



By Sandra Carter, *in her own words:*

“**T**he movie “Hidden Figures” tells the true story of three African American women working at NASA in the 1950s. These three NASA mathematicians were Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. Their work contributed to John Glenn becoming the first American astronaut to make a complete orbit of the Earth.

I was not a mathematical child prodigy like these NASA mathematicians. In fact, I failed my 1st 9 weeks of Algebra II class. Quite often as a youth I emphatically stated “I hate math”. That changed in 11th grade upon my encounter with my Algebra II teacher, Mr. Cortez B. Frank. Mr. Frank was artistic and technical. He not only wrote and produced plays, but he also motivated me to love math. My 5th period Algebra II class was a theatrical production with Mr. Frank as the star of the show.

I regret that I did not keep in touch with Mr. Frank. I learned that he passed away two years before I published my book “How to Help Parents and Kids Get Over the Fear of Math”.

The highest compliment that I received about the book was from a friend of mine. I tutored her daughter and helped her to pass the math portion of the CRCT. She said that reading the book is like having me in the room with them. That compliment really made me feel good.

The book has 6 goals:

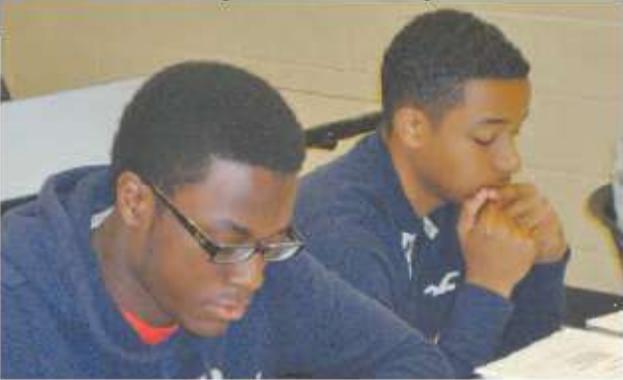
1. It helps students to get over the fear of math.
2. It highlights areas that give students the most difficulty in math usually fractions, word problems, decimals, algebra, and geometry.
3. It uses real life examples and generic terms to assist parents in helping their children with difficult math problems.
4. It contains an evaluation and answer key that parents can use to determine within 30 minutes their child’s strengths and areas for improvement in math.

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Teaching SAT Math Boot Camp Students



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5. It contains lists and descriptions of high paying careers that a young person who enjoys math can pursue.

6. It uses time saving short cuts such as the divisibility test that students can use to save time and earn more points on the test.

I was blessed to have wonderful parents Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Rose Ann Carter. My mother instilled in me the drive to excel. My father showed me the example of hard work. I dedicated my book to them and Mr. Cortez B. Frank, my teacher who helped me to get over the fear of math.

As a college student, I started tutoring as a ministry in my home church of Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After graduating cum laude from Southern University A&M with a B.S. in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics, I moved to Texas to pursue a career in Information Technology. While living in Dallas, Texas I became the Vice-President of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers- Alumni Extension. The chapter tutored the students of the Dallas Independent School District for several years.

After moving to Atlanta, Georgia I received a M.S. in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Shortly after moving to Gwinnett County in 2003, I started a Mathematics tutoring business called Math 1 On 1, LLC (<http://www.math1on1.net/>). Math 1 On 1, LLC stands out because we offer one on one tutoring as opposed to group tutoring and tutoring at a convenient location. I was a charter member of the voluntary tutoring program at New Mercies Christian Church in Lilburn, Georgia where I also sing in the mass choir.

The Math Lady ® is a name given to me by a client. I liked it and decided to obtain the exclusive right to use it as a service mark via the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

In 2008, I developed and produced Fun, Interactive Math Workshops for youth in grades 3 – 10 to enrich students' skills in decimals, fractions, and word problems.

Two years later, I saw the need to help youth to improve their standardized test scores in mathematics. In 2010, I developed and produced SAT Math Boot Camps to teach students to earn more points on the math portion of the SAT and to improve basic math skills. My father was the person who encouraged me to write and to produce my own SAT Math Boot Camp instead of applying for a position to teach another organization's SAT Math class.

According to College Board Statistics, SAT Math scores have been decreasing since 2005. College bound seniors scored an average of 520/800 points on the Math SAT in 2005. In 2014, college bound seniors scored an average of 513/800 points on the Math SAT. Our students have increased their Math SAT scores by 50 points after taking the Math 1 On 1, LLC SAT Math Boot Camp.

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The new Math SAT, introduced in March of 2016 will focus in depth on the following three areas of math: Heart of Algebra, Problem Solving and Data Analysis, and Passport to Advanced Math.

Here are three (3) tips to increase your math SAT score:

1. The new Math SAT does not penalize for incorrect answers. Guess if you do not know the answer.
2. You may only use the calculator on ONE section of the new Math SAT. Remember, your brain works faster than your fingers can press the calculator keys. Some problems can be solved with a little ingenuity.
3. Plug the answer choices given into the problem and verify the correct response for multiple choice questions.

Many of the students attend our Fun, Interactive Math Workshops and SAT Math Boot Camps at no charge due to the generosity of sponsors.

In 2011, we produced our first video entitled “The Math Lady DVD ©: Fun, Interactive Math Workshop”. This video empowers children to teach themselves math with examples such as football, basketball, and shopping.

Math 1 On 1, LLC has hired background checked, college students and recent college graduates as tutors. We have a passion for helping the youth. Consequently we have expanded the educational footprint of the company by offering Physics and Chemistry tutoring.”

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We have been fortunate to have two articles about our work in The Atlanta Journal Constitution and two articles in Black Enterprise. In July of 2016, I auditioned to appear on the ABC series "Shark Tank" in Atlanta at Tech Square Labs.

This entrepreneurial experience has emphasized several principles that I hold dear. The first is to find a need in society and fill it. The second is to create your own opportunities. The third is to teach the next generation and empower others to do the same.

My next calling is to expand The Math Lady® brand into the motivational speaking arena. My seminar entitled "Bounce Back After a Layoff: Start Your Own Business" has received rave reviews. My goal is to not only empower the youth in the areas of math and science, but also to tell the story of my entrepreneurial journey and to motivate adults to start their own businesses. My mission is to motivate students and adults alike to move from fear to ferocity, from pain to power, and from apathy to academic excellence.