

Reader's
Theater:

Time-Traveling
through
Women's
History



Characters:

- Narrator
- Ms. Patel (teacher, thoughtful and creative)
- Leo (skeptical but secretly loves history)
- Maya (curious, loves learning)
- Zoe (energetic and theatrical)
- Sofia (quiet but insightful)

Optional Props:

- A blanket fort (The "Time-Travel Tent")
- A flashlight (for the time-travel effect)
- A whiteboard or poster labeled Women's History Month
- Harriet Tubman Scene: A lantern or small flashlight to represent moving at night
- Amelia Earhart Scene: A toy airplane or pilot's goggles
- Katherine Johnson Scene: A clipboard or printed NASA logo for the control room setting

Setting:

A 5th-grade classroom, full of student projects on the walls. In the back corner, the students have built a blanket fort—now proudly labeled as the “Time-Travel Tent.”

Narrator:

It’s March, and Ms. Patel’s classroom buzzes with energy. The students are supposed to be working on their Women’s History Month projects, but instead, they’re busy constructing something unusual...

Ms. Patel:

(Raises an eyebrow) Uh... what exactly are we building here?

Zoe:

(Grinning) The Time-Travel Tent!

Leo:

(Rolling his eyes) It’s just blankets and chairs.

Maya:

(Excitedly) No! It’s a portal to the past! We can sit inside and imagine traveling through time.

Sofia:

(Softly) We thought it could help with our history projects.

Ms. Patel:

(Amused) I love it! A history portal—very creative. But... how does it work?

Zoe:

(Dramatic) You step inside, close your eyes, and—WHOOSH!—you're in a different time period!

Leo:

(Skeptical) You imagine you're in a different time period. Let's not confuse imagination with actual time travel.

Ms. Patel:

(Chuckles) Well, let's put it to the test. How about we use your Time Travel Tent to meet some extraordinary women in history?

Narrator:

The students enter and crawl into the tent. Maya flicks a flashlight on and off, creating a “time-travel effect.”

Ms. Patel:

(Dramatic) Time machine activated! Destination: the year 1849...

Narrator:

With a whoosh, the classroom fades, and suddenly, they're in the woods at night.

Sofia:

(Whispering) It's so dark... Where are we?

Ms. Patel:

(Serious) We're hiding, just like Harriet Tubman and the people she helped escape slavery.

Maya:

(Wide-eyed) She risked her life every time she went back to help more people.

(Looking around) If this were really happening, I'd be terrified.

Zoe:

(Excited) She should have had a superhero name! Like Harriet the Fearless!

Ms. Patel:

(Smiling) In a way, she was a superhero. She led over 300 people to freedom and never lost a single person.

Sofia:

(Softly) And she didn't have a map or GPS. Just the stars.

Narrator:

Suddenly, they hear footsteps (Ms. Patel taps the floor).

Zoe:

(Whispers) Is that... someone coming?

Ms. Patel:

(Smiling) Nope! That's just the sound of our hearts that jump!

Narrator:

POOSH! The students brace themselves as history swirls around them...

Narrator:

The students stumble forward, now standing on a windy airfield in 1932.

Zoe:

(Pointing) There's a PLANE! Can I fly it?!

Leo:

(Raising an eyebrow) You crash your bike, like, twice a week. Let's not push our luck.

Ms. Patel:

(Laughing) That's what people told Amelia Earhart, too! But she proved them wrong.

Maya:

(Excited) She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone!

Leo:

(Skeptical) And then she disappeared. Mystery.

Zoe:

(Leaning in) Maybe she timed it really, really well.

Ms. Patel:

(Smiling) We may never know exactly what happened to her, but what we do know is that she changed history.

Sofia:

(Determined) She didn't listen to people who said she couldn't do something.

Narrator:

Before they can process it—WHOOSH!—they're pulled into another time...

Narrator:

The classroom shifts into a NASA control room in the 1960s.

Zoe:

(Touching pretend buttons) Look at all these controls! I bet this one launches the rocket—

Ms. Patel:

(Quickly) DO NOT touch that!

Leo:

(Skeptical) Wait. A mathematician helped send people to space?

Maya:

(Nods) I bet Katherine Johnson's calculations helped astronauts land on the moon.

Sofia:

(Quietly) And she had to fight for a seat at the table because she was a Black woman in science.

Ms. Patel:

(Proudly) And she earned that seat. She was brilliant and proved that talent knows no boundaries.

Narrator:

WHOOSH!—just like that, they're back in the classroom!

Leo:

(Looking around) Okay, that was pretty awesome.

Maya:

(Smiling) Harriet Tubman, Amelia Earhart, and Katherine Johnson all changed history in different ways.

Zoe:

(Shrugs) And they all had one thing in common—they didn't let people tell them they couldn't do something.

Sofia:

(Softly) And because of them, more girls today can be whatever they want.

Ms. Patel:

(Proudly) That's why we celebrate Women's History Month—so we never forget their stories.

Narrator:

The students look at their Time-Travel Tent, realizing they've just taken the best history lesson ever.

Zoe:

(Grinning) So... when's our next trip?

Ms. Patel:

(Laughing) How about next week—but this time, you choose who we meet!

(The students cheer as they start planning.)

Name: _____

Date: _____

If you could visit any woman from history, who would it be and why?

Choose a challenge that one of the women faced and explain how they overcame it.

What qualities did all three women share, even though they lived in different time periods?

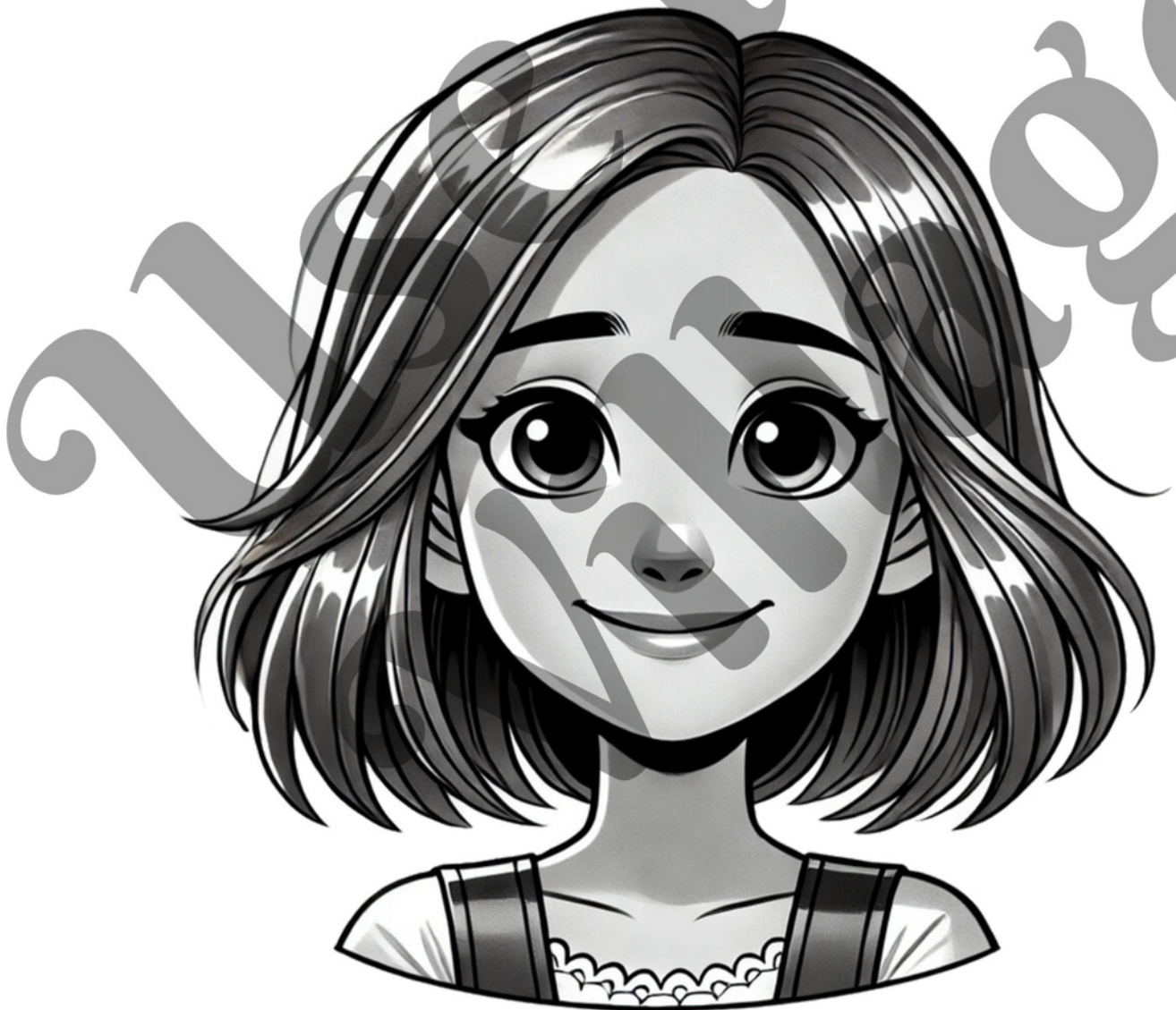
Ms. Patel



Leo



Maya



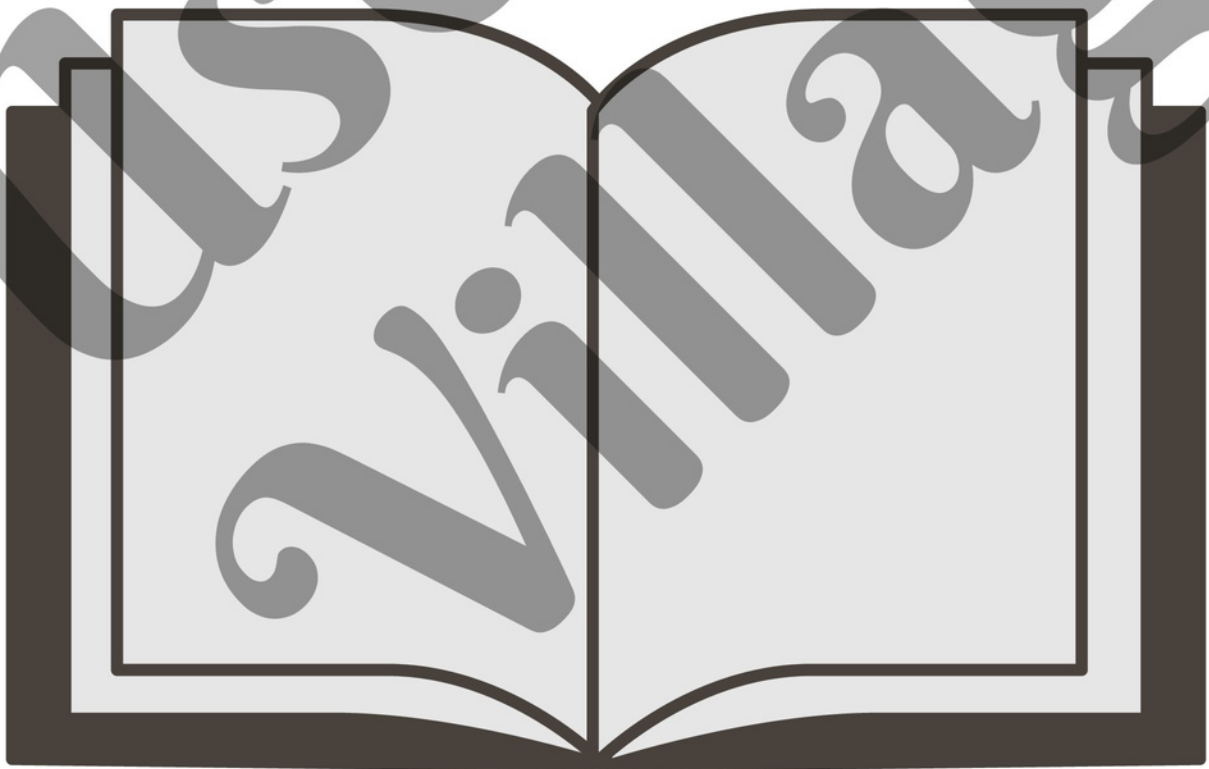
Zoe



Sofia



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities:

- **Women's History Month "Time Capsule"**: Have students write letters to the future, explaining why it's important to remember these women. They can include drawings, facts, and reflections to preserve for future students. Place them in an envelope or box labeled "Open in 10 years!"
- **Create a "Who's Who?" Poster**: Assign each student a famous woman from history (other than those in the play). They create a mini-poster with a picture, key facts, and a quote. Display the posters for a class gallery walk.
- **STEM Challenge: Code Like Katherine**: Teach students about logic coding or math puzzles inspired by Katherine Johnson's work. Challenge them to "calculate" (solve) a mind-bending mission problem using logic and numbers.
- **Reader's Theater Sequel: What's Next?** Have students write an extension where the class time-travels again. They pick a new historical woman and act out the adventure!