



## Questions for Classroom Discussion

### **“An Eclipse Story”**

- **Why is a Solar Eclipse (especially a "total" eclipse) such a major event?**
  - ⇒ Consider that a Total Solar Eclipse is a rare event, and the United States won't witness another one of this magnitude for decades (the last one was nearly 40 years ago)
  - ⇒ Consider that this event will result in darkness in the middle of the day, which is certainly unusual and very exciting
  - ⇒ Consider that this is a perfect learning opportunity for young people—and adults—and can be used as a chance for people to get interested in astronomy
- **Why would people be interested in a short story that centers around the Solar Eclipse? What would be a great plot?**
  - ⇒ Consider that the features of the Solar Eclipse—such as it going dark in the middle of the day—are unusual, a bit mysterious, and a great premise for a short story
  - ⇒ Consider that while the Solar Eclipse is a scientific event, it's also mysterious and has the feel of a supernatural event, which can inspire many storylines
  - ⇒ Consider that everyone's reaction to the Solar Eclipse, from the national anticipation to the upcoming "eclipse viewing parties", provides great situations for a short story
- **What are features that are necessary for any short story to have in order to be successful?**
  - ⇒ Consider that a short story should be able to be read in one sitting (as opposed to a longer novel), so it's important for the author to catch the reader's attention right away and keep the story moving along
  - ⇒ Consider that all stories have the same features—setting, characters, plot, conflict, conflict resolution
  - ⇒ Consider that the most tricky element of a short story is often the conflict... what problem is the main character faced with and how does he or she overcome it