

What exactly took a young African American girl with such tragic early life disadvantages and turned her into one of the most influential people on the planet, one whom it is claimed **single-handedly turned a million votes in favour of Barack Obama in the 2008 election?**



When examining success, you are not going to find just one single cause. What stands out in Oprah's case, however, is a gift that she was born with. **Oprah was a child genius.**



By the age of just three, Oprah had already been taught to read the Bible by her grandmother, who took her to church regularly. Little by little, unconsciously at first, Oprah was picking up the very skills that would allow her to captivate audiences decades later. In time, **her grandmother and later her father would take her to speak in front of crowds at every church** within driving distance. Congregations clamoured to hear this wonder child who spoke like a leader.

'From the time I was eight years old, I was a champion speaker,' she says. **'I spoke for every woman's group, every banquet, every church function.'** At school, she was allowed to jump years ahead due to her prodigious reading skills. Her father took her to the library regularly, which she absolutely relished, and **she took sanctuary from the harshness and trauma of her life in her books.**

Long hours at the library, book reports, sermons and speeches to hundreds of people honing her public-speaking talent - these are experiences which most children never get, or never have the talent or inclination to make the most of.