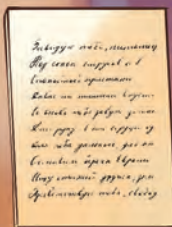


Ride, Sally Ride



By Caroline Tung Richmond
Illustrated by Felia Hanakata

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Chapter One



THE ANNOUNCEMENT

“Listen up, class! Let’s talk about our field trip tomorrow,” Ms. Perez said from the front of the room.

Aimee sat up straight in her seat while her classmates yawned. It was Monday morning, but she felt wide-awake. She couldn’t wait to visit the space museum.

“To prepare for the visit, we’re holding a contest called the Astronaut Challenge,” Ms. Perez went on. “It’ll have three events. The student with the highest total score will get a special prize.”



Aimee scooted to the edge of her chair. What could the prize be?

“The winner will have lunch with an astronaut during the field trip!” Ms. Perez exclaimed.

Aimee’s mouth fell open. Ever since she was a little girl, she’d wanted to become an astronaut like her hero, Sally Ride. Back in 1983, Sally became the first woman from the United States to fly into space. And one day, Aimee hoped to become the first Chinese American woman in space. Now she had the chance to meet a real-life space explorer.

But she wasn’t the only one who wanted to win. Across the room, a girl named Ivy raised her hand.

“Can we take a picture with the astronaut, Ms. Perez?” Ivy asked.





Ms. Perez had a glint in her eye, like a twinkling star. “You can—if you win.”

Aimee felt a flutter in her stomach. Ivy was the smartest kid in their class. How could Aimee ever beat her? But then she thought about Sally Ride. When Sally was young, there had been no women astronauts at all. She had to work very hard to become one of the first.

That’s what I have to do, Aimee thought. *I have to try my best to win.*

Ride, Sally Ride

Nine-year-old Aimee dreams about becoming an astronaut, just like her hero, Sally Ride. She can't wait to visit the space museum and compete for a neat prize. But can she beat the smartest kid in her class to win it?

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