>	James Dashner	<i>Never Let Me Go</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro
<i>Mortal Engines</i>	Phillip Reeve	<i>Pigeon English</i>	Stephen Kelman
<i>Northern Lights - book 1</i>	Phillip Pullman	<i>The Curious Incident of the Boy in the Night-time</i>	Mark Haddon
<i>Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief</i>	Rick Riordan	<i>The Enemy</i>	Charlie Higson
<i>Pig Heart Boy</i>	Malorie Blackman	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	Khaled Hosseini
<i>Private Peaceful</i>	Michael Morpurgo	<i>The Knife of Never Letting Go</i>	Patrick Ness
<i>Secret Garden</i>	Frances Hodgson Burnett	<i>Unwind</i>	Neil Shusterman
<i>Skellig</i>	David Almond	<i>The Mysterious Affair at Styles</i>	Agatha Christie
<i>Sword in the Stone</i>	T. H. White	<i>Wonder</i>	R J Palacio
<i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i>	John Boyne	<i>Cuckoo Song</i>	France Hardinge
<i>The Graveyard Book</i>	Neil Gaiman		
<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkein		
<i>The Tulip Touch</i>	Anne Fine		
<i>Treasure Island</i>	Robert Louis Stevenson		
<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>	C.S.Lewis		
<i>Emperor: The Gates of Rome (Emperor Series Book 1)</i>	Conn Iggulden		

