

Ron's Big Mission
Discussion Guide
Grades 1-3

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Discuss the importance of standing up for what you believe in, at any age.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about Ron McNair. Do you know anything about him? Do you know about discrimination laws in the 1940s-60s that kept Black people from having the same freedoms & rights as white people? Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: library card, discrimination, protest, astronaut, Space Shuttle

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Why do you think Ron McNair was so determined that particular day to get a library card?
- Are the illustrations helpful in understanding Ron and the situation at the library? Why?
- How did young Ron's determination help him to strive to become an astronaut? What connections can you make to this?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Think about what young Ron went through in getting his courage up to ask for a library card. Can you think of a time when you had to be courageous? How might you have handled that situation yourself?

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.