

**Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson**  
**Katherine Johnson**

**Reviewed by: Pia Visaria, 13**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Katherine Johnson's life wasn't always full of achievements and glory. She grew up in an era of harsh racism and sexism, but she always made sure that her voice was heard. Her achievements are a result of her years' worth of hard work, constant determination, and courage to defy the odds. At first, being a black woman working for NASA was a real struggle for Johnson. As time passed, people began to realize Johnson's potential and developed a great sense of respect for her. So much so that Astronaut John Glenn asked her to recheck the calculations before going off into space. With all the hardships in Johnson's life she still managed to become one of NASA's greatest mathematicians while setting the stones for women in science and the same time.

The way Johnson has woven her invaluable experiences with literary elements could not have been better. Johnson's firsthand accounts of her struggles of being a black woman during the mid 1900's is truly inspirational. Her message really has an everlasting impact on the audience and motivates them to bring change to the world just like she did. The book includes everything from experiences (good and bad) as a little girl to life as a mathematician working for NASA which is what makes this book relatable for anyone. All in all, the way Johnson's words, messages, and experiences have been conveyed, make this book one of a kind.

This book can be read by anyone, but I would definitely recommend it to kids in upper elementary or middle school. Additionally, this book would make a great gift for anyone who is interested in female empowerment, the sciences, or just is a bookworm like me!

**Recommended Titles:**

- "I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban" by Patricia McCormick and Malala Yousafzai
- "The Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank
- "Refugee" by Alan Gratz
- "The Story of My Life" by Helen Keller