Feed by M. T. Anderson (Teen Ane). Spring break for Titus and his friends was ruined when a crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital. Then Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize thoughts and desires.

Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card (SF Car). The brilliant Andrew “Ender” Wiggin is a leader in school and a standout in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Though he suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders, his battles include loneliness and a fear that he is becoming like the cruel brother he remembers. Is Ender the leader Earth needs? Sequels include Speaker For the Dead, Xenocide, Children of the Mind, and A War of Gifts.

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline (Fiction Cli). In 2044 the real world is an ugly place. Like most of humanity, Wade escapes his grim surroundings by spending his waking hours jacked into a sprawling virtual utopia, looking for a hidden lottery ticket. With the whole world watching, Wade stumbles upon the first puzzle piece. The only way to survive and preserve everything he knows is to win—and that means facing the real world he so desperately wants to avoid.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (Teen Col). It’s kill or be killed on the playing field of “The Hunger Games,” the ultimate television survival show pitting teens against each other. Sequels include Catching Fire and Mockingjay.

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (Teen Doc). Caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack, Marcus and his friends are detained and tortured. By the time Marcus is released, the city has become a police state. No one will believe his story, which leaves the computer hacker with only one option: to take down the Department of Homeland Security himself.

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau (Juvenile Fiction DuP). The last refuge for the human race is running out of food and power as two teens attempt to decipher an ancient parchment and find a way out. Sequels include The People of Sparks, The Prophet of Yonwood, and The Diamond of Darkhold.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer (Teen Far). Matteo was not born, he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once Mexico. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster. As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters and must escape to survive. But escape is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked in ways he doesn’t even suspect.

Neuromancer by William Gibson (SF Gib). This influential work in the cyberpunk genre presents the story of a washed-up computer hacker hired by a mysterious employer to pull off the ultimate hack.

The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness (Teen PB Nes). The only boy in a town of men, Todd can hear what the men think and they hear everything he thinks. One month away from becoming a man, Todd knows that
the town is hiding something from him—something so awful that he is forced to flee with only his dog. With hostile men in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn’t she killed by the germ like all the females on New World? Sequels include The Ask and the Answer, and Monsters of Men.

1984 by George Orwell (Fiction Orw). In this classic novel, written in 1949, two lovers attempt a forbidden relationship amid the danger and constant surveillance of “Big Brother.”

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson (Teen Pea). A 17-year-old has just awoken from a year-long coma—so she’s been told. She’s been given home movies chronicling her entire life, which spark memories to surface. But are the memories really hers? And why won’t anyone in her family talk about the accident? What happened to Jenna Fox? And who is she really?

Unwind by Neal Shusterman (Teen Shu). After the Second Civil War in America, the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life armies came to an agreement: Human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of 13. Between the ages of 13 and 18, however, a parent may choose to retroactively get rid of a child through a process called “unwinding.” This book follows three runaway Unwinds: Connor, a rebel whose parents have ordered his unwinding; Risa, a ward of the state who is to be unwound due to cost-cutting; and Lev, his parents’ tenth child whose unwinding has been planned since birth as a religious tithing. Sequel is UnWholly.

Cryptonomicon by Neal Stephenson (Fiction Ste). In 1942, a mathematical genius was assigned to help keep the Nazis ignorant of the fact that Allied Intelligence had cracked the enemy’s fabled Enigma code. Now his crypto-hacker grandson brings to light a massive conspiracy related to this very mission. Will it lead to a future of personal and digital liberty or will universal totalitarianism be reborn?

Daemon by Daniel Suarez (Fiction Sus). A designer of computer games leaves behind a program that unravels the Internet’s interconnected world. Can Detective Peter Sebeck stop this malevolent virtual enemy before it destroys civilization? The sequel is Freedom.

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld (Teen Wes). In Tally’s world, your 16th birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellant Ugly into a stunningly attractive Pretty, and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is having a really good time. Just before her birthday, Tally discovers that turning Pretty comes with a terrible price. Will she go through with it? Sequels include Pretties, Specials, and Extras.