

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan book discussions, library programs, or classroom activities.

Meet debut author Ronni Davis, who was born and raised in Cleveland.

Select from a wide range of discussion questions to deepen the experience of reading *When the Stars Lead to You*.

Discover additional resources including videos, websites, and even a game to explore topics and themes in depth.

When the Stars Lead to You

By Ronni Davis



About the Book

Eighteen-year-old Devon longs for two things.

The stars.

And the boy she fell in love with last summer.

When Ashton breaks Devon's heart at the end of the most romantic summer ever, she thinks her heart will never heal again. But over the course of the following year Devon finds herself slowly putting the broken pieces back together.

Now it's senior year and she's determined to enjoy every moment of it, as she prepares for a future studying galaxies. That is, until Ashton shows up on the first day of school.

Can she forgive and open her heart to him again? Or are they doomed to repeat history?



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Book Details

When the Stars Lead to You by Ronni Davis.

Little Brown Young Readers/Hachette Book Group, 2019. 400 pages. ISBN: 978031649689. Ages 14-17.

www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/ronni-davis/when-the-stars-lead-to-you/9780316490689/

Available as an ebook and a digital audiobook through the Ohio Digital Library: ohiodigitallibrary.com

Available through the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program: olbpd.klas.com



Author photo and biography
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**"He'd asked me a
million questions
about the moon
and the tide,
and he'd asked me
to point out
my favorite stars
to him.
I'd taken his hand
and pointed out
to Arcturus –
but he wasn't
looking at the sky.
He was looking
at me."**

About the Author

Ronni Davis grew up in Cleveland and graduated from The Ohio State University. She now lives in Chicago, where she copy edits everything from TV commercials to billboards by day and writes contemporary teen novels about brown girls falling in love by night.

Check out Ronni's biography on her website at ronnidavis.com/bio and some fun facts about Ronni at ronnidavis.com/bio/fun-facts

Author Resources

Ronni Davis's official website
ronnidavis.com

Author Page on Hachette Book Group website
www.hachettebookgroup.com/contributor/ronni-davis

Ronni Davis discusses her book on the LB School & Library Podcast
soundcloud.com/user-419678114-286926981/ronni-davis-on-when-the-stars-lead-to-you

Follow Ronni on Twitter @lilrongal
Follow Ronni on Instagram www.instagram.com/lilrongal

For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:
Contact Christie Michel at Christie.Michel@hbgusa.com.

Talk About It

Topics to share when discussing **When the Stars Lead to You** with teens.

Educators: Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. Other Learning Standards, such as Social and Emotional Learning: Relationship Skills (HS) may also apply. Discussion questions and educational activities for **When the Stars Lead to You** align with Learning Standards for Grades 9-12.

Librarians, parents, and others: These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, education.ohio.gov. From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Learning in Ohio."

Spoiler warning! Some discussion questions refer to key elements in the book. Do not read if you do not want to find out what happens.

- Devon and Ashton's relationship has a series of highs and lows. Using the text, highlight some signs that indicate evidence of mental instability on Ashton's part. Describe the ways the author communicates Devon's emotional turmoil by the end of the summer. Is Devon's heartbreak believable? Use the text to support your argument.

Talk About It (continued)

- Devon's heartbreak is nearly healed when Ashton shows up at her school as a new student. How does Ashton's sudden appearance affect Devon? Does his explanation of his disappearance make him a sympathetic character? Use the text to support your argument.
- Teen depression is one of the major topics in this novel. In what ways does Ashton's depression affect the overall tone of the story? What themes surprised you in this novel? Visit the author's website (ronnidavis.com) and learn more about her process in creating this story.
- Devon's mother is African American and her father is white. How does living at the intersection of two races makes life different for Devon? How is her relationship different with each parent? How does her parents' relationship impact Devon's relationship with Ashton?
- Ashton's mother is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. What impact does his mother's membership in this group have on Ashton's relationship with Devon? Do you agree with Ashton's mother's treatment of Devon?
- Throughout the story, Devon struggles to maintain an equilibrium in her personal life and at school. Examine the text for three instances where Devon has to employ self-preservation. Explain how Devon's relationship with Ashton acts as a catalyst for derailment of her dreams. What are some of the support systems that help Devon thrive?

Go Further

*Ideas for extending the experience of reading **When the Stars Lead to You**.*

- Racism and classism are two of the topics explored in **When the Stars Lead to You**. What are some of the ways race and class still affect the ways people of different races and classes interact today? In what ways have race relations improved or changed over the past 20 years?
- Ashton's struggles with depression feature prominently in this novel. Search the internet and develop a list of some mental health resources available to teens dealing with depression. Examine these resources and evaluate them for usability, language, and style. Which resources stand out to you? What makes each a good or bad resource? Which sites seem best for teens who are concerned about a friend's mental health?
- Using online resources available to students through INFOhio (infohio.org) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library (ohioweblibrary.org), research the Daughters of the American Revolution. Compare and contrast their stated values with their practices. How have their values and practices changed over time?

Check It Out

*Recommended for readers of **When the Stars Lead to You**.*

Read **Rewire Your Anxious Brain for Teens: Using CBT, Neuroscience, & Mindfulness to Help You End Anxiety, Panic, and Worry** by Debra Kissen, PhD, Ashley D. Kendall, PhD, Michelle Lozano, LMFT, and Micah Ioffe, PhD. Instant Help, 2020, ISBN 9781684033768.

Four anxiety specialists offer practical and essential skills grounded in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), neuroscience, and mindfulness to help teen readers "rewire" their anxious brains; manage fears, stress, and worry; and get back to living their lives.

Continued on the next page.

Check It Out (continued)

Watch **Historic Advance for Daughters of the American Revolution.**

youtu.be/PUXhdOdyPNs

Brooklyn College/City University of New York (CUNY) graduate Wilhelmena Rhodes Kelly is the first woman of color to start a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter. CUNY TV, in a segment of its monthly newsmagazine *Study With the Best*, profiles Ms. Kelly and tells the story of the DAR's historic resistance to inclusion and change and its dramatic turnaround in recent decades.

Watch **"In 'Loving,' an American Story about a Marriage Worth Fighting for."**

youtu.be/p5I_OUxnzR8

The movie *Loving* tells the real-life story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a Virginia couple who were arrested because interracial marriage was illegal in their home state. The Lovings appealed their case and won a landmark civil rights ruling from the Supreme Court. In this clip from PBS NewsHour, Jeffrey Brown speaks with director Jeff Nichols and others about how they brought the love story to the screen.

Watch **"The Game that Can Give You 10 Extra Years of Life,"** a TEDTalk by Jane McGonigal.

youtu.be/lfBpsV1Hwqs

Bedridden and suicidal following a severe concussion, game designer Jane McGonigal had a fascinating idea for how to get better. She dove into the scientific research and created the healing game SuperBetter. In her TEDTalk, McGonigal explains how a game can boost resilience—and extend your life.

Play **SuperBetter.** This brain game was designed by Jane McGonigal.

www.superbetter.com

Explore More

*Additional ideas and resources to use with **When the Stars Lead to You.***

Project Semicolon: Your Story Isn't Over

projectsemicolon.com

This nonprofit organization offers resources to support mental health wellness and help prevent suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and suicide.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Teens-Young-Adults

NAMI's resource page for teens and young adults offers support for teens and family members who are affected by depression and other mental health conditions.

Alliance of Hope

allianceofhope.org

A nonprofit created by suicide loss survivors, Alliance of Hope offers support, resources, and information on the survivor experience.

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits:
library.ohio.gov/ctro.

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