Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 3rd

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.
- Begin by doing a picture walk with your students. Ask, "What do you notice in Grace's room on the first page? What does it tell you about Grace?"
- Make connections by asking your students to think of the ways they use computers in their daily lives (Optional: Pair Share).
- Introduce vocabulary: mathematician, engineer, computer code

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.
- What do you think the author means when she writes, "Computers were good at doing boring jobs"?
- How would you describe Grace as a child? Use details from the words and pictures to support your thinking.
- How does Grace's mother feel about Grace's tinkering? Use details from the words and pictures to support your thinking.
- How was Grace different than other girls in her school?
- Why couldn't Grace go to college? What did she do to solve this problem?
- Grace's motto was "Dare and Do," what do you think this means?
- Why was it a problem that Grace enlisted in the Navy? What did she do to solve this problem?
- What happened to the Mark II computer?
- How did Grace use her sense of humor with the moth found in the computer?
- What do you think the author means when she writes, "unconventional thinking was often the key to solving problems"?
- What did Grace do while she was taking a break from computer programming? How did this help her?
- How did Grace feel when she had to retire from the Navy?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.
- Ask, "Why do you think people called Grace Hopper Amazing Grace?"
- The text is a narrative nonfiction, help your students analyze how and why individuals develop and interact over time with RIF's Time= Parts graphic organizer.

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 about women in STEM such as *The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes: The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath* and *Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom*.