

Book Title: The Girl with a Mind for Math

Author: Julia Finley Mosca

Introduction

Begin by asking students:

- What is your favorite subject in school?
- What if you were not allowed to study that thing you like most of all?
- This story is about a girl who never gave up on her dreams, even though she was treated poorly and faced obstacles all along the way.

Reading and Discussion

Introduce vocabulary: engineer, segregated, grit

Possible discussion questions:

- What were some of the challenges Raye faced in her life?
- What do you think kept her going when things got hard?
- How did her determination help her make a difference in the world?

Activity

Create a path to success map

- Have students think about a goal they want to achieve (such as learning a new skill, a dream job, somewhere they want to visit, etc)
- Hand out a blank piece of paper to each student and have them draw a simple “path” (winding road or staircase) with space to write on it, leading from their name to their goal at the other end of their path.
- Have them list steps they need to take to achieve their goal.
- Identify potential obstacles (e.g., "I might get frustrated" or "I might not know how to start").
- Discuss strategies to overcome those obstacles (e.g., "Ask for help," "Keep practicing," "Stay positive").
- Discuss:
 - How does determination help us move forward, even when things get tough?
 - What can we learn from Raye Montague about achieving our goals?