

# The Astronaut With a Song for the Stars: The Story of Dr. Ellen Ochoa

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Hispanic Heritage, Perseverance, Space

**Book Brief:** Ellen, raised in an immigrant family and originally aspiring to be a professional flutist, found her passion for engineering in college despite being told it wasn't for girls. She persevered and ultimately became a NASA astronaut, breaking barriers and achieving great success.

**Author:**  
Julia Finley Mosca

**Illustrator:**  
Daniel Rieley



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Dr. Ellen Ochoa.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask students, "Have you ever wanted to do something but someone told you no? What did you do?" (Optional: think, pair, share)

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read today, listen for how Ellen becomes an astronaut, the challenges she faces, and how she overcomes them."

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What did Ellen's father teach her? Why?
- What inspired Ellen to become an astronaut?
- How did Ellen become an astronaut?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** Dr. Ellen Ochoa became the first Latina in space. Explain her troubles and how she overcame them.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Dr. Ellen Ochoa demonstrated remarkable perseverance in becoming an astronaut. Using [RIF's Main Idea and Key Details Graphic Organizer](#), have students identify the main idea and supporting details that illustrate Dr. Ochoa's perseverance.

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.