

Mae Among the Stars

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Themes: Astronauts, Determination, Growing up, Space travel, Transportation

Book Brief: Young Mae Jemison dreams of being an astronaut and seeing the Earth from above. With the support of her mom and dad, Mae is able to stay determined, believe in herself, and work towards her dream. She grows up to become the first Black female astronaut.

Author:
Roda Ahmed

Illustrator:
Stasia Burrington



TIME TO READ!



Before: Read the title of the book and look at the cover. Ask your child what they know about space.

During: As you read, ask “What is Mae doing on this page? How is she feeling?”

After, ask questions:

- What happened to Mae at the end of the story? What did she do to make that happen?
- What challenges did Mae face? Why?*
- What do you want to be when you grow up? What will you do to make that happen?

CONVERSATION STARTERS

As children learn to read, they begin to make connections. These connections might be with elements of their own lives or with things they have learned about the world around them. In this way, they are **thinking beyond the text**, which helps them better understand the books they are reading. *Mae Among the Stars* is about a real person- the first Black woman to become an astronaut. The last page in the book provides additional information about Mae and some of the real things she accomplished in her life. You can help your child think beyond the text by working together to learn more about Mae Jemison or other astronauts. When your child gains new information, they may have new insights or become more engaged in the ideas in the book when you reread the text.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Materials: Paper, things to draw and write with like crayons or markers

Provide your child with paper and writing or drawing materials. Ask them what they want to be when they grow up and have them draw a picture of themselves in their dream job. Encourage them to add details in the picture. What would they be wearing? What tools or instruments might they need? Where would they be and what would be

around them? Use these details to spark other conversations about their interests. What will they need to learn? What kinds of things will they need to do to achieve their dream like Mae?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



BOOKS ABOUT MAE JEMISON

- [Mae Jemison: A Kid's Book About Reaching Your Dreams \(2020\)](#)
- [Mae Jemison \(You Should Meet\) \(2016\)](#)
- [Mae Jemison \(Little People, Big Dreams\) \(2022\)](#)

*We encourage you to use language you are comfortable with to discuss the challenges Mae faced based on her gender, identity, and/or race.