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SYNOPSIS

Langley Research Laboratory of National Advisor Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) started recruiting female employees in 1935 as mathematicians. Then, it opened its gate for women of color in 1943. Dorothy Vaughan wasted no time enrolling in order to make a better living. As an African American woman, she had the luxury to work as teacher, a prestige job for black women. However, that prestige job was not enough to sponsor her family's needs.

Moving to Langley, Dorothy's talent was utilized to the fullest that made her appointed as the head of West Computing Area. It was a place for black mathematicians. The girls in there were too good at calculating, even better than the machine, so that they were also known as computers, west computers. In west area, Dorothy had the opportunity to supervise Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson who were especially passionate and talented.

The task of computer at Langley was to calculate the analytical thinking of the engineers. As Langley was dominated by engineers, and all of engineers were males, it made Langley as a male dominated workplace. Working in male dominated place as female employees was not easy at all. Dorothy, Katherine, Mary, and other computers experienced patriarchal oppression against women. They became underrepresented at the workplace no matter how talented they were.

Dorothy, Katherine, and Mary did not give up on the oppression. They fought it back together. Dorothy as the supervisor of the black computers stood up

for them if they faced unfair treatment at the workplace. She even helped the white computers who were also known as east computers. Mary Jackson helped the newcomers to be well adapted in Langley and passionately persuaded her black female juniors to join Langley. She was helped by her white colleague, Emma Jean, in providing career seminar for her juniors. Katherine Johnson proved to her male colleagues that females were also worthwhile and there was no such thing as male job desks and female job desks. She was chosen by the astronaut to be the main calculator of his flight to the moon. These three females showed that by holding hands together, women could survive the oppression in male dominated workplace.