



LAI Resource Guide:

Teaching through LGBTQ+  
Latinx & Latin American  
Literature

in association with albuQUEERque

# LAI Resource Guide: Teaching through LGBTQ+ Latinx & Latin American Literature



## *What is albuQUEERque?*

albuQUEERque is an online community curated oral and visual history project that highlights the relationship between queer identity and community, and how queer people's daily lives influence, and are influenced by the greater Albuquerque community.

## *What is the LAII?*

The LAII, or Latin American & Iberian Institute, fosters research and education within UNM about the cultures, languages, history, and societies of these world regions, and works to share UNM's expertise and resources with community partners and organizations. The LAII sponsors the related *Vamos a Leer: Teaching Latin America through Literacy* blog where we encourage resource-sharing and discussion. LAII bloggers write regular children's reviews, feature young adult titles, provide recommended booklists, and connect our readers with the broader, growing movement related to diverse literature in the classroom. All of the following resources were initially posted on the book blog, and remain available and open to the public. These resources were selected as they feature LGBTQ, Latin American, and Latinx stories and authors. The following is by no means an exhaustive list, but is intended as an introduction into the world of LGBTQ+ perspectives, authors, and characters that are connected to Latin America.

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# Educator's Guide: Aristotle & Dante Discover the Secrets to the Universe

BY BENJAMIN ALIRE SÁENZ

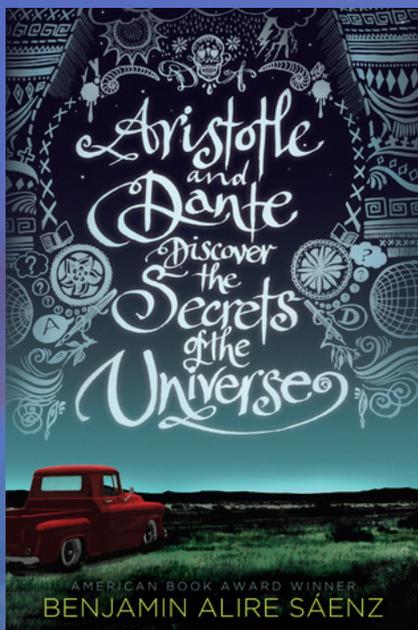
Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the 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.

The Educator's Guide comprises a standards-based guide produced by the the LAll using *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (Sáenz, Simon & Schuster, 2012) in the classroom. Standards are included with the lesson plans in the PDF.

Link here:



<https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/vamos-a-leer-aristotle-and-dante-educators-guide.pdf>



## Educator's Guide Includes:

- Author's Room
- Lesson Plan & Activities
- Utilizes Common Core Standards
- Other resources to help educators teach about LGBTQ+ rights and history
- Guided Reading Questions
- Reflective Writing Questions

# Reading Roundup: 6 LGBTQIA Latinx Books for Young Readers

ADOPTED FROM AN ORIGINAL POST BY KALYN

In light of LGBTQIA Pride month in June 2018, the LALI K-12 education and outreach team extended their writing schedule into June to provide blog readers with a Reading Roundup of LGBTQIA Latin American/Latinx children's books. This blog post focuses specifically on children's books rather than YA titles, since books for younger readers are particularly scarce and difficult to find. This resource collection is intended to make introducing these topics and stories easier for educators!

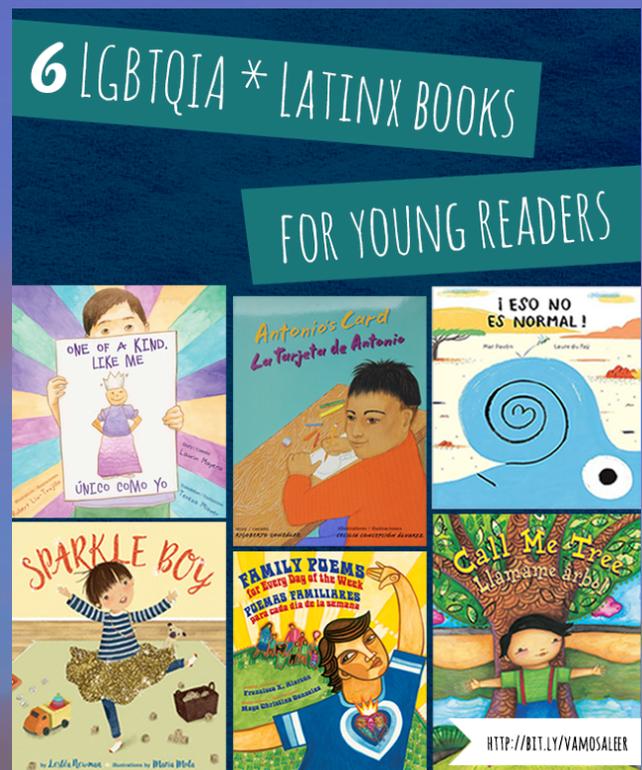
Link:

[here:https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/2018/06/04/reading-roundup-6-lgbtqia-latinx-books-for-young-readers/](https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/2018/06/04/reading-roundup-6-lgbtqia-latinx-books-for-young-readers/)



## Educator's Guide Includes:

- Recommended Websites
- Top Book Recommendations
- Teaching Articles for Educators
- Book Reviews:
  - *One of a Kind Like Me*
  - *Antonio's Card*
  - *Call Me Tree*
  - *Sparkle Boy*
  - *Family Poems for Every Day of the Week*
  - *¡Eso no es normal!*



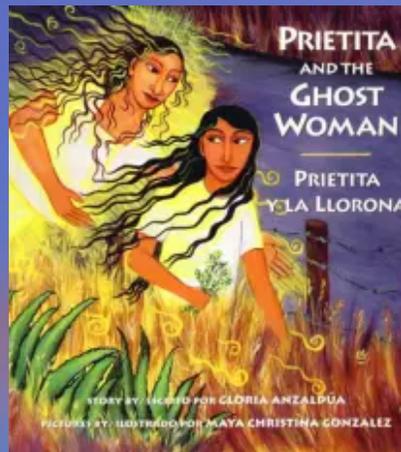
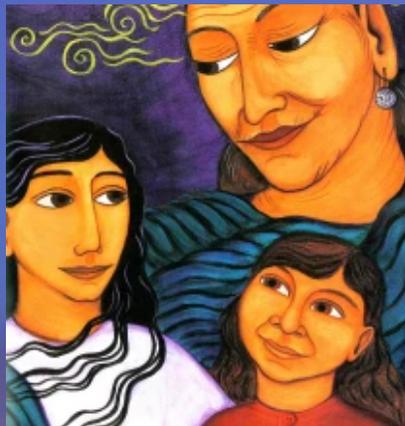
## Book Review: *¡Mira, Look!/: Prietita and the Ghost Woman*

BY GLORIA ANZALDÚA

In *Prietita and the Ghost Woman*, written by Gloria Anzaldúa and illustrated by Christina Gonzalez, Anzaldúa creates a feminist adaptation of the Hispanic legend by featuring strong, female protagonists, and portraying La Llorona as a benevolent spirit, rather than a haunting ghost. The female relationships in the story are loving and respectful, and women of various ages look out for each other in a lovely constellation of female alliances.

+Links to biographical information to teach about Gloria Anzaldúa

Link: <https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/2015/10/26/mira-look-prietita-and-the-ghost-woman/>



*“Though we tremble before uncertain futures  
may we meet illness, death, and adversity with strength/  
may we dance in the face of our fears.”*

BY GLORIA E. ANZALDÚA

## Book Review: *Postcolonial Love Poem*

BY NATALIE DIAZ

Natalie Diaz, a queer Mojave poet, creates work of art in her latest publication, *Postcolonial Love Poem*. Her poems seamlessly move from realism to the fantastic; she writes about love in all its forms, such as what it means to love and unlove. The Mojave or Aha Makav, have experienced a double colonization, that of the Spanish and later the Anglo settlers of the United States. In *Postcolonial Love Poem*, colonialism is a constant specter, for all things have been impacted by its logic. She explores the body as a place of life and simultaneously the site of the colonial wound. Diaz encourages simultaneous readings throughout the text, incorporating multiple languages without fanfare--she works along the borderlands of language. All the while, she calls the reader into the text through her vivid imagery and range of emotions her words evoke.

Link here:

<https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/2021/11/30/postcolonial-love-poem/>



- **Book Review Includes:**
- Poem Highlights
- Summary
- Principle Themes
- Extra Resources



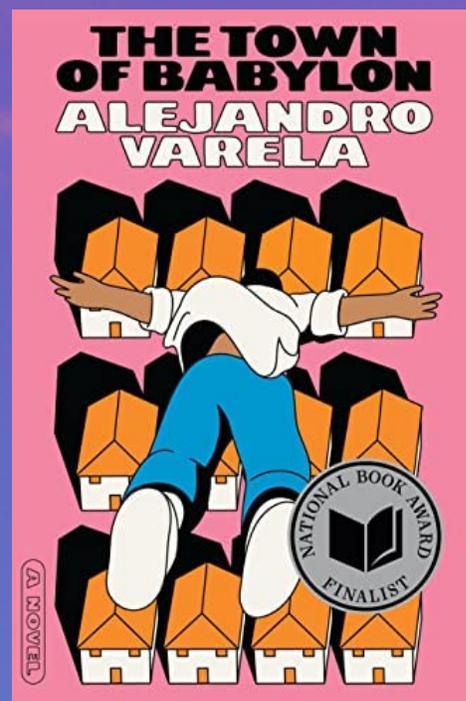
## Book Review: *The Town of Babylon*

BY ALEJANDRO VARELA

Andrés is a first generation child of immigrants from Latin America. Although the book starts in his early forties as a Public Health Professor who begrudgingly returns to his hometown when his father becomes ill, much of the story revolves around Andrés understanding of self and sexuality in his youth. The story is told half in the present and half looking backwards, the reader comes to understand Andrés through the anecdotes of his upbringing as a gay son of immigrants living in a suburban neighborhood of mostly white people at a catholic school. The book grapples with larger systemic racial and economic issues and poignantly details how such larger systemic forces have intimately impacted Andrés's family and life. Varela magically weaves together the micro and the macro in this beautiful and heartbreaking coming of age story of resistance and belonging.

Link:

<https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/2023/01/25/the-town-of-babylon/>



# Extra Resources for Researchers

*\*not associated with the LAII*

## UNIVERSITY OF OHIO'S RESOURCE LIST FOR HISPANIC/LATINO/LATINX LGBTQ RESOURCES

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Link: <https://libguides.library.ohio.edu/c.php?g=1202822&p=8796180>

- Books on Hispanic/Latino/Latinx Topics
- Recommended Databases
- Database Guide to finding related articles
- Database Guide to finding related news articles
- Database Guide to finding related statistics
- Extra (external) Resources

## LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LGBTQ+ STUDIES WEB ARCHIVE

A white hand cursor icon with a black outline and a small black dot at the tip, pointing towards the link. It has several short black lines radiating from the hand, suggesting movement or a click.

Link: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/lgbtq-studies-web-archive/about-this-collection/>

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- A white hand cursor icon with a black outline and a small black dot at the tip, pointing towards the link. It has several short black lines radiating from the hand, suggesting movement or a click.
- [LGBTQ+ Studies Research Guide](#)
  - [LGBTQ+ Sports and Recreation Research Guide](#)
  - [Research Guides: LGBTQ+ Studies](#)
  - [LGBTQ Pride Month Resources](#)
  - [Stonewall 50: LGBTQ+ Research](#)
  - [LGBTQ+ at the LOC! blogpost](#)

## LGBTQ HISTORY DIGITAL COLLABORATORY

A white hand cursor icon with a black outline and a small black dot at the tip, pointing towards the link. It has several short black lines radiating from the hand, suggesting movement or a click.

Link: <https://lgbtqdigitalcollaboratory.org/oral-history-hub/>

- A project connecting U.S. archives, libraries and museums to produce a digital history hub for the research and study of gay, lesbian, queer, and trans\* oral histories.



## Extra Resources for Researchers

### DIGITAL TRANSGENDER ARCHIVE



Link: <https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/>

- Open access archive of historical materials, born-digital materials, and information on archival holdings throughout the world on transgender history.

