Sophomore-Senior Summer Reading Choices

_Educated – Tara Westover_ This memoir follows Tara as she sets out to educate herself. Born to survivalists, Tara grew up in the mountains of Idaho where she did not receive any formal education. Her desire for more knowledge and learning leads her to college, a far cry from her what she’s known her whole life. While she attempts to make sense of the world around her in her new environment, she can’t help but wonder if she may have inadvertently strayed too far from home.

_Saints and Misfits – S.K. Ali_ Janna, a Muslim teen, believes people fall into three categories: saints, who move the world forward, misfits, who don’t belong, and monsters, who wear saint masks, but are far from it. She harshly judges herself as a misfit, but as she grows and attempts to figure out where she fits in the world around her, she realizes that people are not always as they seem. Janna learns that while life is complicated, it is always worth trying to figure out who you are and what you want to be.

_Tyler Johnson Was Here – Jay Coles_ Marvin goes to the party with his brother, Tyler to keep an eye on him, but when some joking turns into something more serious and shots ring out, the brothers are separated. Marvin worries when Tyler doesn’t return home that night and finds out soon that Tyler was shot, and shot by a police officer. Marvin sets out to ensure justice is served and the truth comes to light. Is Marvin prepared for what he will learn about what happened to Marvin that night?

_Scythe – Neal Shusterman_ No hunger. No disease. No war. No misery. While humanity has come a long way, it has come so far that the population continues to grow and needs to be controlled, thus the creation of the scythes, those chosen to end lives and keep the population under control. This is considered a highly respected assignment, and yet some scythes have become a bit too zealous in their pursuits as of late. Citra and Rowan are now apprentices and they must decide if they will align themselves with the old order, who exhibit the utmost respect for their jobs and lives, or the new order, who feel their powerful position allows them freedom to kill as they wish.

_All Rights Reserved – Gregory Katsoulis_ Speth is anxious as she prepares to enter adulthood. When she turns 15, she must pay for every word she speaks. She knows the dangers of falling into debt and the consequence of that debt on her family. As she approaches her last day, her best friend finds her, insisting that this isn’t the way things should be before taking his own life. In response to his death and dying words, rather than speak at her Last Day speech, Speth chooses to go mute. Her choice not only impacts her, but her family, and the society as she sets in motion a movement that plants the seeds of change, but not without a high cost.

_All We Have Left – Wendy Mills_ Chapters in this book alternate between Jesse, who at 16 is still dealing with the ghost of her brother who died years ago on 9/11, and the story of Alia, and her life on the day the two towers fell. Both narratives follow these two teens as they attempt to make the right choices, despite the influence of others in the hopes making themselves happy and true to who they want to be.

_Gabe Johnson Takes Over – Geoff Herbach_ The funny kid, Gabe, isn’t laughing when the camp that everyone in band looks forward to every summer is cancelled due to a lack of funding. When he finds out that the vending machine that has funded the trip in the past has been taken over by the new cheer squad, he is furious and vows revenge. The new cheer squad doesn’t know what they’re up against as Gabe Johnson sets out to get his band’s money back and teach the cheerleaders a lesson or two along the way.

_Girl Mans Up – M-E Girard_ Pen just wants to be herself, but when everyone begins to tell her to stop trying to act and look like a boy, she is left to figure out who she is willing to please. Her old-world parents? Her best friend? Herself? Pen struggles through her junior year trying to navigate her role in her family, her friendships, and in potential relationships she would like to start, determined to stay true to who she really is inside.

_Crazy, Messy, Beautiful – Carrie Arcos_ Named after the famous poet, Pablo Neruda, Neruda is convinced his love life should be more successful than it is. Neruda hopes that Callie will be the one, and when they get assigned as partners on a school assignment, Neruda falls and falls hard. Love is never that easy, though, and Neruda faces more difficulties than he could have imagined. Surrounded by what he considers to be a perfect example of a loving relationship, his parents, he is certain he knows what love should feel and look like. Unfortunately, Neruda knows less about love than he thought and is left questioning everything when his perfect vision of love is shattered unexpectedly.

_Running with Lions – Julian Winters_ As an incoming senior, Sebastian is his high school soccer team’s star goalie. Everything should be awesome, but when he is forced to face his ex-best friend, Emir, at training camp over the summer, Sebastian wonders if things will really be as great as he had envisioned. Sebastian is determined to make the best of the situation for the sake of the team and attempts to reconnect with Emir, and while things are bumpy at first, the two come together in ways that Sebastian did not anticipate.

_Burn, Baby Burn – Meg Medina_ The year is 1977 and New York is facing record heat and an elusive serial killer who targets young couples. Nora is dealing not only with a new crush who has just started working with her at the local deli, but her abusive brother, Hector, who seems to have gained an unsafe control over both Nora and her mother. As Nora deals with her own person issues she can’t help but also be terrified that something might happen to her every time she leaves the house, wondering if the serial killer is close behind her.