

TITLE: Hidden Figures

AUTHOR: Margot Lee Shetterly

CATEGORY/GENRE: Nonfiction/Biography

SERIES:

AWARDS: Winner of Anisfield-Wolf Award for Nonfiction, Winner Black Caucus of American Library Association Best Nonfiction Book, Winner NAACP Image Award Best Nonfiction Book, Winner National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Communication Award

SIMILAR BOOKS BY OTHER AUTHORS: *Rise of the Rocket Girls* by Nathalia Holt, *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore, *The Glass Universe* by Dava Sobel

AVAILABLE: This title is available at STC Library, in Ebook and audiobook format on Libby and Ebook and audiobook format on Hoopla.

ABOUT THIS BOOK: *Hidden Figures* tells the stories of four African American women who blazed a trail in the fields of mathematics and engineering at NASA (originally known as NACA, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics). During WWII NACA began hiring women to work as human computers. The women did the work of mathematicians but were hired as subprofessionals so that they could be paid less. Eventually NACA began to hire qualified black computers because the demand could not be met by white employees alone.

The book focuses on the individual stories of each woman and incorporates the history that coincides with the stories starting with WWII and aviation research and moving through the Cold War and the Space Race. There is particular focus on the Civil Rights Movement and school segregation. The author doesn't let the reader forget the atmosphere of the times and all the obstacles that stood in the way of African Americans and especially African American women. The women in the book are smart, incredibly determined and worked tirelessly to produce their best work. They were critical to making improvements to the U.S. defense industry during the war and later in the U.S. efforts during the Cold War.

This is a strong nonfiction read. It is dual parts biographical and, in places, a very technical read. Readers will learn a part of history that hasn't traditionally been portrayed in the history books.

YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS BOOK IF... You might like this book if you are interested in the sciences and history especially aviation and the Space Race.