

November 29, 2021

Dear Kathrine Johnson,

My name is Fathiyah Ayodele. I'm in 8th grade, I go to Oakdale Public School, and I like soccer and cooking. I also like to read, watch tv shows, and play soccer. Your book, *Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson*, has impacted my life in many ways.

One way is the way you take charge in life. Throughout your book I read about how you were adamant about doing well in school. You did well in school, went to a good college, and got a fantastic job. When everyone told you that black women can't be smart enough to do much, you proved them wrong. Without your contributions we wouldn't be as far as we are in NASA, space, and astronomy. This really helped me by seeing that if you believe in yourself and try hard you can get far in life. It gave me lots of encouragement and helped me see things through a different lens.

Another way this book has impacted me is your character shown in the book. I like to live by the motto "actions speak louder than words." You told yourself you could go far if you really tried and it worked. Your character and self-control showed in the way you had a good attitude even when things were tough or people treated you unkindly. You were always respectful and you were a great example to many young black girls, like me. You didn't care what others thought and you focused on yourself and got what you wanted. This helped me see that with the right attitude and making goals for yourself, you can get far.

Lastly, and probably the thing that impacted me the most, was family. In the book you wrote about your family and you seemed quite close to them. This really warmed my heart because it seems like it helped you a lot through everything you did, and they push you harder to do your best. Your family knew what was right for you and put your education first. Your family really motivated you and helped you see that there is always a way if you really want it and if you really try. My parents have also pushed me hard throughout my life and want me to do well. My parents also support me in all my endeavors and it makes me happy to see my family supporting me.

To conclude, your book, *Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson*, has impacted me greatly. Taking charge, having good character, and prioritizing your family were shown well in your book. They showed me what more you can get from life if you really want it.

Personally,

Fathiyah Ayodele