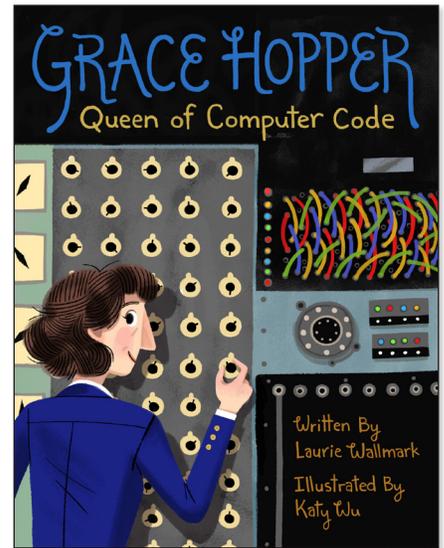


LET'S DISCUSS . . .

STERLING
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS

Grace Hopper

This discussion guide is designed to help parents, teachers, librarians, and booksellers explore the story's ideas, themes, and meaning with middle-grade readers.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION THEME—ORIGINALITY

Grace wanted to understand how clocks worked. Instead of asking her parents or a teacher, how did she figure it out for herself?

Are you curious about how some gadget works? What are some unique methods you could use to get this information?

Grace needed to teach her students about water displacement. How did she demonstrate this concept to her students?

Is there some fact or idea you'd like to share with your friends? What outside-the-box ideas could make your explanation clearer?

DISCUSSION THEME—PERSISTENCE

Grace failed her Latin exam, but didn't give up her dreams of college. What did she do so she would pass the exam the next time?

Did you ever have trouble the first time you did something, like play a musical instrument? Did you give up or did you practice until you got better?

Grace wasn't allowed to enlist in the Navy, but she didn't give up her dreams of serving her country. How did she convince the Navy to change its decision?

Were you ever prevented from joining a club or a sports team because of your age? Did you give up or did you show that, in spite of your age, you had the skills needed?

DISCUSSION THEME—PROBLEM SOLVING

Grace thought it was a problem that only mathematicians and scientists could use computers. How did she make computers easier for everyone to use?

Is there an activity, like cleaning up your room, that's difficult for you to do? What could you change to make the activity simpler?

Grace had a problem with a computer program that wasn't working correctly. How did she figure out what was wrong?

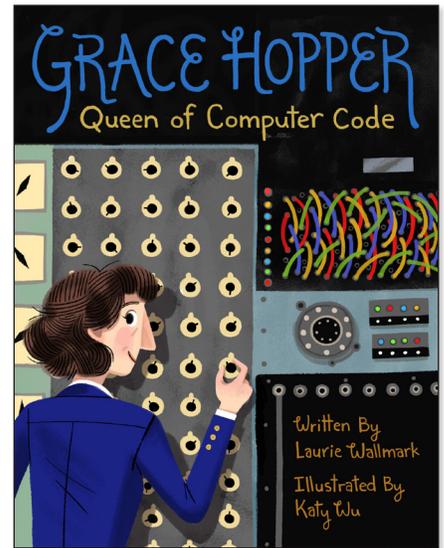
Have you ever had a toy or electronic device break? What steps did you take so you could play your favorite game again?

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ACTIVITY

Is there some gadget or gizmo you wish existed? Write the name of your invention and what it does on a blank sheet of paper. Draw a picture of what your invention might look like. Share your invention with your classmates and describe how it works. Listen as they explain about their own inventions.