

Barack ObamaA Reading Aâ€Ž Level S Leveled BookWord Count: 1,359LEVELED BOOK â€¢ SBarackObamaKâ€¢
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 z.comwww.readinga-z.comCorrelationLEVEL SFontas & PinnellReading RecoveryDRAO3434IntroductionEvery
 child dreams about growing up.Some children know what they want to beas adults. They may want to be artists
 ormusicians, or doctors or lawyers. Others haveno idea what they want to be. Some do not finda direction for their
 life until they are adults.**Young Barry with his high school basketball teamTable of ContentsIntroduction**
 4Growing Up 5Finding His Way.
 9Becoming a Politician 14Conclusion
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 Obama â€¢ Level S3This is the storyof just such a child.Things happened inhis life that causedhim to doubt
 himselfand made him feel asthough he did not fitin. He was botheredby many things thathappened aroundhim.
 Over time,those things helpedBarack Obama, future presidenthim discover hispurpose in life. He developed a
 strong desireto change the practices that had made him feellike an outsider. **That desire led him to
 becomepresident of the United States of America.**4Barryâ€™s mother married a man fromIndonesia when Barry
 was six. The family leftHawaii and moved to Indonesia, where hishalf-sister was born. Barry attended schoolin
 Indonesia for four years. He learned thelanguage and customs of his new country.He also saw what it meant to be
 very poor.Many Indonesian families struggled each dayjust to have enough food to eat.**Young Barry with his
 mother, AnnGrowing UpBarack Obama Jr.**â€Žcalled Barry during hischildhoodâ€Žwas born in 1961 in Hawaii.
 Hismother, Ann Dunham, was from the state ofKansas. **His father, Barack Obama Sr.,** wasfrom the country of
 Kenya, in eastern Africa.His parents met and married while they werestudents at the University of Hawaii.
 Themarriage did not last. By the time Barry turnedfour, his parents had divorced and his fatherhad moved back to
 Kenya.**Barack Obama â€¢ Level S5Barry sometimes felt strange being so farfrom Hawaii.** He felt he was not part of
 thecommunity where he now lived. He wonderedwho he was and where he belonged in theworld. Having parents
 of different races andfrom different continents caused him towonder and question even more.**Barryâ€™s
 BeginningsPA C I F I COCEANIndonesia6HawaiiKansasAT L A N T I COCEANKenya**While the family lived in
 Indonesia, Barryâ€™smother began teaching him about race andethnicity. **He learned about slavery and aboutthe
 civil rights movement in the UnitedStates.** Ann alsotaught him aboutimportant AfricanAmericans in politics,history,
 music, culture,and sports whohelped to improve theworld. She wantedBarry to be proud ofU.S. **civil rights leader
 MartinLuther King Jr. inspired Barry.his racial heritage.**But Barry was confused. Although hismother taught him
 about African Americanleaders, he also learned about people whowere ashamed of the color of their skin. Healso
 learned about people who thought otherswere wrong or ignorant just because of theirskin color or religion. Barry
 began to see thatrace and ethnicity were complicated issues.**How could people feel pride when they werebeing
 judged on the very things they wereproud of?**Barack Obama â€¢ Level S7After four years in Indonesia, Barryâ€™
 çsmother thought that he could receive a bettereducation back in the United States. So in1971, when he was
 ten, she sent Barry back toHawaii to attendschool and tolive with hisgrandparents.**Barryâ€™s grandparents
 wereproud when he graduatedfrom high school.**In Hawaii, Barry again felt like an outsider.He was one of only two
 African Americanstudents in his class. SomeDo Youof his classmates madeKnow?fun of his unusual name.**The
 yearHe gained strength fromBarry returned tore**ading about other people **Hawaii, his fathercame from Kenyawho
 felt like outsiders butfor a month.** Thatwho had successfully found visit was the lasttime Barry sawtheir way in the
 world. Hehis father, whowas inspired by Dr. Martinwas killed in a carLuther King Jr. and otheraccident in 1982.His
 mother died ofleaders who believed incancer in 1995.peaceful social change.8Finding His WayAfter he
 graduatedfrom high school inHawaii, Barry went tocollege in Los Angeles.During that time, heand other
 studentsspoke out againstSouth Africaâ€™s whitegovernment, whichfavored terribleBarack as a Columbia
 studenttreatment of blackpeople. Barry began to embrace his Africanheritage and started using his Kenyan
 name,Barack, which means â€œblessed.â€ He startedto understand that he didnâ€™t have to choosebetween his
 white and black backgroundsâ€Žhe was both.**By the time Barack finished college, he knewhe wanted to help people
 in communities.** Hewanted to involve people in creating betterlives for themselves. He also wanted to seelocal laws
 changed so people would receivefair treatment. He found a job and movedto Chicago in 1985. **He became the
 directorof an organization that helped people in poorneighborhoods find jobs and improve their lives.**Do You
 Know?Before Barack moved to Chicago, he held a jobwith a big business for a short time. He started earninggood
 money, but he was not happy. He hungered tobe involved in something bigger than his own life. **Hequit his job and
 found one where he could help people.**Later he said, â€œThereâ€™s nothing wrong with makingmoney, but
 focusing your life [just] on making a buckshows a poverty of ambition.â€Barack wanted to learn how laws
 andgovernment worked. **He wanted to helpchange some of the injustices he saw.** In 1981,he transferred to
 Columbia University in NewYork City. He graduated in 1983 with a degreein political science.**A Chicago
 neighborhood that Barack helpedBarack Obama â€¢ Level S910Barackâ€™s work in Chicago fed his passionfor
 helping poor people.** But through his work,he saw that to make lasting changes, he wouldneed to learn how to
 change laws. He believedthat by changing unfair laws, communitiescould improve the lives of their people.Chicago
 residents sign up to vote.Barack helped set up a job-trainingprogram for African Americans who had losttheir jobs
 when factories closed. He alsohelped call attention to a dangerous materialcalled asbestos that was in the walls
 ofbuildings where many poor people lived. Hisorganization started a tutoring program tohelp young people who
 wanted to go tocollege. Barack also managed a program tosign up new voters. He encouraged people toget
 involved in politics so that fairer lawscould be passed.Barack enteredDo You Know? Harvard Law School,Before

entering law near Boston, in 1988. During his time there, he traveled to Kenya for the first time. He met many people who became his first relatives there, including African American to be his grandmother. **in charge of a respected magazine called the Harvard Law Review.** He earned a law degree in 1991 and graduated with honors. Barack with Mama Sara Obama, his Kenyan grandmother Barack Obama & Level S1112 Barack and Michelle Obama with daughters Malia and Sasha campaigned in 2004 for Barack to be a U.S. Senator. Barack and Michelle Obama with their daughters, Malia (mah-LEE-uh), 6, right, and Sasha, 3, in 2004. **After finishing law school, Barack moved back to Chicago and worked for a law company for the summer.** A female lawyer named Michelle Robinson advised him, and they became friends. Barack invited Michelle along when he went to visit some of the people and communities he had helped in the 1980s. Michelle was deeply moved by Barack's vision of a better world. She saw how much the people he had worked with respected him. **Barack and Michelle married in 1992.** Barack Obama & Level S13 **Becoming a Politician Barack had become a lawyer to help people.** But he soon saw that helping people as a lawyer was a very slow process. He decided that entering politics and changing laws would be an even faster way to help. **In 1996, he ran for and won a seat in the Illinois state senate. As a state senator, he helped change laws so poor working families could pay lower taxes. He also helped change laws so children would have better education and health care.** **14 Barack ran for the United States Senate in 2004.** He was asked to speak at an important meeting of the Democratic Party. He gave a hopeful speech about all Americans working together to help the United States become an even greater country. The speech was a big success, and Barack's words inspired many people. **He easily won a seat in the U.S. Senate later that year.** Because of the speech, many people encouraged Barack to run for president "the biggest job in the United States" in 2008. "Tonight is a particular honor for me because, let's face it, my presence on this stage is pretty unlikely. My father was a foreign student, born and raised in a small village in Kenya. He grew up herding goats, went to school in a tin-roof shack. [My] mother was born in a town on the other side of the world, in Kansas. My parents shared an abiding faith in the possibilities of this nation. They would give me an African name, Barack, or a blessed, believing that in a tolerant America your name is no barrier to success. They imagined me going to the best schools in the land, even though they weren't rich, because in a generous America you don't have to be rich to achieve your potential. I stand here today, grateful for the diversity of my heritage, aware that my parents' dreams live on in my two precious daughters. I stand here knowing that my story is part of the larger American story and that in no other country on Earth is my story even possible." Barack Obama, Democratic National Convention, July 27, 2004 Barack spoke during the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Barack Obama & Level S1516 Barack had to be convinced that being president was the best thing for him and his family. **He thought that he did not have enough experience as a U.S. senator.** Barack knew that, because he was African American, running for president could be dangerous. He knew that just running for president would change his and his family's lives forever. He could no longer take a walk or get his hair cut without drawing a crowd. While he thought about whether or not to run for president, Barack's reputation grew. The two books he had written inspired many people to write to him and encourage him. He continued to give speeches and talk to people. Many more people became inspired by his words, his clear thinking, his respect for all people, and his belief in peaceful solutions to big problems. Barack's two books are best sellers. Barack Obama & Level S17 **Conclusion Barack began his job as president on January 20, 2009. He, his wife Michelle, and their two young daughters moved into the White House in Washington, D.C.** In October 2009, President Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his efforts to make the world a better and more peaceful place. "Change will not come if we wait for someone else or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." Barack Obama Barack Obama spoke to a huge crowd after being elected president on November 4, 2008. **18 Glossary inspired (v.) ashamed (adj.) embarrassed (p. 7) civil rights (n.) legal, social, and economic rights that guarantee freedom and equality for all citizens (p. 7) continents (n.) one of the main land masses on Earth, including Africa, South America, Asia, Europe, North America, Australia, and Antarctica (p. 6) degree (n.) a title given to a student by a college or university after completing a program of study (p. 9) ethnicity (n.) the state of belonging to a group of people with a common cultural heritage or nationality distinguished by customs, characteristics, language, and common history (p. 7) heritage (n.) a way of life, tradition, or characteristic that is passed down from generation to generation (p. 7) honors (n.) awards for outstanding achievement (p. 12) injustices (n.) the unfair treatment of a person or group of people (p. 9) Barack Obama & Level S19 prompted to be brave or creative (p. 8) local (adj.) limited to a specific place (p. 10) moved (v.) caused to have strong feelings (p. 13) passion (n.) intense enthusiasm (p. 12) races (n.) populations of humans as defined by skin color and features or by genetics (p. 6) reputation (n.) the general way that a person or thing is thought of by others (p. 17) slavery (n.) the state or condition of being a slave, or the property of another person (p. 7) Index Chicago, 10, 12, 13 Kenya (n.), 5, 8, 9, 12, 16 Columbia University, 9 King, Dr. Martin Luther Democratic Party, 15 Jr., 7, 8 Dunham, Ann, 5 "8 Obama, Barack Sr., 5, 8 Harvard Law Obama, Michelle School, 12 Robinson, 13, 14, 18 Hawaii, 5, 6, 8, 9 president, 4, 15, 17, 18 Illinois state senate, 14 race, 6, 7 Indonesia, 6 "8 U.S. Senate, 1520**