



[*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*](#) by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
ISBN: 9781442408937 (Trade Paperback)
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2014
*Age Range: 12+ (Suggested by Publisher)
Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “authentic teen and Latino dialogue” —[*School Library Journal*](#), **starred review**

★ “Meticulous pacing and finely nuanced characters underpin the author's gift for affecting prose that illuminates the struggles within relationships.” —[*Kirkus*](#), **starred review**

★ “A tender, honest exploration of identity and sexuality, and a passionate reminder that love—whether romantic or familial—should be open, free, and without shame.” —[*Publishers Weekly*](#), **starred review**

“[Sáenz] treats his characters carefully, giving them space and time to find their place in the world, and to find each other.” —[*Booklist*](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- TIME Magazine The 100 Best YA Books of All Time
- ALA Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book
- *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year
- ALA Notable Children's Book
- LAMBDA Literary Award
- Lincoln Award: Illinois Teen Readers' Choice Master List
- Bank Street Best Books of the Year
- Oregon Battle of the Books List
- Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award Master List
- Texas Tayshas High School Reading List
- Garden State Teen Book Award Nominee (NJ)
- Nutmeg Book Award Nominee (CT)

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- Florida Teens Read Master List
- Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award
- Volunteer State Book Award Nominee (TN)
- Virginia Readers' Choice Award List
- Americas Award Commended Title
- Black-Eyed Susan Book Award Nominee (MD)
- Pura Belpre Award
- The Flume: New Hampshire Teen Reader's Choice Award Nominee
- Kirkus Best Young Adult Book
- ALA/YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults - Top Ten
- Arkansas Teen Book Award Reading List
- ALA Stonewall Award Winner
- CA Westchester Fiction Award Winner
- MSTA Reading Circle List
- Spirit of Texas Reading Program
- CA Teachers Assoc. Read Across America Reading List

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [RIF Literacy Central Resources](#)
- [#VelshiBannedBookClub: Benjamin Alire Sáenz and the secrets of the universe](#)
- [Between Violence and Tenderness: Aristotle and Dante Author Sáenz Talks to SLJ](#)
- [‘It’s a wonderful movie,’ El Paso author Ben Sáenz says of ‘Aristotle and Dante’ film adaptation of his novel](#)
- [Latino authors, activists lead caravan, march against book bans](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

AUTHOR STATEMENT

“To support the banning of books is to admit that we live our lives in fear. To support the banning of books is to deny others their freedom to choose. & those who ban books insist that we all place our hands on our hearts & sing: the land of the FREE and the home of the BRAVE.” —Benjamin Alire Sáenz

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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