

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: March
Theme: Women's History

Book Title: The Girl with a Mind for Math
The Story of Raye Montague
By Julia Finley Mosca

Grade Level: 4th / 5th

Discussion Questions:

- Raye Montague was born in Arkansas in 1935. How was Raye described as a child growing up during this time?
- When Raye's granddad took her to visit a submarine at seven years old, her excitement was apparent. During this visit, a man said, "But my dear, YOU don't need to know all about that." Why do you think this man insulted Raye with such a statement?
- What happened when Raye told people that she wanted to be an engineer?
- How did segregation affect Raye's education? Why did she choose to study business rather than engineering?
- What was Raye's first job in Washington, DC? How do the illustrations depict the barriers that Raye had in pursuing her dream?
- How did Raye learn about engineering?
- While Raye received promotions for her work, she was still not treated with the respect she was due. Why wasn't life 'swell' for Raye and how did she react to her treatment? Do you think she should have reacted differently?
- How did Raye design the 'grand' ship? How long did it take? Why were the other engineers stunned?
- Did Raye's attitude change after she wasn't invited to view the ship she designed? Why or why not?
- Raye Montague was eventually awarded the title of Engineer. How do you think she felt when she achieved her dream? How do you feel about how long it took for Raye Montague to follow her dream to become an engineer?
- What life skills can you learn from Raye's story?
- From the facts and tidbits at the end of the book, Raye states that "We've made some progress, but we still have a long way to go...", Do you agree with her statement? Why or why not?