

BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly & Laura Freeman

Book Summary

Hidden Figures is the picture book version of the story that was a bestselling book and movie. Young readers learn all about Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden and how important their roles were at NASA. Each woman overcame racism, gender stereotypes, and other barriers to prove that they could be successful in STEM careers, inspiring a new generation of girls and boys to dream big.

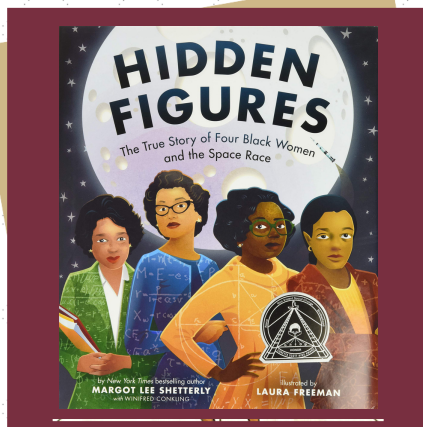
Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book and ask children to predict what the story may be about.
- Ask children what the word “hidden” means. Explain why it’s important to discover and learn more about hidden figures and their contribution to the world as we know it.

Target Vocabulary

- **aeronautics:** a science that deals with airplanes and flying
- **segregated:** to separate groups of people because of their race, religion, etc.
- **laboratory:** a place with special equipment for doing scientific experiments and tests
- **experiment:** a scientific test performed in order to learn about something
- **engineer:** a person with scientific training who designs and builds complicated machines, systems, or structures
- **turbulence:** dangerous gusts of air
- **trajectory:** the curved path something moves through the air or space
- **program:** a set of instructions that tell a computer what to do
- **equality:** the quality or state of having the same rights, social status, etc.
- **perseverance:** the quality that allows someone to continue trying to do something even though it is difficult





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During the Story

- Read the book aloud to your child.
- Make predictions about the text based on the illustrations.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child comprehend what's being read.
- Have your child repeat unfamiliar words.

After Reading the Story

- Have your little one re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- Discuss how important it was for four Black women to make the impact they did during that time period.
- Google images and videos of NASA launches and discuss the role of the Hidden Figures.
- Using art materials available (e.g., paint, crayons, markers) to create a galaxy drawing.

Example Questions to Ask

- What do you think it means to be a human computer?
- How would you feel if you could not get a job based on your gender or race?
- Why were the Americans and Russians competing against each other?
- Why is turbulence dangerous for planes?
- Do you think Katherine should have kept asking to attend the expert meetings?
- Why was it important for Katherine to double-check the computer's calculations before John Glenn went into outer space?
- Tell me about a time you had to persevere and work through a challenging time.