

Hidden Figures Movie Guide Answer Key

15. Dorothy has a discussion with her supervisor about the new IBM International Business Machine. Why is she concerned about the IBM?
17. Katherine does some work on the chalkboard and is called into Harrison's office because of her calculations. She shows why the Russians cannot achieve orbit. What is the issue she reveals with her math? How did she get the number for her calculations?
18. Mary applies for an engineering job at the encouragement of her supervisor. What is Mary's degree?
19. Mary finds out she will need extension clauses. Why is this a problem?
20. Dorothy goes to the library for a book and is asked to leave because she is not in the "colored" section. She discusses the idea of separate but equal being a myth with her boys and reveals that she has the book she needs in her purse. How does she justify taking the book? What is the book?
21. During the dance, an announcement about the Russians comes on over the radio. What is the big announcement?
22. Katherine finally loses her cool at work. Describe Jim Harrison's reaction. What does he do?
23. How does Mary convince the judge to let her attend night school?
24. Katherine asks to be part of the trajectory calculations for John Glenn. What is the math NASA needs to know, but does not for his orbit?
25. Katherine has a small act of defiance each time she types a report. What is her act of defiance?
26. What happens at the first classified meeting that Katherine attends?
27. What does Dorothy say when she is offered a new assignment with the IBM?
28. NASA needs math to calculate a change from an elliptical orbit to a parabolic orbit. Harrison suggests it might be "colored" math, and sparks an idea for Katherine. What "colored" method does Katherine decide to use?
29. Katherine loses her job computing. She receives a gift at the suggestion of Jim Harrison. What was the gift and why was it significant?
30. On the day of John Glenn's launch, a problem arises. What is the problem and what is Glenn's request in relation to the problem?
31. How many orbits is Glenn supposed to complete? On the third orbit, what happens that is scary for the NASA team and John Glenn?

Hidden Figures movie guide answer key is a valuable resource for educators, students, and film enthusiasts looking to deepen their understanding of the film "Hidden Figures." The movie, directed by Theodore Melfi and based on the book by Margot Lee Shetterly, tells the inspiring true story of three African American women—Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson—who played vital roles at NASA during the space race. This guide aims to provide insights into the film's themes, character development, historical context, and its impact on society.

Overview of Hidden Figures

"Hidden Figures" premiered in 2016 and quickly gained acclaim for its powerful storytelling and representation of unsung heroes in American history. It highlights the intersection of race, gender, and science during a pivotal time in the United States. The film's central characters face not only professional challenges but also personal struggles in a segregated society.

Key Characters

1. Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson): A brilliant mathematician whose calculations were crucial for NASA's early space missions. Katherine's journey showcases her determination and intellect in overcoming racial and

gender barriers.

2. Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer): A mathematician and the first African American supervisor at NASA. Dorothy's leadership and foresight in learning computer programming demonstrate her commitment to her team's future.

3. Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe): An aspiring engineer who fights for her right to attend an all-white engineering classes. Mary's story is one of perseverance and breaking down racial barriers in education and employment.

Major Themes

- Race and Gender Discrimination: The film illustrates the systemic obstacles faced by African American women in the workplace, particularly in STEM fields. The characters' experiences reflect broader societal issues.
- Empowerment and Resilience: Each of the women displays resilience in the face of adversity, emphasizing the importance of self-advocacy and the support of community.
- Teamwork and Collaboration: The film highlights how collaboration among diverse individuals can lead to groundbreaking achievements, showcasing the power of unity.

Historical Context

Understanding the historical backdrop of "Hidden Figures" is essential for grasping the film's significance. The story is set during the 1960s, a time marked by the Civil Rights Movement and the Space Race.

The Space Race

- Definition: The Space Race was a competition between the United States and the Soviet Union for supremacy in space exploration.
- Key Events:
 - 1957: The Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the first artificial satellite.
 - 1961: Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to travel into space.
 - 1962: John Glenn orbits Earth, with critical calculations performed by Katherine Johnson.

The Civil Rights Movement

- Significance: The era was defined by efforts to end racial segregation and discrimination in American society.
- Key Figures: Leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X emerged during this time, advocating for equality and justice.

Impact of Hidden Figures

"Hidden Figures" has had a profound impact on contemporary society, sparking discussions about representation, diversity, and the importance of recognizing contributions from marginalized groups.

Educational Impact

- Increased Awareness: The film has served as an educational tool, prompting schools to include discussions about race, gender, and the contributions of women in STEM.
- Inspiration for Future Generations: By showcasing the achievements of Katherine, Dorothy, and Mary, the film encourages young girls, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, to pursue careers in science and technology.

Cultural Impact

- Representation in Media: "Hidden Figures" has contributed to the ongoing dialogue about representation in Hollywood, emphasizing the need for more stories about diverse figures in history.
- Recognition and Awards: The film received several accolades, including three Academy Award nominations and recognition at various film festivals.

Discussion Questions and Activities

To enhance understanding and engagement with the film, here are some discussion questions and activities that may accompany the Hidden Figures movie guide answer key.

Discussion Questions

1. How do the personal struggles of Katherine, Dorothy, and Mary reflect the

broader societal issues of the 1960s?

2. In what ways did each woman's contributions impact NASA's success during the Space Race?

3. Discuss how the film portrays the importance of mentorship and support in overcoming obstacles.

4. What lessons can be learned from the characters' experiences that apply to contemporary issues of diversity and inclusion in the workplace?

5. How does the film challenge stereotypes about women and African Americans in STEM fields?

Activities

- Research Project: Students can research the history of NASA and the role of women, particularly women of color, in the space program. Present findings in a creative format, such as a presentation or a report.

- Creative Writing: Write a letter from the perspective of one of the main characters addressed to a young girl interested in pursuing a STEM career. Share advice and encouragement based on their experiences.

- Group Discussion: Organize a group discussion or debate on the significance of representation in media. Explore how "Hidden Figures" has influenced perceptions of women in science.

Conclusion

The Hidden Figures movie guide answer key serves as an essential tool for anyone looking to explore the complexities and triumphs depicted in this remarkable film. By examining the historical context, themes, and characters, audiences can appreciate the contributions of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson to both NASA and the fight for equality. Their stories are a testament to resilience, intelligence, and the necessity of inclusivity in all fields, particularly those that shape the future. As we continue to learn from their experiences, "Hidden Figures" remains a powerful reminder of the importance of recognizing and honoring the hidden figures in our own lives and communities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What themes are explored in the movie 'Hidden Figures'?

The movie explores themes of race, gender equality, perseverance, and the importance of diversity in the workplace, particularly in STEM fields.

Who are the main characters in 'Hidden Figures' and their significance?

The main characters are Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who were vital in NASA's early space missions and exemplified the contributions of African American women in science and technology.

How does 'Hidden Figures' portray the challenges faced by the characters?

The film highlights the systemic racism and sexism the characters faced, showcasing their struggles for respect and recognition in a predominantly white and male environment.

What role did mathematics play in the story of 'Hidden Figures'?

Mathematics was central to the plot, as Katherine Johnson's calculations were crucial for the success of John Glenn's orbital flight, illustrating the power of intellect and expertise irrespective of race or gender.

What impact did 'Hidden Figures' have on public perception of NASA's history?

The film brought attention to the overlooked contributions of African American women in NASA's history, prompting discussions about diversity in science and inspiring future generations to pursue careers in STEM.

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