Hidden Figures

About the Author:

Margot Lee Shetterly is the author of *Hidden Figures*: The American dream and the untold story of the black women mathematicians who helped win the space race. She is an African American non-fiction writer who has worked in investment banking and media startups. She is also a researcher and entrepreneur.

Short Answer:

1. What does the term "Hidden Figures" refer to? While reading the book, we saw many times characters being treated unfairly because they were Black. Which **three** examples stood out most to you? Be specific when answering the question. Be sure to include the name of the character and the specific encounter.

2. What character attributes and/or actions did you admire most about Katherine Johnson (the mathematician), Dorothy Vaughan (the manager who taught herself how to program the computer), and/or Mary Jackson (the engineer)? Be specific.

3. What is the role of the black community in the success of Dorothy, Mary, and Katherine?

4. How does the author in *Hidden Figures* develop the theme of perseverance and success?

Essay:

Melvin Butler saw the need for hiring black women as human computers due to a shortage in the workforce created by the war. How did the way in which Butler hired the women and brought them into Langley affect how they were treated or accepted in the workplace? Cite specific examples of the practices or structures he put into place and how they influenced the way in which black women were received in the workplace.

Note: Responses to the discussion questions must be in complete paragraphs that are error free. Answers should include examples of evidence (cited) and opinion.

The essay must be 2-3 pages typed using the MLA format. The Purdue Owl (online writing lab) is an excellent tool when using MLA.