

Hidden Figures Discussion Guide

1. What parts of the movie do you remember most, and why?
2. Who or what are the “hidden figures” in the movie?
3. The film shows the strong relationships that Katherine, Mary and Dorothy have with each other and with their families. Why do these relationships matter?
4. What is the role of the Black church during the civil rights movement? Why was the church scene important to include?
5. Where in the movie do you see Jim Crow laws? (Jim Crow laws were state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation. Enacted after the Civil War, the laws denied equal opportunity to black citizens.) How did you feel when you witnessed this overt discrimination?
6. What Jim Crow etiquette is observed at NASA? How does it change from the beginning to the end of the movie?
7. How were Katherine, Mary, Dorothy, and their co-workers challenged by discrimination? How did they succeed anyway?
8. Al Harrison, Katherine’s boss, saw Katherine’s genius. Yet he didn’t see discrimination against her in the Space Task Group -- his own department -- until she confronted him with it. Why not?
9. Three characters in the film exhibit racist tendencies. Identify one of them, describe how their racism is shown, and what happens to their attitudes by the end of the film.
10. Has prejudice ever prevented you from doing something you wanted to do and were capable of doing? What would you do if you were told you could not pursue a career or job because of how you look or who you are?
11. What is the role of coffee and the coffee pot? What does it symbolize?

