



15th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Personal Reading Books

At Holcombe we recognise the extensive positive impacts of wider reading and reading for pleasure. Good reading habits support access to the entire curriculum and positive reading experiences impact on increased literacy and other intellectual outcomes.

To promote literacy across all aspects of learning it is a requirement at Holcombe that each student has a reading book with them each day. Time is provided during registration time each week for personal silent reading. Further to this, 30 minutes of lesson time is given over each week in English lessons to support personal reading and track progress.

It is imperative that students have an appropriate reading book that interests them and is the correct level of challenge. **This term, the unit of study for Year 8 is Dystopia.** Therefore, the shared class reader will be the dystopic novel **Gone by Michael Grant.** Each student will have their own copy assigned to them for the term. Students are welcome to read and complete the book in their own time – further to the given reading time in school. The texts should be returned to their English teacher at the start of term 2.

Included with this letter is a list of recommended dystopian texts suitable for Year 8; should students wish to develop their knowledge of the genre even further. I am sure they will recognise many of them.

A new recommended list will be generated each term and published on the school website. The lists will complement the unit of study in English for that term.

By promoting reading for pleasure and requesting that students are active in their selection of reading material, we hope to achieve the following outcomes.

- Increased awareness of reading preferences and how to choose what to read.
- Confidence about reading
- Identifying as a reader
- Improved reading behaviour (frequency, quantity, breadth and depth)
- Sharing enjoyment of reading
- Understanding how to find relevant reading materials

If you would like to discuss any strategies to help support wider reading for your child or would like any further help on choosing appropriate titles, please contact me and I would be happy to support in any way I can.

Yours sincerely

John Still



Literacy Co-ordinator

Recommended Dystopian texts for Year 8

“The Diary of Pelly D” by LJ Adlington
“A Whisper of Horses” by Zillah Bethell
“The Rain” by Virginia Bergin
“Exodus” by Julie Bertagna
“Noble Conflict” by Malorie Blackman
“Ink” by Alice Broadway
“The Roar” by Emma Clayton
“Gamerunner” by B. R. Collins
“The Hunger Games” by Suzanne Collins
“Matched” by Ally Condie
“Breathe” by Sarah Crossan
“Parched” by Melanie Crowder
“The Maze Runner” by James Dashner
“The City of Ember” by Jeanne DuPrau
“The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm” by Nancy Farmer
“Incarceron” by Catherine Fisher
“Jet Black Heart” by Teresa Flavin
“The Firefly Code” by Megan Frazer Blakemore
“Gone” by Michael Grant
“Behind the Gates” by Eva Gray
“Among the Hidden” by Margaret Peterson Haddix
“The Enemy” by Charlie Higson
“The Last Dogs: The Vanishing” by Christopher Holt
“Unnaturals: The Battle Begins”, by Devon Hughes
“Dreambender” by Ronald Kidd
“The Limit” by Kristen Landon
“The Giver” by Lois Lowry
“Son” by Lois Lowry
“Edge of Extinction: The Ark Plan” by Laura Martin
“Blame” by Simon Mayo
“The Knife of Never Letting Go” by Patrick Ness
“The Windsinger” by William Nicholson
“Delirium” by Lauren Oliver
“Mysteries of Cove: Fires of Invention” by J. Scott Savage
“Floodland” by Marcus Sedgwick

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE TOGETHER

www.holcombegrammar.org.uk

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“Dark Satanic Mills” by Marcus & Julian Sedgwick

“The Hunted” by Alex Shearer

“Daz 4 Zoe” by Robert Swindells

“Brother in the Land” by Robert Swindells

“Icebreaker” by Lian Tanner

“The Last Wild” by Piers Torday

“The One Safe Place” by Tania Unsworth

“Six Days” by Philip Webb

“Where the Rock Splits the Sky” by Philip Webb

“Uglies” by Scott Westerfeld

“Pale” by Chris Wooding

“Blood Red Road” by Moira Young