

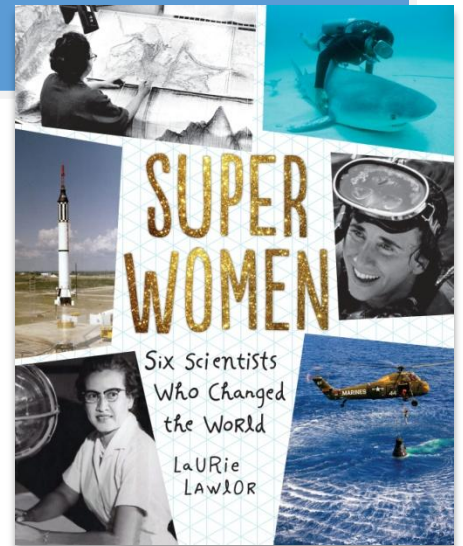
# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

## Super Women

### *Six Scientists Who Changed the World*

**Laurie Lawlor**

*The women in this book will inspire confidence in the next generation of women scientists as well as teach all of us that nothing is out of reach if you truly want it. Read how far we have come in this battle for equality, how much further we still have to go, and what it takes to change the world.*



9780823436750 • Ages 8–12 • E-book available

**Guided Reading Level:** X

**Grade Level:** 6

**Interest Level:** Grades 5–12

#### Instructional Standards

**Reading Informational Text:** RI.6-8.1,2,3,6,7

**Writing:** W.6-8.1,2,3,4,7,8,9

**Speaking and Listening:** SL.6-8.1,4,5,6

**Language:** L.6-8.3,4,5,6

#### Essential Questions: Think and discuss

1. How does one accomplish change in society? What barriers have women faced in making changes throughout history?
2. What has been the changing role of women? What laws in the past kept women from being equal to men?
3. What has changed the way we perceive gender roles? What has not changed?
4. How has our society's power structure affected gender relations?
5. How have women's professional roles developed over time?
6. How has women's role in science changed throughout history? How has science changed due to women?
7. What are the stereotypes about female and male roles in the workforce?
8. What is discrimination?
9. What evidence is there of discrimination today?
10. What would a workforce without discrimination look like?

★ "Arresting storytelling . . . high-interest approach . . . powerful portrayals." —*Booklist*, starred review

"Inspiring profiles of six 20th-century trailblazers."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

**Katherine Coleman Johnson**, a mathematician who calculated trajectories for NASA flights and is one of the women showcased in the award-winning feature film, *Hidden Figures*

**Eugenie Clark**, an ichthyologist who swam with sharks

**Marie Tharp**, a cartographer who mapped the ocean floor

**Florence Hawley Ellis**, an anthropologist of Pueblo cultures who pioneered tree-ring dating

**Gertrude Elion**, a Noble Prize-winning pharmacologist who developed treatments for leukemia and AIDS

**Margaret Burbidge**, an astrophysicist who formulated a theory of quasars and helped create the Hubble telescope



**Read the stories to find out how each women scientist:**

1. Overcame academic, societal, personal, and professional barriers
2. Showed courage, energy, and endurance
3. Satisfied her quest for knowledge
4. Was inspired by others
5. Changed the world

**Discuss individual . . .**

1. Accomplishments
2. Legacies

**Write about . . .**

1. What was happening in the world during the life of each woman scientist?
2. How did this influence their individual lives?
3. What do all of the women in this book have in common?
4. What was the authors point of view or purpose for writing *Super Women*? Explain how it is conveyed in the text.

**Choose a scientist from the book:** Eugenie Clark, Gertrude Elion, Katherine Coleman Johnson, Marie Tharp, Florence Hawley Ellis, or Eleanor Margaret Burbidge

1. Create a timeline using infographics to showcase her life; present to the class.
2. What was the most rewarding experience of her life?
3. What was she better known as? Did she have a nickname?
4. When did she become aware of her passion?
5. What special talents did she have?
6. How did her education prepare her for the future?
7. Who was a big influence in her life? In what way?
8. Describe her first job and other work-related opportunities?
9. How did her persistence and hard work pay off?
10. How did her work as a scientist affect you or someone you know?

**Group Projects . . .**

1. Plan, write, and produce a documentary on a scientist from the book who inspired you.
2. Read a book by a different author on one of the women scientists. Compare and contrast the presentation of events.

Guide written by Marla Conn, reading/literacy specialist and educational consultant

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Laurie Lawlor's** books have appeared on many notable lists, including ALA Notable Children's Books, the ALA Best Books for Young Adults, and NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People. Her picture book biography *Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World* won a Green Earth Book Award Honor and a John Burroughs Riverby award. She lives in Evanston, Illinois.

