

# Community Raving About Books



## (C.R.A.B.) Book Club Guide



### ***On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong**

Penguin Press, 2019; 256 pages/audio 7 hours, 23 minutes

"A raw and incandescently written foray into fiction by one of our most gifted poets."

—Kirkus Reviews, 4/1/2019

### **Summary**

Brilliant, heartbreaking, tender, and highly original - poet Ocean Vuong's debut novel is a sweeping and shattering portrait of a family, and a testament to the redemptive power of storytelling. *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born--a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam--and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity.

### **Author Information**

Ocean Vuong is the author of the critically acclaimed poetry collection *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* and the New York Times bestselling novel *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*. A recipient of the 2019 MacArthur Genius Grant, he is also the winner of the Whiting Award and the T.S. Eliot Prize. His writings have been featured in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, he currently lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.

### **If you liked this book, try these!**

*Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart

*House of Sticks* by Ly Tran

*Run Me to Earth* by Paul Yoon

**Find more title suggestions and author information from our Books and Literature Online Resources:** <https://ww1.pgcmcls.info/website/online-resources-432#BooksandLiterature>

**Check out our other C.R.A.B. book club kits at:** <https://ww1.pgcmcls.info/website/4558>

### **See this link for suggested discussion questions:**

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/600633/on-earth-were-briefly-gorgeous-by-ocean-vuong/9780525562047/readers-guide/>

# Community Raving About Books



## (C.R.A.B.) Book Club Guide

