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dictionary

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Language



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chi·a·ro·scu·ro  (kē-är'ə-sk r ō, -sky r ō)

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n. pl. **chi·a·ro·scu·ros**

1. The technique of using light and shade in pictorial representation.
2. The arrangement of light and dark elements in a pictorial work of art.
3.
 - a. A woodcut technique in which several blocks are used to print different shades of a color.
 - b. A woodcut print made by this technique. In all senses also called *claire-obscur*.

[Italian : *chiaro*, bright, light (from Latin *clārus*, clear; see *kela*-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *oscuro*, dark (from Latin *obscurus*; see (s)*keu*- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

chi·a·ro·scu rist *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

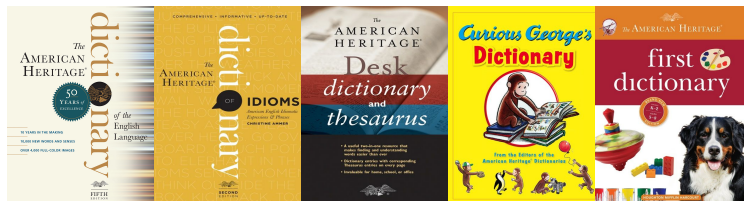
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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