



# MAE AMONG THE STARS

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Mae is a little girl with big dreams. From the time she was very young, she knew exactly what she wanted to do when she grew up. Some people told her she could never do it, that she should choose a new, easier dream, but her mother told her to never give up. Will Mae one day really see the stars?



## Questions:

1. Do you ever daydream? Are the things you daydream about possible if you work hard and don't give up?
2. What do you want to be when you grow up? Does everyone want the same things? Why is it good that people like different things and have different dreams?
3. "If you dream it, if you believe it, if you work hard for it, anything is possible?" Is that true? Can everyone achieve their dreams all by themselves? Or do we all need help to achieve our dreams?
4. Have you ever loved something as much as Mae loves space? Is it okay to not know what you want to be when you grow up? Is it okay to just live your life and learn for right now?
5. Have you ever had a dream so fun or exciting that you wanted to tell everyone about it? Is a dream when you sleep at night as important as a dream you hold near and dear in your heart? Can they sometimes be the same thing?
6. How did Mae feel when her teacher told her she couldn't be an astronaut? Was that the right thing for the teacher to do? Do grown ups know everything and do everything right?
7. What do you think Mae's teacher meant by "someone like you"? Is that a fair thing to say to anyone, ever? Is anyone on this planet just one thing? Can you tell what someone is capable of based on what they look like?
8. Did Mae want to give up? If someone you love or care about wants to give up on something they love and care about, should you let them? Should you ever give up on all your dreams?

Read the final page about Mae Jemison's life. Did Mae become an astronaut right away, or keep it in her heart until the time was right? Why is it extra special to be the first African American woman to do something like going to space?