

# Mae Among the Stars

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**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 WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Read the title of the book and look at the cover. Ask, "What do you see on the cover? What do you think 'among the stars' means?"

**Picture Walk:** Flip through some pages and have students share what they see happening in the book. Ask, "What can you see Mae doing in the story?"

**Vocabulary:** Review these transportation words using the Picture Vocabulary Cards: space shuttle, car

**Purpose for Reading:** "This is a story about a real person that dreamed about going into space. Let's read to learn about who she is and what she did to make her dream come true."

## WHILE WE READ

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (LEVELS 1-4)

Throughout the story, pause and ask...

- **Level 1:** "How does Mae feel on this page?" Say or show it.
- **Level 2:** "What is Mae doing to help her dream come true? What do her mom and dad say to help her?"
- **Level 3:** "Have you ever felt like Mae does in the story?"
- **Level 4:** "Mae becomes an astronaut! What would you like to do when you grow up?"

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Say, "Mae dreamed about becoming an astronaut. Her mom and dad told her 'if you dream it, believe it, and work hard for it, anything is possible.' She worked hard and became an astronaut!"

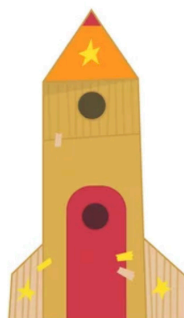
**Extending Thinking:** Astronauts get to travel in space crafts and explore space! Mae had to work hard to become an astronaut, what kinds of things do you think she had to learn about to become an astronaut?

### BOOK ACTIVITY:

#### Making a Class Spacecraft

Materials: Large and small cardboard boxes, tape, paint

In the book, Mae creates her own rocket ship out of cardboard boxes. Revisit the page to look at the shape of her rocket, and what she used to create it. Then find other images of rockets or space shuttles in books or online. Decide on



a design for your spacecraft and use cardboard boxes to construct its shape. Try to make it large enough for one or two students to fit inside. Paint your space craft and draw or glue on items for details. Once it's complete, students can climb inside and use their own spacecraft to blast off!