



# CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

500 DEBALIVIERE AVENUE  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63112  
TEL 314.367.8085 FAX 314.367.9711  
WWW.CROSSROADSCOLLEGEPREP.ORG

## **LGBTQ Literature**

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Fall Semester, 2020

Summer Reading

### Reading

This summer, you are to read *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz, and you are to complete the following assignment. The reading and assignment are due on the first day of class, August 19th, 2020. You may either share it with me via email, Google Drive, or hand in a hard copy on the first day of class. As this is the first graded work of the semester, please produce excellent work.

### Assignment

#### *Part 1*

Identify 4-5 turning points in *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. Choose a quote that is significant to this turning point and explain briefly what makes the turning points you've chosen significant to the novel. (A turning point can be related to a character or the plot. The story turns in a new direction based on a significant choice, dilemma, or happening in the story.)

#### *Part 2*

Aristotle and Dante contend with identities related to race, sexuality, and gender. Write a well-developed paragraph about how these identities affect Aristotle and Dante's character development and the plot of the novel.

#### *Part 3*

Write a brief reflection after reading the entirety of *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. In your reflection, please answer these questions: Did you like the novel? Why or why not? This novel was written for a young adult audience. What aspects of this novel might feel familiar to readers? What aspects might feel different? How might this novel develop a sense of empathy in the reader?

### For Your Own Use

I recommend that you keep a plot summary of *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* divided into the four major sections of the novel. The summaries need not be long. You will be able to use this summary as you respond to certain questions about the novel in class in August.