

· A·T·O·S· S·T·A·R·S· &· G·A·L·A·X·I·E·S
M·R· L·U·B·E·L·L

Y·O·U· F·I·L·M·,· A·N·D· T·H·E· U·N·I·V·E·R·S·E

Astronomy and film have long been associated with one another. This is due to a variety of reasons, some of which include naturally beautiful phenomena, prevalent use of cutting-edge technology, and the ever-present questions that are raised by considering our place in the Universe, all of which are concepts that provide ample material for human interest. Often times, a character in a film possesses some sort of special relationship with one of these ideas and through the course of a movie, comes to question, refine, and grow through exploration.

From the list below, please watch a film that explores the relationship between an individual (or individuals) and the Universe. In a three-page paper, please discuss the following:

1. What is the nature of a main character's relationship with the Universe?
2. How is this relationship portrayed and developed?
3. In what ways can you relate to the character's position?
4. How do you suppose the public in general might relate?
5. Does the film serve to foster an appreciation for astronomy and related fields? Why or why not?

The paper will be graded on the basis of how well each point is discussed and the validity of your conclusions. Paper length will be judged according to standard practices (12-point font, double spacing, etc.). Longer projects are acceptable, but will not be given special attention. Scoring will be done on a scale of 1-20. The project must be stapled and submitted **in class** on or before **May 21st** in order to receive full credit.

The List:

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| ☉ <i>October Sky</i> | ☉ <i>Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home</i> |
| ☉ <i>Contact</i> | ☉ <i>Apollo 13</i> |
| ☉ <i>The Dish</i> | ☉ <i>Close Encounters of the Third Kind</i> |
| ☉ <i>The Right Stuff</i> | ☉ <i>2001</i> |
| ☉ <i>Star Trek: The Motion Picture</i> | |