

Kings of Mulberry Street

A Discussion Guide

Movie Summary: In an impoverished South African neighborhood, two young Indian boys join forces to take down a local hoodlum in this exuberant, silly, sly, action-packed, sometimes gritty, and unexpectedly moving paean to boyhood, friendship, and classic Bollywood cinema. *NOTE: Some mild profanity, threats of violence, and references to drug use and drug dealing.*

Film Notes: Family Feature - Director Judy Naidoo
| South Africa 2019 | 87 min |
Grades 4-8 | *In English with English subtitles*



Guiding Questions (before you watch):

- Much of this story is about the unity of seeming opposites. What examples of this appear throughout the film?
- This movie unfolds through dialogue, but also includes many layers of symbolism that occur visually. One you might look for is the difference in food being shared at Ticky's house and Baboo's house. What others do you notice?
- Ticky is inspired by classic Bollywood cinema. What do you think he most enjoys about these films? Why do they appeal to him, and what do they allow him to experience?
- Ticky and Baboo are unlikely friends given their different home lives and personalities. What draws them together, and how do they help each other?

Reflection Questions (after you watch):

- Ticky tells Baboo, "You want to be a hero, you must act like a hero." After watching this film, what do you think he means by this? What are some of the qualities that Baboo learns from Ticky?
- In this film, young people seem to have a unique perspective on what is happening to their community, and unique ways of dealing with it. What are some of the ways young people around the world are offering their unique perspective on what is happening to the Earth and their communities?
- What role does music, dance and art play in this film? How does music, dance and art help to bring people together, and inspire greater confidence and community?
- The women in Ticky's life are a source of guidance and strength for him. How do they help Ticky, as well as Baboo, to understand themselves and their lives?
- In addition to the criminal activity in Ticky and Baboo's South African neighborhood, what are some of the other issues the neighborhood is facing? How do you know?
- Courage is a theme that appears across this film. Where did you see it showing up? In your own life, what helps you to find courage?
- What can the relationship between Ticky and Baboo help us to understand about our own lives and relationships? What are friendships and relationships that have been especially meaningful for you, and why?