

EDUCATIONAL BOOKLIST

ECLIPSES, THE SUN AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM



This list was originally sourced by State Library of Ohio and the Space Science Institute; compiled with permission by Indiana State Library. Remember to check your local public library for many of these titles!

GRADES K-2

The Darkest Dark

by Chris Hadfield and Kate Fillion, illustrated by The Fan Brothers

Inspired by the real-life experiences of astronaut Chris Hadfield, this is the story of a boy who loves space, rockets, the moon and everything space, but at night he is afraid of the dark.

Eclipse

by Andy Rash

A boy and his father make a plan to travel to see a total solar eclipse. The book features maps of eclipses' paths and scientific back matter about eclipses.

Eclipses (Sky Lights series)

by Grace Hansen

Teaches about what solar and lunar eclipses are and why they happen. This non-fiction book contains simple text and labeled images.

Eclipses (Amazing Sights in the Sky series)

by Jane P. Gardner

This non-fiction book covers the science between solar and lunar eclipses for early readers.

A Few Beautiful Minutes: Experiencing a Solar Eclipse

by Kate Allen Fox, illustrated by Khoa Le

An informative and poetic illustrated tribute to the solar eclipse and the magic of togetherness, seen through the eyes of a child.

Looking Up! The Science of Stargazing

by Joe Rao, illustrated by Mark Borgions

Emergent readers can become experts on the stars with this book, part of the Science of Fun Stuff series. It includes a chapter on eclipses of the moon and sun.

Moonbear's Shadow

by Frank Asch

On a sunny day Bear decides to go fishing, but his shadow scares the fish away, so he tries to get rid of it! This fun book explains the science of shadows for young children.

The Sun is Kind of a Big Deal

by Nick Seluk

This entertaining informational picture book shines a light on the star of the solar system.

Sun! One in a Billion

by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated by Stevie Lewis

The sun is a star, and not just any star! He lights up our solar system and makes life possible. With humor and charm, the author channels the voice of Sun in this celestial “autobiography” with a brief mention of solar eclipses.

The Sun: Our Nearest Star

by Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by Edward Miller

Learn how the sun brings heat, warmth, and energy to the Earth, what it is made of, how big it is, and more.

When the Sun Goes Dark

by Andrew Fraknoi and Dennis Schatz

Informational picture book about eclipses; includes activities and addresses common questions.

GRADES 3-5 NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL

Amazing Sights in the Sky: Eclipses

by Jane Gardner

Full-color photos and leveled text will engage young readers as they explore outer space, Earth’s orbit, and how it plays a role in eclipses. An infographic, sidebars, and an activity offer readers an opportunity to extend discovery.

Eclipse Chaser: Science in the Moon’s Shadow

by Ilima Loomis, with photographs by Amanda Cowan

“The August 2017 solar eclipse is the chance of a lifetime for astronomer Shadia Habbal. Years of planning come down to one moment of totality. Will everything go off as planned?” This book is part of the Scientists in the Field series.

Sky Gazing: A Guide to the Moon, Sun, Planets, Stars, Eclipses, and Constellations

by Meg Thacher

In this visual guide to observing the sky with the naked eye, kids will delve into the science behind what they see as they explore the solar system, the galaxy, and deep space.

Totality!: An Eclipse Guide in Rhyme and Science

by Jeffrey Bennett

A unique introduction to the science of eclipses, along with a glossary and suggested activities for kids and families.

GRADES 3-5 FICTION

See You in the Cosmos

by Jack Cheng

The protagonist of this novel is 11-year-old Alex Petroski, who loves space and rockets, his mom, his brother, and his dog. Alex records a journey on his iPod to show other lifeforms what life on earth is like – but his destination keeps changing.

We Dream of Space

by Erin Entrada Kelly

A Newbery Honor Book, this middle grade novel about family, friendship, science, and exploration is set in 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the space shuttle Challenger.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FICTION

Every Soul a Star

by Wendy Mass

In this novel, three unlikely friends come together in life-changing ways at one extraordinary event: a total eclipse of the sun.

Last Day on Mars (Chronicle of the Dark Star #1)

by Kevin Emerson

In this science fiction adventure novel, two teens, among the last human inhabitants of Mars, have an unforgettable day of profound discoveries about the nature of time and space.

HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT

American Eclipse: A Nation's Epic Race to Catch the Shadow of the Moon and Win the Glory of the World

by David Baron

An historical account of the first great American eclipse in 1878 and the profound impact it had on the role of science in American culture.

In the Shadow of the Moon: The Science, Magic, and Mystery of Solar Eclipses

by Anthony Aveni

Learn about the science and culture of solar eclipses, track eclipses across the ancient world, explore the roles of solar eclipses in modern times to learn about the profound effects these cosmic events have had on human history.

Mask of the Sun: The Science, History and Forgotten Lore of Eclipses

by John Dvorak

A clear, thorough overview of overview of how eclipses work and how people have reacted to and interpreted them over time.

Totality — The Great American Eclipses of 2017 and 2024

by Mark Littmann and Fred Espenak

This detailed guide teaches readers how to observe, photograph, and videorecord a total eclipse of the Sun, and provides detailed scientific and historical information about eclipses.

FURTHER TITLES AND RESOURCES FOR THE ECLIPSE

American Astronomical Society

- General resources: <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/>
- Eclipse booklist: <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/books-articles>

STARnet

- Booklist about space: <https://www.starnetlibraries.org/look-up-explore-our-universe-booklist/>
- STEM Activity Clearinghouse: <https://www.starnetlibraries.org/activities/>
 - [Solar eclipse activities curated list](#)
- [Solar Eclipses of 2023 and 2024 guide](#)

NASA's Solar Eclipse website

Includes an overview, times/locations for the April 8 eclipse, safety tips, and additional resources.



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