There wasn't a calculation too complicated for the extraordinarily talented mathematician Katherine Johnson. She was a BRIGHT STAR but because of segregation laws in the USA of that time, she had to fight to shine. (Segregation laws in the USA of that time stopped black people from having the same opportunities as white people.)

Nobody expected Katherine to play a vital part in the SPACE RACE, but they hadn't done their maths properly!

In the 1950s, Katherine got a job as a computer at NASA. Computers as we know them today hadn't been developed yet. So NASA employed lots of women to help make scientists with the maths needed to fly their spacecraft. Women were rarely considered for these top jobs – especially black women like Katherine.

In 1959, Katherine helped NASA land an astronaut on the Moon! In 1975, Katherine became one of the first women to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She died in 2020, but she will always be remembered as a hero.

Katherine Johnson's story is powerful. It shows us that women can achieve anything if they work hard and never give up.

The story of Katherine Johnson reminds us that everyone deserves opportunities and recognition for their hard work. We should always strive for equality and justice for all.
In London, UK, during the 1880s, very poor women and girls worked at the Bryant and May match factory. They were trapped working in dreadful conditions for very little money, while all the factory owners earned huge profits.

A group of the matchgirls risked their jobs by bravely speaking to women’s rights campaigner, Annie Besant, about what it was really like to work in the factory.

In June 1888, Annie printed their shocking stories.

The public were horrified. Factory owners thought that if they denied everything nobody would listen to the matchgirls. This plan backfired!

The matchgirls walked out on strike. The strike made headlines...

During the strike the matchgirls boldly marched to the Houses of Parliament to discuss their plight.

After two weeks the factory realised they had no choice but to admit they had been unfair and to promise to change their ways.

The matchgirls were considered so poor and unimportant that nobody recorded the names of the women who led the strike. Their brave actions blazed a trail for the right of all workers to work in safety and to be shown respect and fairness.

The public were horrified...