

Blurb

FOR READERS OF JUVENILE FICTION

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MCCRACKEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, PADUCAH, KY

Star Struck Issue

Look up. Do you see the stars? Probably not because chances are it's daytime or you're inside.

But you know the stars are there, don't you? They're always there, shining and twinkling, even when we can't see them. Our modern day cities make it difficult to see the stars; only the brightest of the stars are visible beyond the city lights.

But if you can get away from the city and go to the countryside, far away from man-made lights, you'll stars you never saw before. Hundreds of them. Thousand of them. You'll see the stars just as ancient people did, and when you behold such a magical sky, you'll understand why the stars inspired so many stories...and why they still do.



Constellations: Stories in the Stars

A constellation is a group of stars that makes a pattern, and ancient people often associated those patterns with familiar shapes and objects, like animals, mythological figures, or everyday object. Because they saw these pictures in the sky each night, they gave names to the constellations and built stories around them.



The ancient Greeks perhaps have the most well known names for constellations (probably because of the signs of the zodiac, like Gemini, Scorpius, and Aquarius), but many cultures around the world also gave names to the stars. Take the Big Dipper (as you see above) for instance. That's what we call the pattern because it looks like a ladle that you can drink water out of. However, the British call it the Plough or The Butcher's Cleaver. In an Arabian story, it was a coffin with three mourners following it. In Scandinavia, it was called Odin's Wagon. The Germans called it the Great Wagon. For the Greeks and some Native American tribes, it took the shape of a big bear. So did some Native American tribes. The ancient Romans associated the seven stars with seven oxen. In Mongolia, the seven stars represented seven gods. In Malay, it's called the Boat Constellation. An African tribe thought it resembled a camel. Other African cultures thought it an elephant with a raised trunk.

New Book

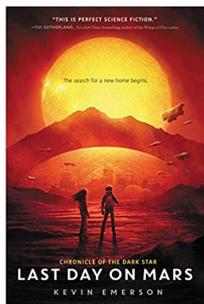
The Star Shepherd by Dan Haring



Kyro is a Star Shepherd just like his father? What does a Star Shepherd do? He watches the night sky for falling stars, and when they do, he runs out to rescue them. One night, however, too many stars begin to fall at once. Kyro has to save the light before it's extinguished for good.

Three Book Series

Chronicle of the Dark Star



Looking for a new series? Do you like sci-fi? If the answer is yes to both questions, you're definitely going to want to check out the Chronicle of the Dark Star Series by Kevin Emerson, which follows two kids, Liam and Phoebe, as they try to escape from our dying solar system. The problems really start when they get left behind.

Stellar Star Facts



When you look at starlight, you're looking at the star as it was in the past. That's because stars are so far away. The light from our own Sun takes 8.5 minutes to reach. The light from Alpha Centauri, the next closest star, takes 4.3 years!



There are 10 times more stars in the universe than grains of sand on the Earth. Let that one sink in for a moment.



Our Sun is 4.5 billion years old.



Stars come in colors - red, white, and blue - and that relates to the temperature. Red stars are the coolest around 6000 degrees. White/Yellow suns, like ours are in the middle at just over 10,000 degrees. And blue stars are the hottest at over 20,000 degrees.



If you look at the Deneb star in the Cygnus constellation with your naked eye, that means you are looking at some that is 20 quadrillion miles away. That's 20,000,000,000,000,000 miles.

The Village Idioms

What is an idiom? An idiom is an expression or phrase that has an understood meaning beyond what the individual words mean on their own. For example, if you say it's "raining cats and dogs," it means it's raining very hard, not actual cats and dogs. Or if someone "kicks the bucket" it means that they've died, not that they're booting a pail around. There's lots of idioms containing the word **STARS**. Here's a few...can you think of anymore?

HITCH YOUR WAGON TO A STAR - The phrase comes from an 1862 essay by Ralph Waldo Emerson and means to set high goals for yourself. Emerson used it like this: *Now that is the wisdom of a man, in every instance of his labor, to hitch his wagon to a star, and see his chore done by the gods themselves.*

WRITTEN IN THE STARS - A phrase that means that something was meant to happen, kind of like destiny. The origin of the phrase is unclear, though Shakespeare said some things in his play *Julius Caesar* that are very similar.

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS - Speaking of Shakespeare, this one definitely came from the prologue to *Romeo and Juliet*. It's used to describe two people in love who are kept apart by some outside circumstances. Shakespeare said: *From forth the fatal loins of these two foes, A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life.*

HUNG THE MOON AND THE STARS - To think someone is especially wonderful or extraordinary. The best way to use this idiom is in a sentence like: *Mr. Matt is such a great librarian he must have hung the moon and the stars.*

A Must-Read Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli



Ever felt like you didn't fit in? Like you were a little different than everyone else?

Well, Stargirl tries her best to NOT fit in, and to be a LOT different.

Stargirl was a sensation when it was first published in 2000. It was a New York Times Best Seller, and won several awards including a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year

20 years later it's still a sensation. Look for a movie version of the book on Disney Plus in March.