Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
Summer Reading Questions for incoming Sophomore.

- **Select only 1 question to answer from each chapter** from the list of questions, answer in your own handwriting, in at least 2-3 complete sentences for each question, on lined paper.
- Outline your paper by stating the chapter, and which question you are answering. You do not need to write out the question. You should have a total of 23 answers, one for each chapter.
- This is due the first day of school. Hand in to your Religion teacher.

CHAPTER 1: A DOOR OPENS
1. What are some reasons for wanting more mathematicians at Langley in the early 1940s?
2. In what ways was Melvin Butler, the personnel officer at Langley, progressive in his hiring practices?

CHAPTER 2: MOBILIZATION
3. Describe Dorothy Vaughan: what is she like? What do you learn of her background?
4. What kinds of employment opportunities were available to African American women at this time?

CHAPTER 3: PAST IS PROLOGUE
5. How did Dorothy handle the balance between her family life and work aspirations?
6. What does this job mean for Dorothy in terms of social mobility?

CHAPTER 4: THE DOUBLE V
7. What is life in Newport News like for Dorothy? What is the influence of the double V?
8. How does the civil rights movement take shape during this time period?

CHAPTER 5: MANIFEST DESTINY
9. Are the women who become “girl computers” held to a higher standard? Or do they hold themselves to one? Why or why not?
10. In what ways is working at NACA progressive? In what ways does NACA stick to southern conventions?
11. How were Malcolm MacLean and Henry Reid helpful to and supportive of their new colleagues?

CHAPTER 6: WAR BIRDS
12. To whom does the phrase “tank Yanks” refer? • Why did locals think of Langley employees as “more than a little peculiar”?
13. How do you think Langley employees reconcile the difference between the work they do that is innovative and advances humankind with the work they do that destroys it?

CHAPTER 7: THE DURATION
14. What makes Newsome Park an attractive place for Dorothy to live? How does it differ from Newport News? How did the end of the war and V-J Day change working conditions in the U.S.? What did it mean for women, in particular?

CHAPTER 8: THOSE WHO MOVE FORWARD
15. Describe Katherine Goble: where is she from? What is she like? In what ways are she and Dorothy Vaughan similar?
16. Who is William Waldron Schieffelin Claytor? How did he influence Katherine?
17. What are the circumstances leading to Katherine’s enrollment at West Virginia University? What was her time in West Virginia like?

CHAPTER 9: BREAKING BARRIERS
18. How does specializing in a particular subfield of aeronautics help the girl computers?
19. What accomplishment makes Doris Cohen noteworthy? How does it transform possibilities for other women?

CHAPTER 10: HOME BY THE SEA
20. Describe Mary Jackson: What do we learn about her background? How is she similar to Dorothy Vaughan and Katherine Goble?

CHAPTER 11: THE AREA RULE
21. What event prompted Mary to accept an offer to work with Kaz Czarnecki?
22. What kind of disagreement did Mary and John Becker have? Do you think it is a moment that Mary will use as motivation in the future?
23. What is the Area Rule? How did it impact everyday aviation?

CHAPTER 12: SERENDIPITY
24. How did Katherine Goble get her job at Langley?
25. Why did Katherine get attached to the Flight Research Division? Why is this change of department significant for her?
26. What happens when Katherine sits down to wait to meet her new boss? What impact does this moment have on her?

CHAPTER 13: TURBULENCE
27. How does Dorothy Vaughan help Katherine and a white computer?
28. Katherine's first assignment was to investigate the crash of a small Piper propeller plane. What is learned as a result of her contribution?
29. There are two places in Langley in which Katherine refuses to conform with southern convention. What are these places, and why is her refusal to conform significant? How does her reaction differ from Miriam Mann's?

CHAPTER 14: ANGLE OF ATTACK
30. In what ways did advances in aeronautical research change the methods by which Langley worked?
31. How did the machines affect female mathematicians? •

CHAPTER 15: YOUNG, GIFTED, AND BLACK
32. How does the black press link the desegregation of southern schools and the launch of Sputnik? What do you think is the reason behind doing so?

CHAPTER 16: WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES
33. How does Sputnik create interest in U.S. participation in the space race?
34. How does NACA become NASA? Why is the change deemed necessary?

CHAPTER 17: OUTER SPACE •
35. Why does the President's Advisory Committee on Science say a space program is in the interest of every American? What are the reasons it gives?
36. How does the nature of Katherine's work change as her department shifts from aeronautical to space? Why does Katherine want to go to the editorial meetings? Why is her desire to do so significant?

CHAPTER 18: WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED

37. What was the selection criteria for picking astronauts for missions? Who were the four selected?

38. How did Katherine's work fit in the context of the space race? What sorts of work did she do? What is the name of Katherine's report for NASA? Why is it so significant for both her and the department?

CHAPTER 19: MODEL BEHAVIOR

39. What did Mary Jackson and her son, Levi, build together? In what ways does the soap box derby represent the breaking down of racial boundaries?

CHAPTER 20: DEGREES OF FREEDOM

40. How does Hampton Institute get involved in the civil rights movement?

41. In what ways does the rise of computing and advancements in computing technology affect the girl computers?

42.What challenge did President Kennedy give to the space program? How do they receive this challenge?

CHAPTER 21: OUT OF THE PAST, THE FUTURE

43. How does Katherine Johnson's role change as we get closer to Glenn's flight? What kinds of work is she now doing?

CHAPTER 22: AMERICA IS FOR EVERYBODY

44. In what ways was the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom significant? How did Christine Darden get to NASA?

CHAPTER 23: TO BOLDLY GO

45. Where did Katherine watch the moon landing from? Why is the location and people she was with significant? Were you surprised to learn that's where she was?

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