



**[Rainbow Boys](#) by Alex Sanchez**

ISBN: 9780689857706 (Trade Paperback)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2003

\*Age Range: 12+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

Three teenage boys, coming of age and out of the closet. Jason Carrillo is a jock with a steady girlfriend, but he can't stop dreaming about sex...with other guys. Kyle Meeks doesn't look gay, but he is. And he hopes he never has to tell anyone—especially his parents. Nelson Glassman is "out" to the entire world, but he can't tell the boy he loves that he wants to be more than just friends...

In a revealing debut novel that percolates with passion and wit, Alex Sanchez follows these very different high-school seniors as their struggles with sexuality and intolerance draw them into a triangle of love, betrayal, and ultimately, friendship.

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## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"First-novelist Sanchez writes with passion and understanding." —[Booklist](#)

"This gutsy, in-your-face debut novel speaks the language of real life for gay teens, that of the ecstasy, heartache, and humor of first love (and sex), that of daily harassment and fear, that of having what it takes to stand up and be proud of who you are. There will no doubt be challenges to *Rainbow Boys*, much like the challenges of Judy Blume's *Forever* (Turtleback, 1975) when it was published in the 1970s. But please, have the courage to make it available to those who need it—it can open eyes and change lives." —*School Library Journal*

". . . thought-provoking and informative for all young adults." —[Kirkus](#)

"Sanchez creates modern situations that speak to contemporary teens." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Lincoln Award: Illinois Teen Readers' Choice Master List
- ALA Best Books For Young Adults
- ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults
- International Reading Association "Young Adults' Choice"
- New York Public Library "Book for the Teen Age"

**Updated 7.23.24**

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
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- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* "Blue Ribbon Winner"
- Lambda Literary Award Finalist (2001)
- A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021)

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## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net Resources](#)
- [Interview with Alex Sanchez on \*Rainbow Boys\*](#)
- [Cynthia Leitich Smith interviews Alex Sanchez](#)
- [It Gets Better video](#)
- [Intellectual Freedom blog](#)
- [Alex Sanchez at The Queer Young Adult Literature Conference, CU-Boulder](#)

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## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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### AUTHOR STATEMENT

"These people who are... banning books are well aware of the power of books... to allow queer kids to see themselves in print, to validate them" — [Alex Sanchez](#)

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### \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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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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