

YouthREAD 2024

Grades 3-5
Book Selection

Hidden Figures (Picture Book Edition)

**Written by Margot Lee Shetterly
with Winifred Conkling
Illustrated by Laura Freeman**

Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden participated in some of NASA's greatest successes, like providing the calculations for America's first journeys into space. And they did so during a time when being black and a woman limited what they could do. But they worked hard. They persisted. And they used their genius minds to change the world.

**Join our CommunityREAD by reading and sharing this book,
then enrich the experience with these questions and activities.**

Discussion Questions

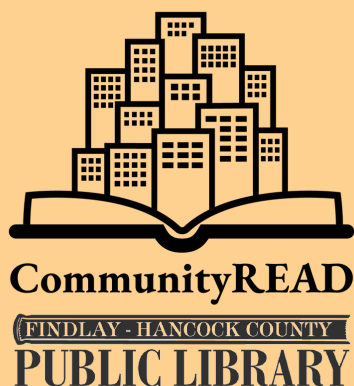
- Why do you think this book is called *Hidden Figures*? Who are the “figures” and why are they “hidden”?
- What are some similarities that Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden share? What are some differences between them?
- The illustrations contain details like diagrams, mathematical formulas, and space motifs. Can you find some examples? How do these details enhance the story?
- *Hidden Figures* features numerous jobs at NASA, such as aerospace engineers, computer programmers, mathematicians, and astronauts. Would you be interested in working for NASA? If so, what kind of job would you like there?
- How would you feel if you could not get a job based on your gender or race?
- Has there been a time when you had to persevere and work through a challenge? What was the challenge and how did you persevere?

Activities

- Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden all had jobs based in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Research any STEM-based job that interests you. Consider interviewing someone who does that job. If you're doing this activity with a group of children, host a STEM Career Day.
- *Hidden Figures* won a Coretta Scott King Honor Award for illustrations. Learn more about the Coretta Scott King award, such as how it was created and what criteria a book must meet to qualify for the award. Read another Coretta Scott King award book.
- Learn more about the Space Race depicted in *Hidden Figures*. Watch this 15-minute history video from PBS:
<https://www.pbs.org/video/the-space-race-ju0k5e/>
- Explore NASA's Learning Resources for more space-themed activities:
<https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/for-kids-and-students/>



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What is CommunityREAD?

CommunityREAD is a month-long community event that encourages reading and discussion. Each year, a different CommunityREAD book is chosen, along with a selection of YouthREAD books that explore similar topics and themes for younger readers.

The 2024 CommunityREAD book is *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly.

2023 YouthREAD Titles

- PreK-Grade 2: *Hello, Star* by Stephanie V.W. Lucianovic
- Grades 3-5: *Hidden Figures* (Picture Book Edition) by Margot Lee Shetterly with Winifred Conkling
- Grades 6-8: *Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- Grades 9-12: *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- BONUS BOOK Grades K-5: *Eclipse* by Andy Rash