

Book Club Discussion Guide



The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore), Page 1 (May 2022)

The Stars Beneath Our Feet

By David Barclay Moore

About the author:

David was born and raised in Missouri, about ten miles from Ferguson. Throughout his adolescent years, David kept mainly to himself and read too many novels and comic books.

After studying Creative Writing at Iowa State University, Film at Howard University in Washington, DC and Language Studies at L'Université de Montpellier in France, David moved to New York City. He had a degree, \$500 in his pocket (from his Mom) and a place to stay for two weeks.

Over the years in New York, DBM has worked in different creative and writing capacities with: Sony StudiOne, Barbra Streisand's Barwood Films, @radical.media and Harlem Children's Zone, among others. His work has appeared in Vibe Magazine, Callaloo Journal, Blithe House Quarterly and Killens Review of Arts and Letters. He has freelanced as a photojournalist for the Associated Press.

David is a Yaddo Filmmaker in Screenwriting.

His award-winning documentary film "Realness" was selected for screenings at NewFest in New York City, the Director's Guild of America in Los Angeles during Outfest and many other film festivals around the world. An ITVS Queer X-Change

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workshop invitee, David was asked by ITVS to present a documentary project idea on Black men for development.

He was also a Semi-Finalist for a recent Sundance Screenwriters Lab. DBM was selected as an ITVS Independent Feature Project / Project Involve Honoree for Screenwriting & Narrative and was a Grantee in the Artists Mentor Program at Film/Video Arts.

David Barclay Moore is constantly trying to see the world differently.

Source: Author's website: (<https://davidbarclaymoore.com/5101.html>)

About this book:

It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward.

His path isn't clear—and the pressure to join a “crew,” as his brother did, is always there. When Lolly and his friend are beaten up and robbed, joining a crew almost seems like the safe choice. But building a fantastical Lego city at the community center provides Lolly with an escape—and an unexpected bridge back to the world.

David Barclay Moore paints a powerful portrait of a boy teetering on the edge—of adolescence, of grief, of violence—and shows how Lolly's inventive spirit helps him build a life with firm foundations and open doors.

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Source: Publisher's website (<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/>)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Lolly resist telling Mr. Ali what happened between him and Jermaine? How does he feel about it?
2. How does the dynamic between Lolly and Big Rose change throughout the story? What would you say they have in common?
3. Why does Vega disappear from Lolly's life after the incident with Harp and Gully?
4. What does the removal of Jermaine's bed from Lolly's room mean? Why did Lolly decide to be called by his first name, Wallace, at the end of the book?

Source: Kid Curated Books (<https://kidcuratedbooks.com/>)