

Task 1

Preparation: Copy of Worksheet 1 (page 3), one slip for each pupil

1. Distribute Worksheet 1 to the pupils.
2. Give instructions:

You are going to listen to a story. Circle the words you can hear on this worksheet. (Show the worksheet)
3. Read out the story about Bessie Coleman (page 2). Read it twice if necessary.
4. Check the answers with the pupils and write the correct words on the board.

Solution:

the	black	whites	always	seatbelt	heroine
drink	manicurist	airplanes	hungry	under	sleep
watch	true	river	hospital	bushes	forest
jump	pupil	Paris	story	airshows	clown
red	Bessie	boyfriend	dog	streets	Coleman
pilot	hear	funny	cat	woman	jet
landlord	french	first	laundry	speak	fly
control	cotton	sisters	door	parachute	school

Task 2

Ask the pupils to summarize Bessie Coleman's story using the words on the board.

Text 1014: THE STORY OF BESSIE COLEMAN

This is **the** story about **Bessie Coleman**, who was the **first black woman** who became a **pilot**. Bessie Coleman was born in Atlanta, Texas, on January 26th 1892. At the time Bessie was born there were no **airplanes**. Bessie spent much of her childhood working in the **cotton** fields. When there was little work in the fields, Bessie's mother sent her and her brothers and **sisters** to **school**.

Bessie was very good at maths, so she could make some money by doing the bookkeeping at the plantation. She also took in **laundry** to earn enough money to go to college. But after a year Bessie had to leave college because she ran out of money. She became a **manicurist** in Chicago. This was around 1919 and she heard about the new flying machines then. From this time on she wanted to become a **pilot**.

But no American Flying school would admit her because they were only for **whites**. But then somebody paid for Bessie to go to a flying school in France. There she not only learned to **fly** but also to jump by **parachute** and to do stunts by an airplane. When she finally received her international pilot's license in 1922 she didn't get a job as a pilot in a passenger airplane because she was a woman. So she made her living doing stunts. Everybody wanted to see her, and she became known as "Brave Bessie".

Bessie always wanted to help other African Americans. Once she found out that African Americans were not allowed to watch **airshows**. So Bessie said she would not **fly** in the show until they were allowed to watch. She dropped information sheets from her plane to let them know that they were admitted to the show.

Bessie also wanted to start a flying school for African Americans. In 1926, when her mechanic was piloting the plane, it suddenly spun out of **control**. Bessie was not wearing a **seatbelt**, and she was thrown from the plane at 2000ft. Through Bessie's example many other African Americans decided that they would become pilots.¹

¹Text 1014 © Katya

Worksheet 1



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the	black	whites	always	seatbelt	heroine
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watch	true	river	hospital	bushes	forest
jump	pupil	Paris	story	airshows	clown
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