

*My Remarkable Journey*, Katherine Johnson

In this memoir, Johnson (with help from her daughters, Joylette Hylick and Katherine Moore), recounts her very remarkable life as a “research mathematician”, something unheard of as a young African-American woman. Johnson’s parents sacrificed their personal goals and married life to provide their children the opportunity to go to college. Johnson took full advantage of the situation, graduating from high school early and beginning to attend college at 15 years of age.

Johnson’s marriage, and the birth of her children, along with teaching jobs, filled her early adult years. An opening at NASA brought Johnson’s unique abilities to light, and her role, as defined by the space agency is “Historical, as one of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist.” Her work involved detailed calculations on launch trajectories, including the first manned orbits, the first moon launch and plans for a mission to Mars. Her story, and that of NASA “human calculators” Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson are the basis for the book and movie, *Hidden Figures*.