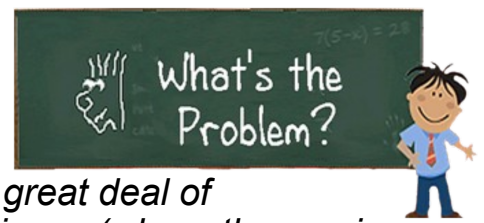


## Teacher Instructions:



**Problem Scenario:** *Solar Eclipse Story*

**The Main Problem:** *Solar eclipses always generate a great deal of excitement... especially "total" eclipses (where the sun is completely blocked out). These events could certainly be the central focus of a great short story!*

Your students will be viewing this problem from an **integrated** perspective.



*Your students must decide on the exact details of the short story that centers around the solar eclipse (plot, characters, setting, conflict) and write the first draft.*

### **What would make a great eclipse story?**

*Students will review the details of Solar Eclipses and write a short story using the event as the central focus of the plot.*

## Step ①

**Review  
Stimulus  
Items**

**Stimulus Item #1 — “Solar Eclipse FAQs” (Website)**

**Stimulus Item #2— “Eclipse Plot Ideas” (List) Stimulus**

**Item #3— “Writing a Great Short Story” (Tips)**

*\*\*Students should take notes as they review the Stimulus Items*

## Step ②

**Classroom  
Discussion**

Lead a **class discussion** about issues related to the topic. You are being provided a sheet to help you guide the classroom discussion.

## Step ③

**Student  
Response**

**Extended Responses:** Have students answer the following questions. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

- 1. Why do people get excited about Solar Eclipses? When they see one, what will it take to satisfy these high expectations?**
- 2. What is the basic plot of a short story you'd like to read (but doesn't yet exist) that centers around a solar eclipse?**

*\*\*\*students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers*

*\*\*\*students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers*

**EXTENDED PRODUCT (Optional):** Divide your students into groups, with each group forming a **Team of Authors**. Recognizing the excitement surrounding the upcoming eclipse, these authors have decided that people would enjoy a short story that is centered around the eclipse. Each group must come up with the details of this story (plot, characters, setting, conflict, conflict resolution), and then **write a draft** of this story. Obviously, the features of the eclipse (i.e. that it will turn dark for a couple of minutes in the afternoon) create an opportunity for the story to be different than most, but the authors must consider the usual elements that make a great short story.

## Step ④

**Analysis**

Rubrics to grade student entries have been provided, and all questions have been mapped to the content standards.