

## Resources Connecting Eclipses and Other Fields (Particularly the Humanities)

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### Eclipses in Adult Fiction

- Banville, John *Eclipse*. 2000, Picador. Complex enigmatic novel about a failed actor where an eclipse of the Sun is a key event. (An eclipse also plays a role in his second novel in this series, *Shroud*, 2002, Picador.)
- Byrd, Max *Shooting the Sun*. 2003, Bantam. Historical fiction: young woman astronomer in 19<sup>th</sup> century on an expedition in American southwest to photograph a total eclipse for the first time. Many historical characters accompany her.
- Dorricott, Fran *After the Eclipse*. 2019, Titan Books. Two young girls disappear during two different eclipses, and the first one's sister tries to solve the mystery.
- Hart, Elsa *Jade Dragon Mountain*. 2016, Minotaur Books. A murder mystery set in 18<sup>th</sup> century China and at the time of a total eclipse.
- Kelley, Erin *He Said, She Said*. 2017, Minotaur. Psychological thriller, where the events are set off during a trip to see a solar eclipse in Cornwall.
- King, Stephen *Gerald's Game* (1992, Viking) and *Dolores Claiborne* (1992, Viking). Two horror novels both of which feature eclipses as parts of the complex plot.
- Langton, Jane *Dark Nantucket Noon*. 1975, Penguin. A murder is committed during a total eclipse of the Sun.
- Neville, Daphne *A Celestial Affair*. 2016, Lulu. Part of the *Trengillion Cornish Mystery* series, this book is about a village that hosts many visitors for a total eclipse.
- Rigbey, Liz *Total Eclipse*. 1996, Pocket Books. A mystery with an astronomer protagonist; a key part of what's going on is revealed during an eclipse.
- Seagren, Ronnie *Seventh Daughter*. 2008, Flying Pen Press. Fantasy adventure: a woman born during an eclipse must see an eclipse in Peru to regain powers she needs to fight an evil entity.
- Sawyer, Robert *Illegal Alien*. 1997, Ace Books. Aliens who arrive on Earth go see a total solar eclipse and humans learn that it is a sight unique to Earth.
- Twain, Mark *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. 1889. Many editions. A modern American transported back in time is condemned as a magician but saves himself by predicting an eclipse.
- Verne, Jules *The Fur Country*. 1873. One of Verne's *Extraordinary Voyages* novels, in which a predicted total eclipse showing as partial is one of the things that alerts the protagonists that they are not where they think they are.
- Whitaker, Phil *Eclipse of the Sun*. 1997, Phoenix Books. An Indian science teacher uses an eclipse to allow him to forge a relationship with an English tutor.

Wikipedia: Solar Eclipses in Fiction:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar\\_eclipses\\_in\\_fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_eclipses_in_fiction)

White, A. “Solar Eclipses Have Been a Science Fiction Theme for Thousands of Years”  
(an interview with Lisa Yaszek,)  
<https://www.vox.com/culture/2017/8/18/16158544/solar-eclipses-science-fiction>  
Hockey, Thomas “Totality Tales” (AAS Education Blog Post):  
<https://aas.org/posts/news/2022/07/totality-tales>

## **Eclipses in Children’s Fiction**

Arnold, Sandra *Child of the Sun: A Cuban Legend*. 1997, Troll. An illustrated story book with a fable of how an eclipse happens from the Ciboney people of Cuba.  
Blyton, Enid *The Secret Mountain*. 1941, several publishers. Children’s adventure in Africa, where an upcoming eclipse is part of the plot.  
Fraknoi, Andrew & Schatz, Dennis *When the Sun Goes Dark*. 2017, National Science Teaching Association Press. Grandparents return from an eclipse expedition and tell kids all about it. (For ages 9-12)  
Hoult, Janet *Where Did the Sun Go? Myths and Legends of Solar Eclipses Around the World Told with Poetry and Puppetry*. 2013, Outskirts Press. A variety of eclipse stories and instructions on how to tell them through puppet shows.  
Mass, Wendy *Every Soul a Star*. 2008, Little Brown. A total eclipse of the Sun brings together three disparate teenagers. (Young adult fiction)  
Sonneborn, Ruth *Someone Is Eating the Sun*. 1974, Random House Pictureback. Book about eclipses for very young children.  
Whitethorne, Baje *Sunpainters: Eclipse of the Navajo Sun*. 1994, Salina. Tells the story of how the Navajo people explained eclipses.  
The Adventures of TinTin: Prisoners of the Sun. Herge (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 1949). Graphic novel.

## **Eclipses in Films and Videos**

Fifteen Movies that Feature Eclipses (from *Astronomy* magazine):  
<https://cs.astronomy.com/asy/b/astronomy/archive/2014/08/18/15-movies-that-feature-eclipses.aspx>  
Films with Eclipses: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_films\\_featuring\\_eclipses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_films_featuring_eclipses)  
How Solar Eclipses are Used in TV and Film (7 min. video):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIrRn8kc2z0>  
Nine Movies Starring Solar Eclipses: <https://www.treehugger.com/movies-solar-eclipses-starring-role-4867696>  
Our Favorite Total Solar Eclipses from Movies and TV: <https://www.space.com/37866-total-solar-eclipses-in-movies-and-tv.html>

## **Eclipses in Music**

Classical:  
Halper, Mathew *Shadow over the Andes* (for strings) – performed by the Arco Ensemble, Paul Dunker, conductor. Inspired by the total eclipse visible from southern Argentina in July 2010:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMDf64SuNAk>

Handel, George F. "Total Eclipse:" an aria from the oratorio *Samson*. (many recordings). Poignant song, comparing Samson going blind with an eclipse of the Sun. See, for example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bWE1vZ9OKw>

Hovhaness, Alan *Sonata on the Long Eclipse of the Moon July 6, 1982* (Nicola Giosmin on Taukay). Portrays some of the physical and personal aspects of watching the full Moon turn dark and then coming back into the light; by a prolific 20<sup>th</sup> century Armenian-American composer who plays with astronomy in a number of his pieces. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ3RbNlNJ-s&list=PLCFE8oFAA9C1305F8>)

Saariaho, Kaija *Notes on Light* (Orchestre De Paris on Ondine). In this modern piece for cello and orchestra, the composer tries to portray properties of light and phenomena with light through musical textures. The fourth movement is called "Eclipse". ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQSV5qFv\\_To&list=OLAK5uy\\_kX8BGQgfO-gRIj3BQkeTk5Z6DiTlOiybo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQSV5qFv_To&list=OLAK5uy_kX8BGQgfO-gRIj3BQkeTk5Z6DiTlOiybo))

Tsontakis, George *Eclipse* (piece for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano; Broyhill Chamber Ensemble on Koch). Written after composer saw a lunar eclipse, the music reminds him of "the eclipsing shadow... as it softly invaded the hazy luminescent circle, and later, the shadow leaving the sphere just as quietly as it had first entered." (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGxaqBTVsgeOaa0KkHu-pJKzmMUTbxFpf>)

#### Popular Music:

Hollywood Principle "Solar Eclipses" – song from the San Diego-based electronic pop music group which uses an eclipse as a metaphor for a broken relationship:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKRYgZVXDMc>

Pink Floyd "Eclipse" on *Dark Side of the Moon* (1973, Capitol Records.) Short philosophical song which ends with "...and the Sun is eclipsed by the Moon." See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9xOl8qZ7tc>

Tyler, Bonnie "Total Eclipse of the Heart" on *Faster than the Speed of Night* (on Sony). 1983 song by a Welsh singer using eclipse images -- shadows, being in the dark, "no one in the universe as magical as you" -- to describe a love affair going wrong:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcOxhH8N3Bo>

#### Further Reading:

NASA page on Eclipses and Music: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipses-and-music>

#### **Eclipses in Art**

Transient Effects: Eclipses in Art (a rich website from the Princeton Museum of Art):

<https://artmuseum.princeton.edu/transient-effects/table-contents>

Shahrouri, Saha: Eclipses throughout Art History: <https://artmejo.com/eclipses-throughout-art-history/>

Lunsford, Christine: In Images: Solar Eclipses Depicted in Fine Art:

<https://www.livescience.com/59890-solar-eclipses-in-fine-art-images.html>

Corman, C. Surrealist Astronomy in the South Pacific: Joseph Cornell and the Collaged Eclipse: <https://eastofborneo.org/articles/surrealist-astronomy-in-the-south-pacific-joseph-cornell-and-the-collaged-eclipse/>

Woo, Richard: The Art and Science of Solar Eclipses (article from *American Scientist* magazine): <https://www.americanscientist.org/article/the-art-and-science-of-solar-eclipses>

Maor, E. "Artistry & Solar Eclipses" *Sky & Telescope*, Dec. 2000, p. 41. On a painting of a total eclipse by Wilhelm Kranz.

### **Articles on Other Connections**

Aguirre, E. "Solar Eclipses on Stamps" *Sky & Telescope*, Apr. 2006, p. 85.

Krupp, E. Chapter 10, "Within the Shadow," in *Beyond the Blue Horizon: Myths and Legends of the Sun, Moon, Stars, and Planets* (New York: HarperCollins, 1991), pp 158-172. The meaning and function of eclipse myths in traditions around the world.

Krupp, E. "Women at Risk," *Sky & Telescope*, August 1998, p. 94. On the anthropology of eclipses.

Olson, D. "Columbus and an Eclipse of the Moon" *Sky & Telescope*, Oct. 1992, p. 437.

Schaefer, B. "Lunar Eclipses That Changed the World" *Sky & Telescope*, Dec. 1992, p. 639.

Schaefer, B. "Solar Eclipses That Changed the World" *Sky & Telescope*, May 1994, p. 36.

### **Websites on Other Connections**

Eclipse Stamps: <http://www.mreclipse.com/SEstamps/SEstamps1.html>

Also: <http://mseclipse.free.fr/timbres/timbres.htm>

The Sun-Eating Dragon: Eclipse Stories, Myths, and Legends by Noel Wanner:

<https://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse-archive/dragon.html>

Indigenous Education Institute: Indigenous Eclipse Teachings (a 13-minute video with nice interviews revealing Native American thinking about eclipses):

<https://vimeo.com/230453732>

Zotigh, D. American Indian Beliefs about the Eclipse (provided by indigenous people of different tribes): <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-american-indian/2017/08/21/american-indian-beliefs-about-eclipse/>

Tourist Posters for Eclipse Destinations (by Tyler Nordgren):

<https://www.tylernordgren.com/>

Eclipses in Many Areas of Popular Culture:

<https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/TotalEclipseOfThePlot>

The Anthropology of the 2017 Solar Eclipse (from the *Anthropology Now* website):

<https://anthronow.com/online-articles/the-great-american-cultural-eclipse>

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For more guides to connections between astronomy and other fields, check out

<http://bit.ly/fraknoiguides>