Hidden Figures Movie Watching Notes Guide

Movie Summary: Three brilliant African-American women at NASA -- Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) -- serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn (Glen Powell) into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world.

1. Characters- Give the first and last names of each person.
The three women who work at NASA __________________________, ______________________________,
____________________________________
Which of the three women is the engineer? _________________________________
the computer scientist? __________________________________________
the mathematician? _________________________________________
The head of the whole Space Task Group: _________________________________
The engineer who is "second in command" in the Space Task Group: _________________________________

2. Setting- Where does this movie take place? __________________________________ When? __________
Is the movie fiction, non-fiction, or somewhere between the two? _________________________________
Who was the U.S. president at the time? ________________________________________
Was Martin Luther King, Jr. still alive? __________________________________________
Were "colored" treated the same as "whites"? ____________ If no, give an example. ________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
Were women treated the same as men? ____________ If no, give an example. __________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Why does she get the assignment? ________________________________________________
What kind of math can she do? _________________________________________________________

4. Mary wants to become an engineer but needs to take additional classes.
Where does she take the classes? ________________________________________________
Who does she have to convince to let her enroll? _________________________________________

5. Dorothy sneaks a book out of the library.
What kind of book is it? _________________________________________________________
Why does she have to sneak it out? ________________________________________________
Why does she need the book? _________________________________________________________

6. Who was the first Russian to orbit the Earth? __________________________________
How many times did he orbit the earth? ______
Who was the first American to orbit the Earth? _________________________________________
How many times did he orbit the Earth? ______
Who orbited first, a Russian or an American? ____________________________________________

7. Who got the IBM (I_______________ B_______________ M_______________) to work?
How many multiplications can the IBM compute per second? ________________________________
8. Who figured out the landing coordinates? ____________________ Using what method? ____________________
   Was this new math or old math? ________________________________

9. Who knocked down the “colored ladies room” sign? ____________________________
   Explain why. _______________________________________________________________________

10. What parting gift does Katherine get right before her wedding? _______________________
    What is the significance of the gift? ______________________________________________________

11. Right before John Glenn’s lift off, what happens? ____________________________
    Who does John Glenn ask to check the coordinates? ____________________________

12. Who becomes the supervisor at the end of the movie? ____________________________
    What does Mrs. Mitchell call her at that time and what is the significance of this? ____________

13. How many years were Katherine and Jim married? ____________
    What happened to Katherine’s first husband? ___________________________________________

14. When Mary goes to night school, where is the “colored section” of the classroom? ________
    __________________________________________________________________________________

15. How many children do each of the women have? Katherine: _______ Mary: _______ Dorothy: _______

16. How many times is John Glenn scheduled to orbit the Earth? ______
    How long is it supposed to take? ______
    How many times does he actually orbit the Earth? ______
    Why did they have to bring him down early? ______
    __________________________________________________________________________________

17. Where did John Glenn take off? ______________________________________________

18. Where did John Glenn land? ______________________________________________

19. What does Paul bring Katherine at the end of the movie? __________________________

20. What is the significance of this? ________________________________________________

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AFTER MOVIE RESPONSE:

1. If you had to select one scene as the best way to lure audiences to see the whole movie, which scene would it be? Why? Responses should be a minimum of 2 sentences.
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________

2. *Hidden Figures* is ultimately a film about positive change. Where, in our world today, do you see the need for change? What small actions could set that change into motion?
   ___________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________