

# Thou Shalt Not Speak Messier: interpreting astronomy at public skywatching sessions

Staunton River Star Party – October 5, 2013

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Choose a “tangible” you want your audience to care or learn about (e.g., North Star, dark skies/ light pollution, or an object you might show in a telescope)	Identify <b>intangible meanings</b> associated with this tangible (e.g., navigation, survival, cultural heritage, waste, beauty, death, deep time).	Considering your specific audience, what <b>techniques</b> will you use to <b>link</b> the tangible with the intangible/universal concepts and create opportunities for emotional and intellectual connections? (That is, what will you say? Is there an appropriate analogy, story, demonstration, quote, or picture to share? Or do you have a question to ask your audience?)
1.M57	Life and death, cycles	“That’s the Ring Nebula. You’re looking at the future of our Sun!” (can continue from there if audience shows interest)  <i>Possible emotional and intellectual connections: curiosity, realization, confusion, awe, wonder.</i>
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		