Cite Evidence From the Text

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the detail that supports each inference.

READ THIS FIRST

Katherine Johnson Checks the Numbers

In 1962, astronaut John Glenn was about to become the first American to orbit Earth. NASA had new electronic computers to plan the flight. These machines could do thousands of calculations quickly. Still, Glenn asked for one more check. He wanted a mathematician named Katherine Johnson to work the numbers by hand. "If she says they're good," he reportedly said, "then I'm ready to go."

Johnson had loved numbers since she was a small child in West Virginia. She counted everything she saw, from steps on the road to dishes she washed. She was so far ahead in school that she was ready for high school at age ten. Her town had no high school for Black students, so her family moved to a town that did. She graduated from college at eighteen with degrees in math and French.

In 1953, Johnson joined a research center in Virginia that later became part of NASA. She worked with a group of women called "computers" because they computed numbers by hand. At first, Johnson and the other Black women in her group worked in a separate office. Women were also left out of important meetings. Johnson asked questions anyway. She wanted to know why the numbers mattered, not just what they were. Over time, engineers began to ask for her by name.

Johnson spent days checking the path of Glenn's capsule. She worked through long rows of figures with a pencil and a desk calculator. If one number was wrong, the capsule could come down far from the ships waiting to pick it up. Her answers matched the computer's. Glenn's flight circled Earth three times and returned safely.

Johnson went on to help plan the Apollo 11 trip to the Moon in 1969. She also worked on the space shuttle program. In 2015, at age ninety-seven, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A NASA building now carries her name.

Johnson often said she simply liked to work. Her careful checks helped give astronauts the confidence to fly.

1. A reader infers that Johnson was curious, not just good at arithmetic. Which detail supports this?

   She wanted to know why the numbers mattered.

   She received a medal at age ninety-seven.

   She worked in a separate office at first.

   She checked figures with a pencil and calculator.

2. A reader infers that Johnson earned respect over time. Which detail supports this?

Glenn's capsule circled Earth three times.

The women were called computers.

She counted the steps on the road.

Engineers began asking for her by name.

3. A reader infers that Johnson learned very quickly. Which detail supports this?

She joined a research center in Virginia in 1953.

She counted the dishes she washed as a child.

She graduated from college at eighteen.

She worked in a separate office at first.

4. A reader infers that Johnson did not let unfair treatment stop her. Which detail supports this?

She kept asking questions, even when left out of meetings.

She worked with a group of women called computers.

Glenn's flight circled Earth three times and returned.

Her group worked in a separate office at first.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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