Summer Reading: Sophomore through Senior

Titles are in alphabetical order
Speth lives in a world where every word and gesture is copyrighted, patented, or trademarked. When she turns 15 she must pay for every word she speaks, or fall deeply into debt. She elects to remain silent rather than pay to speak, and her defiant and unexpected silence threatens to unravel the very fabric of society.
All We Have Left by Wendy Mills

Interweaving stories from past and present, All We Have Left alternates between the story of 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. The the end the reader is left certain that love and hope, despite obstacles, will always triumph.
Burn, Baby, Burn by Meg Medina

Nora Lopez is 17 years old during the infamous summer of 1977, when the city is besieged by arson, a massive blackout, and a serial killer named Son of Sam who shoots young couples on the streets. Nora’s family life isn’t going so well either: her bullying brother, Hector, is growing more threatening by the day, her mother is helpless and falling behind on the rent, and her father calls only on holidays. All Nora wants is to turn eighteen and be on her own. And while there is a cute guy who started working with her at the deli, is dating even worth the risk when the killer likes picking off couples who stay out too late?
Crazy, Messy, Beautiful by Carrie Arcos

Neruda Diaz is named after the greatest love poet of all time. He’s been in love many times before, but Callie could be the one. As Neruda begins to fall faster and harder than ever before, he is blindsided by the complicated nature of love—and art—in more ways than one. And when the relationships he’s looked to for guidance threaten to implode, Neruda must confront the reality that love is crazier, messier, and more beautiful than he ever realized.
Tara Westover wasn’t your garden variety college student. That’s because she didn’t see the inside of a classroom until the age of seventeen. Born to survivalists, Tara grew up in the mountains of Idaho where she did not receive any formal education, inside or outside the classroom. Westover eventually earned a PhD from Cambridge University, but that may have been the easy part, at least compared to what she had to sacrifice to attain it.
Gabe is having a tough week. Normally the funny kid at the lunch table, he's on edge from trying to kick his soda addiction. So when news breaks that his beloved marching band camp has been cancelled due to lack of funding, he's furious. What makes him even madder? The school's vending machine money—which had previously been collected by the band—is now sponsoring the new cheer squad.

The war is ON. And Gabe is leading the charge. No one will be safe from the Geekers' odd brand of wrath: not the principal, the band teacher, the local newspaper, and certainly not the cheerleaders and their jock boyfriends.
All Pen wants is to be the kind of girl she’s always been. So why does everyone have a problem with it? They think the way she looks and acts means she’s trying to be a boy--that she should quit trying to be something she’s not. If she dresses like a girl, and does what her folks want, it will show respect. If she takes orders and does what her friend Colby wants, it will show her loyalty.

But respect and loyalty, Pen discovers, are empty words. Old-world parents, disintegrating friendships, and strong feelings for other girls drive Pen to see the truth--that in order to be who she truly wants to be, she’ll have to man up.
Bloomington High School Lions’ star goalie Sebastian Hughes should be excited about his senior year: His teammates are amazing, and he’s got a coach who doesn’t ask anyone to hide their sexuality. But when his estranged childhood best-friend Emir Shah shows up at summer training camp, Sebastian realizes the team’s success may end up in the hands of the one guy who hates him.

Determined to reconnect with Emir for the sake of the Lions, he sets out to regain Emir’s trust. But to Sebastian’s surprise, sweaty days on the pitch, wandering the town’s streets, and bonding on the weekends spark more than just friendship between them.
Saints and Misfits by 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.
Scythe by Neal Shusterman

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so in order to keep the size of the population under control, but some scythes have become a bit too zealous in their responsibilities and two factions are beginning to develop, one dedicated to the old ways, and one determined to “glean” or kill as they please. When Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. They must master the “art” of taking life and decide which side they will take in the battle among the scythes.
When Marvin Johnson’s twin, Tyler, goes to a party, Marvin decides to tag along to keep an eye on his him. What starts as harmless fun turns into a shooting, followed by a police raid. The next day, Tyler has gone missing, and it’s up to Marvin to find him. But when Tyler is found dead, a video leaked online tells an even more chilling story: Tyler has been shot by a police officer. As his mother unravels and he mourns for his brother, Marvin must learn what justice and freedom really mean.