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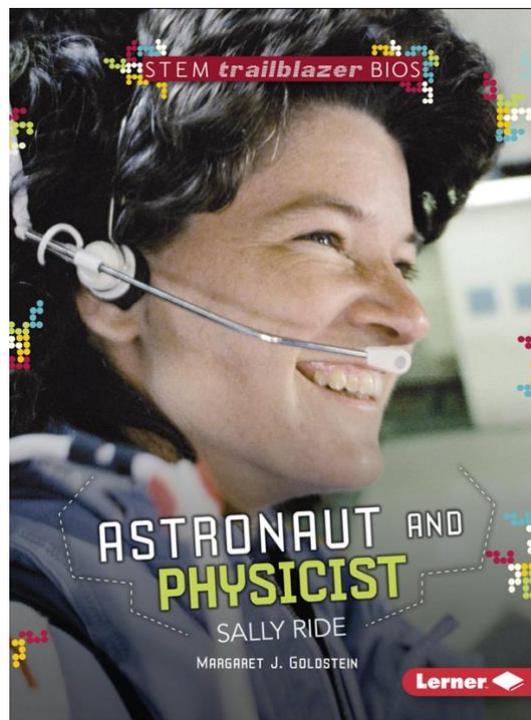
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Review of Astronaut and Physicist: Sally Ride

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Adult/Educator Reviewer: Kelly Cate Wolfe
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Student Reviewer: Zoë Shiloh, 3rd Grade



Goldstein, M. J. (2018). *Astronaut and physicist Sally Ride*. Lerner Publications.

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Adult Review: Kelly Cate Wolfe

I read this book with my 8-year-old daughter, Zoë Shiloh. Zoë has been interested in space and flight for nearly her entire life. We have read other books about Sally Ride, but this one presented us with quite a bit of new information about her. It briefly presents her childhood, the burgeoning diligent student, then a young Sally deciding between an athletic scholarship and her love of science and the excitement of the space race.

This book was biographical enough to make Sally Ride relatable to even young readers, without losing focus from her most notable achievements. The photographs were especially interesting to Zoë, who was as intrigued by the glimpses inside the shuttles and of training exercises as she was seeing major moments in the life of her predecessor. Captions appear in bold colors and shapes: these provide useful guidance for the developing reader and help draw connections between the sometimes-longish paragraphs and the visual representation.

The writer does a great job at presenting the sexual discrimination Sally Ride faced in an objective and accurate manner e.g., "Some men at NASA thought that women didn't have the skills, strength, or smarts to fly into space" (p.17), not just in the workplace but in the education system as well e.g., "an English teacher...told her class that Sally had "a first-rate mind, wasted in science"" (p. 7). There is an underlying theme, of course, of perseverance in the face of adversity: "Sally ignored the English teacher" (p. 7) and "finished her PhD in astrophysics" (p. 13), and "Sally had impressed her bosses and her fellow astronauts with her work" (p. 17). This book has already sparked several conversations with my co-reader about the importance of resilience and fortitude when going after your dreams, as well as conversations about the dreams themselves. The author makes it easy to grasp Ride's perspective at

multiple important points of her life, most notably as she and her crewmates waved goodbye to massive crowds before boarding The Challenger.

One of the notable aspects of the book is the focus on Sally Ride's contributions to science in addition to her trailblazing as the first American woman in space. EarthKAM and Sally Ride Science are presented, along with an age-appropriate explanation of the magnitude of these contributions. These are powerfully presented just pages away from a detailed description of Sally's difficult choice between athletics and physics as a young adult, effectively but unassumingly shattering many stereotypes. Who can succeed in science? *Anyone*. When do you start to succeed in science? *Anytime*.

I have three young daughters. I will always tell them they can be whatever they want to be in life. It is because of pioneers like Sally Ride that I will be telling the truth. This Trailblazer Bio expertly tells the story of a pioneer in both space exploration and American women's history.

Student Review: Zoë Shiloh

Sally Ride was an astronaut who worked for NASA. She was the first woman to go into space. Before her trip on the Challenger, only men were allowed to be astronauts. When NASA agreed to let a woman fly on the space shuttle, there were a lot of women who wanted to go. They knew it was an amazing opportunity! Sally Ride was in the final six. She had to work extra hard to show she was the best choice, but once she did, she had to work even harder. One day I will work for NASA as well. I will work just as hard as Sally Ride did. I enjoyed reading this book and I recommend it!