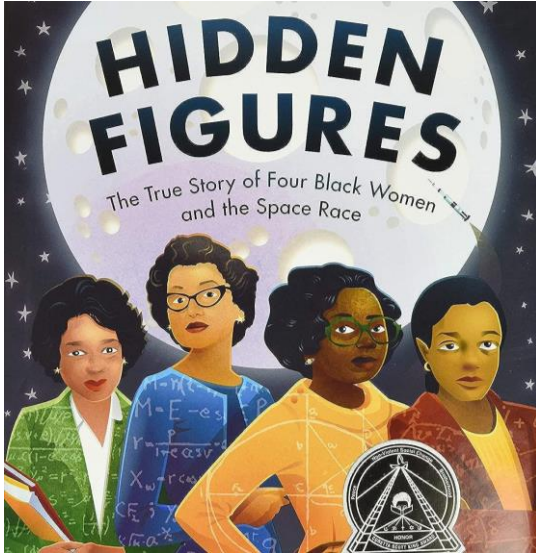


Discussion Guide for Families



Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race

Author: Margot Lee Shetterly

Illustrator: Laura Freeman

Themes: Environment and Sustainability

Book Brief: Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden were brilliant African American mathematicians who overcame racial and gender barriers to contribute to NASA's historic space missions. This picture book celebrates their persistence, hard work, and groundbreaking achievements in STEM.

READ ALOUD

Before Reading: Build Background

- Ask your child “Why do you think it’s important for people’s work to be recognized no matter their race, culture, religion, or gender?”

While Reading: Make Connections

- What are you learning about Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden? How did their childhood experiences shape their education and dreams?
- How do the illustrations help you understand the vocabulary and what life was like for these women during their time at NASA?
- Do you think opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math have become more fair since the 1960s? What examples can you think of?

After Reading: Ask Questions

- Look at the additional information at the back of the book. What was each woman’s specialty at NASA, and what major projects did they contribute to? How did their work help shape history?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

If your child enjoyed this book, consider:

- Encourage them to talk about it during other conversations.
- Check out RIF’s [Sustainable Futures](#) center to learn more about sustainability with related books and resources.