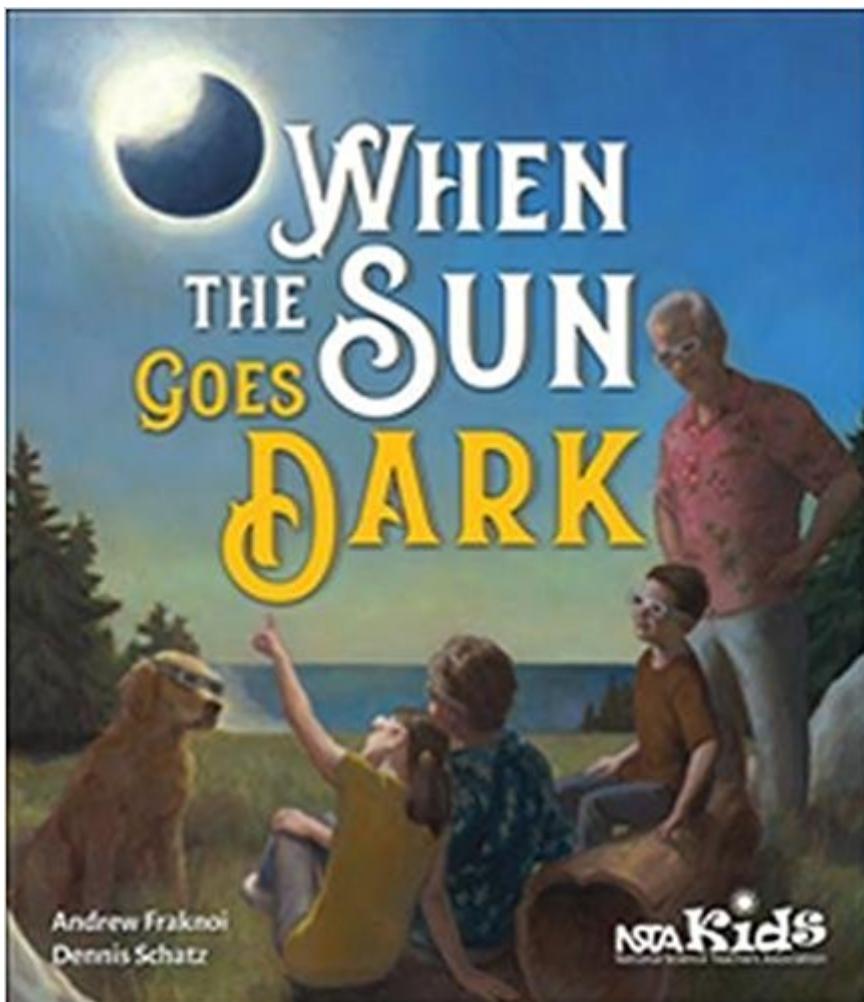


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# When The Sun Goes Dark



## Synopsis

Get ready for the Great American Eclipse of 2017 with this charming and straight-forward story about how eclipses of the Sun and Moon occur. Includes activities using ordinary items to make models, and explores common questions. This illustrated book is a fun way to get young astronomers ready for August 2017, when millions of North Americans will have the rare chance to witness a solar eclipse. The book tells how two curious children and their grandparents re-create eclipses in their living room using a lamp, a tennis ball, two Hula Hoops, and Ping-Pong balls. Later, in the backyard and around the house, the family explores safe ways to view a solar eclipse and ponders phenomena from sunspots to phases of the Moon. Written by the authors of NSTA's award-winning book *Solar Science, When the Sun Goes Dark* gives children and adults hands-on techniques for learning the science behind eclipses of the Sun and Moon.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 890 (What's this?)

Paperback: 36 pages

Publisher: NSTA Kids (May 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1681400111

ISBN-13: 978-1681400112

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #45,377 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Astronomy #51 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Anatomy & Physiology #60 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Instruction Methods > Science & Technology

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Andrew Fraknoi, is an award-winning science educator who is known for his skill in interpreting astronomical discoveries and ideas in everyday language. In 2007, he was selected as Professor of the Year for the state of California by the Carnegie Endowment for Higher Education. For 14 years,

Fraknoi served as the executive director of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, an international scientific and educational organization founded in 1889. He was also editor of its popular-level magazine, *Mercury*, and started its newsletter for teachers, *Universe in the Classroom*. He founded and directed Project ASTRO, a program that trains and brings professional and amateur astronomers into 4th & 9th grade classrooms (now in 12 regional sites throughout the U.S.). After retiring as executive director, he worked as senior educator for the Society, developing educational materials and leading workshops. Asteroid 4859 has been named Asteroid Fraknoi by the International Astronomical Union to honor his work in sharing the excitement of modern astronomy with students, teachers, and the public. Dennis Schatz is Senior Advisor at Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Washington. He is also Field Editor of a new Journal, *Connected Science Learning*, which highlights links between in-school and out-of-school learning. The journal is a joint effort of NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) and ASTC (Association of Science-Technology Centers). In addition, he is on the boards of NSTA and BSCS (Biological Sciences Curriculum Studies). A research solar astronomer prior to his career in science education, he worked at the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley, until he moved to Seattle in 1977. At Pacific Science Center he has held a broad range of positions, from Director of the Planetarium to Senior for Education. From August 2010 to February 2011, he was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, followed by four years as a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Huge words, hard concepts to grasp. Definitely written for 5 - 6 graders. If I had it to do again, I would go to YouTube to see a video of a total solar eclipse.

It is very thorough. I was recommending it to big kids and adults who didn't have a good idea about how big a deal the eclipse was. It was too much for my little kids to sit through in one go.

When the Sun Goes Dark is an entirely new kind of science book for kids. Like others we've seen over the years for the upper elementary and middle school ages, it's a beautifully illustrated story that communicates important science ideas—in this case the reasons for moon phases and eclipses of the sun and moon. What makes this one special is that it does much more than teach a few important concepts. First, by illustrating the reasons for moon phases and eclipses, it helps kids correct a common misconception that the crescent moon phase is caused by Earth's shadow falling

on the moon. Second, it goes beyond simple explanations to illustrate, in a clear and logical way, why we don't see eclipses every month, and why we're much less likely to see a solar eclipse than a lunar eclipse. And third, the timing of this publication couldn't be better, since it provides practical and safe ways to observe the first total solar eclipse in decades to be seen across a large swath of the United States coming up August 21 of this year!

"When the Sun goes Dark" is a perfect book for this age level to support learning about eclipses and lunar phases. Rather than a presentation of dry facts, extensive astronomy content is developed for the reader through the narration of a character in a story as she learns about astronomy through conversations with her grandparents and younger brother. Not only does the story explain the astronomy of eclipses and phases of the moon, but it does so as the characters engage with several activities that help them learn about these topics. These activities are perfect for use by parents and children in the home or teachers and students in a school classroom. The illustrations helpfully demonstrate both the concepts being communicated and the materials needed to engage with these activities. I could see a teacher using this to guide instruction by reading through a few pages then trying out the activities described in the book. Further, the children in the story bring up some of the common questions and challenges learners often have with these topics allowing the narrative to explain these issues for the reader. Finally, one of the real strengths of this book is how well it helps the reader, again through both the narrative and the illustrations, understand the complex spatial reasoning required to explain these phenomena. Great addition to any young reader's science library!

I bought this book to read aloud to my 5 year old. We love reading about science and we're travelling to see the 2017 eclipse, so it seemed like a good choice. Other reviewers had mentioned that it would be a good for use at home for kids even this young. It's not. It's way too long and detailed. Each page has a ton of text. I just counted, and there are 22 pages that have text. Estimating about a minute and a half reading time per page (again- it's a lot of text per page), this book will take you about 33 minutes to read aloud. That's probably an under-estimate. It's definitely longer than a typically 5 year old's attention span; we haven't made it through yet. There are no chapters or obvious stopping points and practically the entire story is dialogue, which makes it really hard to paraphrase instead of reading each word. We don't shy away from longer reads (we're currently reading the first Harry Potter book aloud), this book seems unnecessarily long. The story

centers on a set of grandparents who traveled to a remote Pacific Island to see an eclipse and are now visiting their grandchildren and explaining how eclipses work through a series of demonstrations. If you want to do the same demonstrations as you see in the book, you need the following supplies:- A single bulb table lamp that you can remove the shade from- One tennis ball per kid- Two different colored hula hoops (preferably purple and yellow)- Wall decorations that can be used as reference points in discussing earth's orbit around the sun- One ping pong ball per kid- Binoculars on a tripod- Cardboard (and scissors)- Large box- Umbrella- Sharp nail or pin for poking pinholes- White Paper- Aluminum foil- Eclipse glasses or viewer  
We'll hold on to this book... it will probably be a better choice in 2024 when my kid is 12.

This book is the next best thing to an actual live workshop about eclipses. It's a story told by a 12 year old child about wisdom learned from eclipse chasing grandparents. It has how to set up a Sun-Earth-Moon model at home with a tennis ball as model Moon and a lamp as model Sun (with the family dog named Sirius lying under the table where the lamp is). This right off the bat can explain why we see phases of the Moon as well as why eclipses happen and the difference between partial, annular, and total solar eclipses. It can show how the Moon's shadow covers a path only a few dozens of miles wide. It also explains why lunar eclipses happen and why they can be seen much more frequently than total solar eclipses. Grandpa shows how two hula hoops can show why eclipses don't happen every month. Since most children won't be able to go to the path of totality, especially important is how to view partial eclipse stages using special eclipse filter "glasses", pinhole projection, or projecting an image of the Sun onto a white paper on a clipboard from binoculars on a tripod. My one criticism is that reactions of people watching the eclipse is only described as that they "oohed and aahed". In my experience, at the moment of totality, people go completely nuts (or bananas), including me.

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