

LEVELED BOOK • O

A professional portrait of Hillary Clinton. She is smiling warmly at the camera. She has short, light-colored hair and is wearing a dark blue blazer over a white collared shirt, paired with a pearl necklace. Her hands are clasped in front of her.

Hillary Clinton

MULTI
level
O•R•U

Written by Sean McCollum

Hillary Clinton



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Focus Question

Who is Hillary Clinton, and
why is she important?

Words to Know

Congress
first lady
lawyer

nominee
secretary of state
senator

Front cover: Hillary Clinton appears onstage for a 2016 Democratic presidential primary debate in Miami, Florida.

Title page: Hillary Clinton reads the book *Madeline* to children at a library in Bath, New York, while running for the U.S. Senate in 2000.

Page 3: Dorothy Rodham, Hillary's mother, adjusts her daughter's outfit before a public appearance in 1992.

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LEVEL O	
Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28



Table of Contents

Big Dreams	4
Lawyer, Wife, and Mother	7
First Lady of the United States	10
Senator and Secretary of State	12
A Woman of Many Firsts	15
Glossary	16



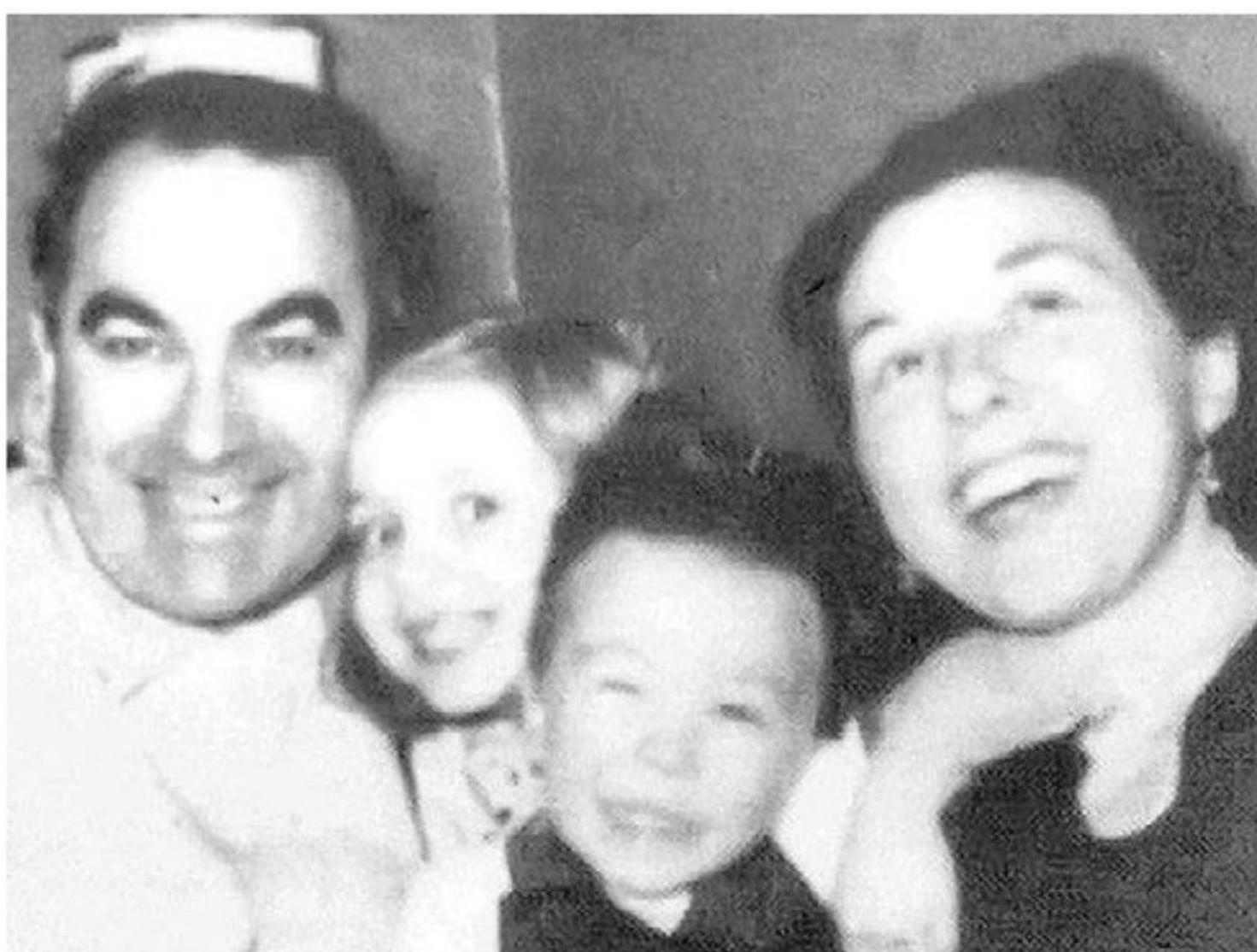
Hillary Rodham went to Field Elementary School in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Big Dreams

Long before Hillary Clinton was an important leader in the United States, she was a little girl with big dreams. Hillary Rodham was born in 1947. She grew up near Chicago, Illinois. She was the oldest of three children. Hillary became a top student and won awards as a Girl Scout. She also served on the student council in high school.

Hillary grew up at a time when many Americans believed that only men should be firefighters, soldiers, and politicians. Men were supposed to earn money and be the head of the household in most families. Women were often expected to stay home and care for children.

Hillary's father believed many of these ideas. He also saw that Hillary was very smart. He wanted her to be able to follow her dreams. Her mother told Hillary she would have to be tough and stand up for herself.



Hillary Rodham smiles big in a family photo with her father, Hugh, mother Dorothy, and younger brother, Hugh Jr., in the 1950s.



As a girl, Hillary enjoyed sports and played the piano.

Do You Know?

Though Hillary Clinton didn't become an astronaut with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), many U.S. women have. Sally Ride became the first U.S. woman in space when she flew on the space shuttle in 1983. Since then, more than forty-five other U.S. women have flown in space and many more have trained as astronauts.

When Hillary was thirteen, she wrote to NASA and asked what she needed to do to become an astronaut. NASA wrote her back and said there would not be any female astronauts. The news made Hillary want to follow her dreams even more.

Lawyer, Wife, and Mother

In 1965, Hillary went to college in Massachusetts. The more she learned, the more she wanted to help protect people from unfair treatment. After college, she decided to go to law school at Yale University.



Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham became friends while studying law at Yale in the early 1970s.



Hillary Rodham married Bill Clinton in 1975 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 1971, Rodham met someone special. A young man with bushy hair kept looking at her in the library. She introduced herself to him. His name was Bill Clinton. One day he would be elected president of the United States. Bill and Hillary started dating. She liked that he was not scared by how smart she was.

Both Hillary and Bill had big plans. She wanted to work as a **lawyer** in Washington, D.C. He wanted to go into politics in his home state of Arkansas. In 1974, Hillary moved to Arkansas to be with Bill. They were married in 1975.

In 1978, Bill Clinton was elected governor of Arkansas. That made Hillary the **first lady** of the state. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980. Hillary became a successful lawyer. As first lady, she worked hard to make schools in Arkansas better.

Bill Clinton served as Arkansas's governor for twelve years. In 1991, he ran for president of the United States. He won the 1992 election with his wife's help.



Bill and Hillary Clinton celebrate his victory in the Democratic primary on June 8, 1982, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Bill Clinton was re-elected governor of Arkansas later that year.



Hillary Clinton urges Congress to pass new health care laws in 1993.

First Lady of the United States

For the first time, the first lady of the United States had her own career. President Clinton asked her to lead a group to improve the U.S. health care system. **Congress** and many Americans disliked the plan, though. It did not win enough support to become a law.

Some Americans felt Hillary Clinton was too outspoken as first lady. Still, Bill Clinton was re-elected president in 1996. The first lady put her energy into fighting for the rights of women and children.

The Clintons faced many challenges while Bill was president. They worked together to get through them. Bill Clinton's political career was ending. Hillary Clinton's was just beginning.



Hillary Clinton speaks about women's rights in education as Olympic athlete Jackie Joyner-Kersee and astronaut Sally Ride look on in 1997.



Hillary Clinton greets supporters after winning a second term as a senator for New York in 2006.

Senator and Secretary of State

In 2000, Hillary Clinton ran to be a U.S. **senator** for New York. She won easily. She became the first female senator from that state.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked New York City. Senator Clinton worked to help the city after the attacks. She was re-elected in 2006.

The next year, Clinton announced that she was running for U.S. president. Her chances seemed good. Her race against Barack Obama to become the Democratic **nominee** was very close. Obama barely beat her. He then won the presidency with Clinton's help.



Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton face off in a debate to become the Democratic candidate for president in 2007.



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks at the United Nations in 2010 in New York City.

President Obama named Hillary Clinton to be his **secretary of state**, a very important job. Secretary Clinton was in charge of U.S. relations with other countries. She traveled to meet leaders in 112 countries.

Clinton left the job in 2013. She wanted to try to become president one more time.



Hillary Clinton rallies a crowd of supporters during her 2016 run for president of the United States.

A Woman of Many Firsts

In April 2015, Hillary Clinton told Americans that she was running for U.S. president again. She gave many speeches across the country. In November, Americans cast their votes. Hillary Clinton lost to Donald Trump, who ran for the Republican Party.

Throughout her life, Hillary Clinton has achieved many firsts. Though she lost the election, her life and work set a strong example for the girls and women who follow.

Glossary

- Congress (n.)** the highest lawmaking body of the U.S. government, which includes the Senate and the House of Representatives (p. 10)
- first lady (n.)** the wife of a president or other leader; the leading woman in a particular profession or activity (p. 9)
- lawyer (n.)** a person whose job is to give people advice about the law or to represent them in court (p. 8)
- nominee (n.)** a person picked by an organization to run for office or as the recipient of an award (p. 13)
- secretary of state (n.)** the head of the department in the U.S. government that handles relations with foreign countries (p. 14)
- senator (n.)** a member of a group of people who discuss and make laws for a country, state, or other group (p. 12)

Hillary Clinton

A Reading A-Z Level O Leveled Book

Word Count: 713

Connections

Writing

Research to learn about another female leader. Using a Venn diagram, compare her to Hillary Clinton. Then, write an essay describing how the leaders are similar and different. Be sure to include major accomplishments of both women.

Social Studies

Make a timeline of events from Hillary Clinton's life. Include at least five events on your timeline.

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