

Mae Among the Stars

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: STEM, Space, Changemaker

Book Brief: Mae dreams of dancing in space. She wanted to be an astronaut. Her mom told her, "If you believe it, and work hard for it, anything is possible." Little Mae's curiosity, intelligence, and determination, paved the way for her incredible success at NASA as the first African American woman to travel in space.

Author:
Roda Ahmed
Illustrator:
Stasia Burrington



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title. Ask students what they notice about the little girl. What is she wearing?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see, think, or wonder about the story.

Vocabulary: [Vocabulary Guide](#)

Prior Knowledge: Ask students if they know what they want to be when they grow up. Allow students to share their goals in a Think-Pair-Share.

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how people react to Mae's dream for her future, and how she responds to it."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What does Mae say she wants to see?
- What does Mae decide she wants to be when she grows up?
- What happened in Mae's dream?
- How did the class react when Mae said she wanted to be an astronaut?
- Did Mae become an astronaut?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: What did Mae do that challenged those around her? Did Mae give up when people told her she couldn't be an astronaut? What did she do?

Extending Our Thinking: Allow students to write their dreams and goals down on a sheet of paper. Ask students to come up with 4-5 illustrations with detailed captions explaining what they dream of!

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.