

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

Discussion Guide

Grades Pre-K-3

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

- Discuss the importance of having a chance to have you & your work recognized as important no matter your race, culture, religions, gender.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about the work of the forerunner of NASA, the creation of NASA, and how these four smart women impacted some of the early work of NASA. Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: math, science, NASA, segregation, space race, human computers, satellites

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

- What are you learning about Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden...the Hidden Figures? How did their childhoods impact their education and hopes for their adult life & work?
- Let the illustrations be helpful in understanding all the vocabulary and captions.
- Do you think that times have change since the 1960s? Are there more equitable opportunities for women and people of color to obtain careers in science, math, engineering, and technology? How so?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

There is more information in the back of the book about each of the four women. Make a list for each woman that includes their specialty in working at NASA, and what projects they were a big part of there.

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.