

Delve Deeper into *The City Dark*

A film by Ian Cheney

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Erica Bess, Susan Conlon and Martha Perry Liu of Princeton Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *The City Dark*.

Is darkness becoming extinct? When filmmaker Ian Cheney moves from rural Maine to New York City and discovers streets awash in light and skies devoid of stars, he embarks on a journey to America's brightest and darkest corners, asking astronomers, cancer researchers and ecologists what is lost in the glare of city lights. Blending a humorous, searching narrative with poetic footage of the night sky, *The City Dark* provides a fascinating introduction to the science of the dark and an exploration of our relationship to the stars.

ADULT NONFICTION

Light Pollution

The International Dark Sky Association. *Fighting Light Pollution: Smart Lighting Solutions for Individuals and Communities*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2012.

This guide for more efficient lighting strategies explains to readers the negative consequences of light pollution as well as some added benefits that accompany smart lighting such as energy cost reduction and preservation of the night sky

Brox, Jane. *Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Brox makes the connection between the story of light and the story of human evolution in this compelling history of light that traces its social and environmental impacts, from the stone lamps of the Pleistocene to the LEDs embedded in fabrics of the future. Readers will gain a full perspective of artificial light as it has changed the course of humanity in a short amount of time.

Kreitzman, Leon. *Rhythms of Life: The Biological Clocks That Control the Daily Lives of Every Living Thing*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2005. This book examines the importance of the circadian

rhythm and its influence on the ability of all living creatures to function successfully on a daily basis.

Astronomy

Bakich, Michael E. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Amateur Astronomy*. Cambridge ; New York - Cambridge University Press, 2003. This complete reference provides a wealth of practical information covering all aspects of amateur astronomy.

Mollise, Rod. *The Urban Astronomer's Guide: A Walking Tour of the Cosmos for City Sky Watchers*. New York: Springer, 2006. This tutorial for star-gazing at a city sky also explains how and why light pollution occurs and how it impacts astronomy.

Calia, Charles Laird. *The Stargazing Year: A Backyard Astronomer's Journey Through the Seasons of the Night Sky*. New York: Tarcher, 2005. Part primer on the science and history of astronomy, part love poem to the night sky, this is an amateur astronomer's memoir of a year spent gazing upward. The author invites readers to discover the mystery and beauty of stargazing.

Schaaf, Fred. *The 50 Best Sights in Astronomy and How To See Them*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2007. Presented in vivid detail, astronomer Fred Schaaf has written an entertaining and informative guide to the 50 best astronomical sights in the night sky.

Urban Planning

Ascher, Kate. *Anatomy of a City*. New York, NY: Penguin Group, 2005. Given today's complex city infrastructures, on which millions of people depend for their basic needs, Ascher answers the question, how does it all work? Readers will grasp a sense of the intricate and interconnected ways that cities run, including dedicated sections on electricity and alternative energy sources.

Farr, Douglas. *Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design With Nature*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2007. Written by the chair of the U.S. Green Buildings Council, this

text encourages "ecologically sensitive" architecture and sustainable human environments. Farr's vision consists of walkable transit-served urbanism with high performance infrastructure and buildings.

ADULT FICTION

Byers, Michael. *Percival's Planet*. New York: Henry Holt and Co, 2010. Byers delivers a novel of ambition and obsession centered on the race to discover Pluto in 1930, pitting an untrained Kansas farm boy against the greatest minds of Harvard at the run-down Lowell Observatory in Arizona.

Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2007. Weisman paints a portrait of what our world would look like without a human presence. With his vivid descriptions of collapsing cities and flooded subways we are able to imagine what life was like before them as plant life slowly begins to flourish among crumbled metallic ruins and exiled animals reclaim their former homes.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Dickinson, Terence. *NightWatch: A Practical Guide to Viewing the Universe*. Firefly Books; Enlarged 4th edition, 2006. This is a thoroughly revised, updated and expanded edition of the classic title, which has been acclaimed as the best general interest introduction to astronomy.

Gibbons, Gail. *Stargazers*. New York: Holiday House, 1992. This book tells what stars are, why they twinkle, how constellations were named, how telescopes are used to study stars and more.

Rey, H.A. *Stars: A New Way to See Them*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2nd edition, 2008. A beginner's comprehensive guide to the stars, presenting the constellations in shapes that correspond sensibly to their names. Includes forty charts of the skies through the seasons. Originally published in 1962, this is an updated edition.



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Schaaf, Fred. *40 Nights to Knowing the Sky: A Night-By-Night Skywatching Primer.*

New York: Henry Holt, 1998.

Fred Schaaf has spent years perfecting the teaching of skywatching and astronomy to newcomers. Starting with simple instructions on learning one's way around the night sky and progressing to more challenging concepts, each night's activity takes the reader to a deeper level of knowledge and understanding.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Mass, Wendy. *Every Soul a Star.* **New York: Little, Brown and Co, 2008.**

Ally, Bree and Jack meet at the one place the Great Eclipse can be seen in totality, each carrying the burden of different personal problems, which become dim when compared to the task they embark upon and the friendship they find.

Ray, Mary Lyn. *Stars.* **New York: Beach Lane Books, 2011.**

Explores the wonder of stars, whether they are in the night sky, on a plant as a promise of fruit to come, or in one's pocket for those days when one does not feel shiny.

Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth. *Stars! Stars! Stars! Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children, 2009.*

When Minna expresses an interest in stars, her mother suggests she invite a few friends to a star party, including a special dinner, a trip to the new Star Space at the Children's Museum, and star-gazing.

FILMS, VIDEOS and BROADCASTS

Contact. A film by Robert Zemeckis, **Warner Home Video, 1997. TRT: 150 mins.**

Astronomer Dr. Ellie Arroway receives an encrypted message, apparently from a solar system many light-years away.

Cosmos. A television broadcast series by Carl Sagan, **Cosmos Studios, 2000. TRT: 60 mins each.**

In the course of thirteen hours, *Cosmos* spans its own galaxy of topics to serve Sagan's theme, each segment deepening our understanding of how we got from there (simple microbes in the primordial mud) to here (space-

faring civilization in the 21st century). In his "ship of the imagination," Sagan guides us to the farthest reaches of space and takes us back into the history of scientific inquiry, from the ancient library of Alexandria to the NASA probes of our neighboring planets.

Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking. A television broadcast by Darlow Smithson Productions Limited, **Discovery Channel, 2011. TRT: Episodes 1 & 2—60 mins, Episode 3—120 mins.**

The famous scientific mind of Stephen Hawking is set free, powered by the limitless possibilities of computer animation. An animated Stephen Hawking gives us the ultimate guide to the universe, a ripping yarn based on real science, spanning the whole of space and time.

October Sky. A film by Joe Johnston, **Universal Studios, 1999. TRT: 108 mins.**

The true story of Homer Hickam Jr., a high school student in rural West Virginia, who seemed destined to repeat his father's harsh life in the coal mines, until he turned his attention to the skies.

