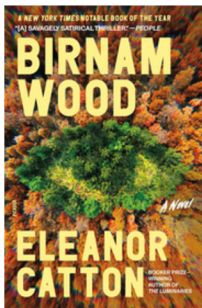


2026 High School Summer Reading

Nature



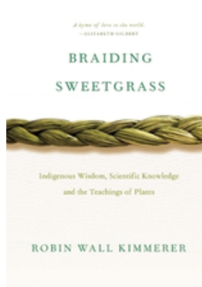
Gather by Kenneth M. Cadow
A resourceful teenager in rural Vermont struggles to hold on to the family home while his mom recovers from addiction.



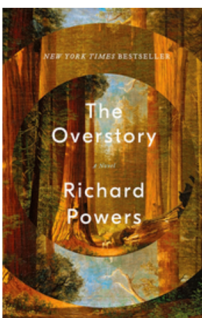
Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton
A landslide has closed the Korowai Pass and presented an opportunity for Birnam Wood, an undeclared, guerrilla gardening collective that plants crops wherever no one will notice.



Predatory Natures by Amy Goldsmith
A teen girl's dream job aboard a luxury train derails when she discovers the strange and beautiful cargo being transported—a mysterious and beautiful greenhouse.



Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
The awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.



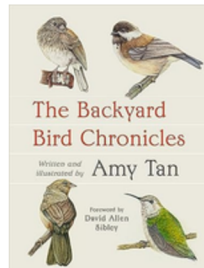
The Overstory by Richard Powers
A sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of – and paean to – the natural world.



The 21: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the US Government Over Climate Change by Elizabeth Rusch
The gripping inside story of the ongoing landmark federal climate change lawsuit, Juliana vs. The United States of America.



The Poetry of Car Mechanics by Heidi E.Y. Stemple
Dylan seeks solace through birdwatching and poetry in the woods behind his grandfather's auto shop.



The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan
The Backyard Bird Chronicles maps the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions, and beautiful original sketches.



Bianca Torre Is Afraid of Everything by Justine Pucella Winans
An anxious, introverted nonbinary teen birder somehow finds themselves solving a murder mystery with their neighbor/fellow anime lover, all while falling for a cute girl from their birding group.

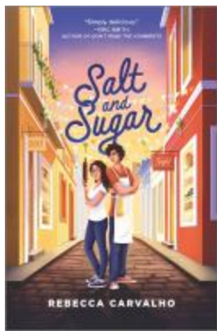


2026 High School Summer Reading

Foodie Stories



With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo
A dazzling novel in prose about a girl with talent, pride, and a drive to feed the soul that keeps her fire burning bright.



Salt and Sugar by Rebecca Carvalho
To save her family's bakery, Salt, which has been at war with the Molinas' bakery, Sugar, across the street, Lari Ramires does the unthinkable by teaming up with Pedro Molinas to save both their bakeries.



The Way You Make Me Feel by Maurene Goo
Clara Shin lives for pranks and disruption. When she takes one joke too far, her dad sentences her to a summer working on his food truck, the KoBra, alongside her uptight classmate Rose Carver.



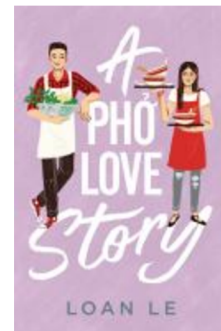
The Dos and Donuts of Love by Adiba Jaigirdar
A teenage girl competes in a televised baking competition, with contestants including her ex-girlfriend and a potential new crush.



Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet by Laekan Zae Kemp
Told in two voices, Pen, whose dream of taking over her family's restaurant has been destroyed, and Xander, a new, undocumented, employee seeking his father, form a bond.



Delicious in Dungeon by Ryoko Kui
After getting his sister devoured by a dragon and losing all their supplies in a failed dungeon raid, Lyos and his party are determined to save his sister before she gets digested.



A Pho Love Story by Loan Le
High school seniors Bão and Linh, whose feuding families own competing Vietnamese restaurants, conceal their budding romance, as well as Linh's desire to become an artist.



Fake Dates and Mooncakes by Sher Lee
An aspiring chef discovers the recipe for love is more complicated than it seems when he starts fake-dating a handsome new customer.

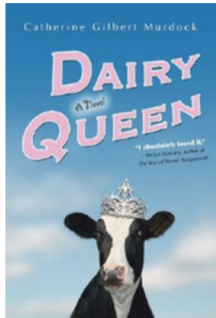


Eliza, From Scratch by Sophia Lee
An academics-obsessed teen learns big truths about love, family, and herself when a scheduling snafu lands her in a culinary arts class.

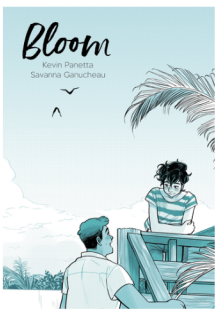


2026 High School Summer Reading

Foodie Stories



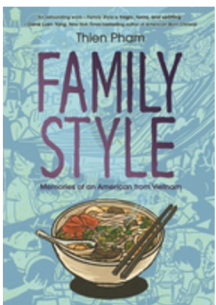
Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself.



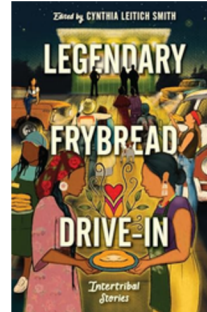
Bloom by Kevin Panetta
After graduation, Ari is desperate to move to the big city with his band, but he has to find someone who can replace him at his parent's struggling bakery, so when he meets Hector he thinks his prayers have been answered.



What's Eating Jackie Oh? by Patricia Park
A Korean American teen tries to balance her dream to become a chef with the cultural expectations of her family when she enters the competitive world of a TV cooking show.



Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam by Thien Pham
Behind every cut of steak and inside every croissant lies a story. And for Thien Pham, that story is about a search—for belonging, for happiness, for the American dream.



Legendary Frybread Drive-In edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith
This collection of interconnected stories serves up laughter, love, Native pride, and the world's best frybread.



She Loves to Cook, and She Loves to Eat by Sakaomi Yuzaki
Cooking is how Nomoto de-stresses, but one day, she finds herself making way more than she can eat by herself. And so, she invites her neighbor Kasuga.



Butter by Asako Yuzuki
The story of a female gourmet cook and serial killer and the journalist intent on cracking her case.

