

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Trailblazer: Dorothy Butler Gilliam

Imagine being told you couldn't do something just because of the color of your skin. That's what happened to Dorothy Butler Gilliam.

Dorothy wanted to be a reporter at a major daily newspaper. When she first applied, she wasn't hired. But that didn't stop her from trying again.

In 1961, she became a trailblazer as the first African-American woman to work as a reporter at *The Washington Post*, one of the largest newspapers in the United States.



Photo: Harry Malhotra/Washington Post

HARD WORK Reciting a Famous Poem

When Dorothy was a young girl, she memorized and recited the entire poem 'Twas The Night Before Christmas at a church service. It took both the ability to read and hard work to accomplish that.

1942
- 1936

Dorothy was born in 1936. She recited the poem in church in 1942. How old was she then?

INFORMED A Newspaper in the Home

Dorothy's father believed in being informed about the community and the world. He read two newspapers every day.

Fill in the missing vowels in this quote by Dorothy:

"My_w_r_ness of the n_wsp_p_r, through h_ving it in our h_m_, was one of the th_ngs that g_ve m_the c_r_ge to_pply for a secretarial j_b at a n_wsp_p_r."

Dorothy's father became ill when she was 14. Their family moved to a small house in the country with no running water.

She was determined to go to school. She walked a half mile to catch a bus to a school for black children. Schools in Kentucky were segregated—they did not allow white and black students to attend the same school.

SECRET CODE

- ◼ = D
- ◼ = E
- ◼ = F
- ◼ = I
- ◼ = L
- ◼ = M
- ◼ = N
- ◼ = O
- ◼ = R
- ◼ = S
- ◼ = U
- ◼ = V

DETERMINATION

Newspaper Delivery

At 9 years old, Dorothy sold and delivered the local newspaper to people in her Kentucky neighborhood. Years later, when she began to attend Ursuline College, she got a job as a secretary at the same newspaper. Use the code to discover the paper's name.



Number these lines in order to read the paragraph.

COURAGE

Career Start

- _____ what she needed to succeed.
- _____ to write some stories. With no
- _____ courage and hard work to learn
- _____ secretary, the editor asked her
- _____ experience as a reporter, it took
- _____ in her career as a journalist.
- _____ A few weeks after starting as a
- _____ It would be the first step

ADVENTURE

Stories of Africa

After graduating from Columbia University Dorothy received a scholarship to travel to Africa. An editor at *The Washington Post*, was interested in her trip. Few Americans, black or white, had ever traveled to Africa. He asked Dorothy to write articles about her experience.

Because her articles were interesting and well written, she was offered a full-time job at the newspaper.

START Find the way to Dorothy's school.

Character Counts

For each of the following character traits, find a person in the newspaper who shows that trait.

- Hard Work
- Courage
- Perseverance
- Commitment

Standards Link: Understand the importance of character in a community.

PERSEVERANCE

Opening the Front Door

Replace the missing words.

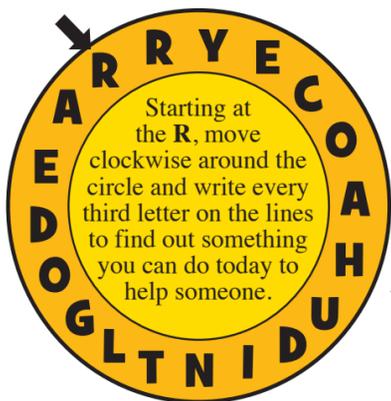
- REPORTER
- ENTER
- FIRST
- AWARDED
- HOME

The Washington Press Club _____ Dorothy with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. Being the _____ black woman reporter at *The Washington Post* wasn't easy. When Dorothy arrived at a wealthy Washington woman's _____ to report on her 100th birthday party, the doorman told her she couldn't _____ through the front door. "The maid's entrance is around the back," he said.

"I am not a maid, I am a _____ for *The Washington Post*," she replied.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

What's a great way you can help someone today?



Starting at the R, move clockwise around the circle and write every third letter on the lines to find out something you can do today to help someone.

R _____

Double Double Word Search

- JOURNALIST
- NEWSPAPER
- REPORTER
- DOROTHY
- ABILITY
- AFRICA
- TRAITS
- CHURCH
- WRITE
- HARD
- WORK
- MAID
- TRIP
- BUS
- JOB

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Memorize It!

Imagine you are going to report the news orally—like a video news reporter! Read an article in today's newspaper and summarize it. Memorize your summary and present the news to your class from your memory.

Standards Link: Summarize main ideas in informational text.

Why are reporters often found at ice cream shops?

ANSWER: They're always looking for scoops.

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