

LEVELED BOOK • K

Barack Obama



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Written by R. K. Burrice

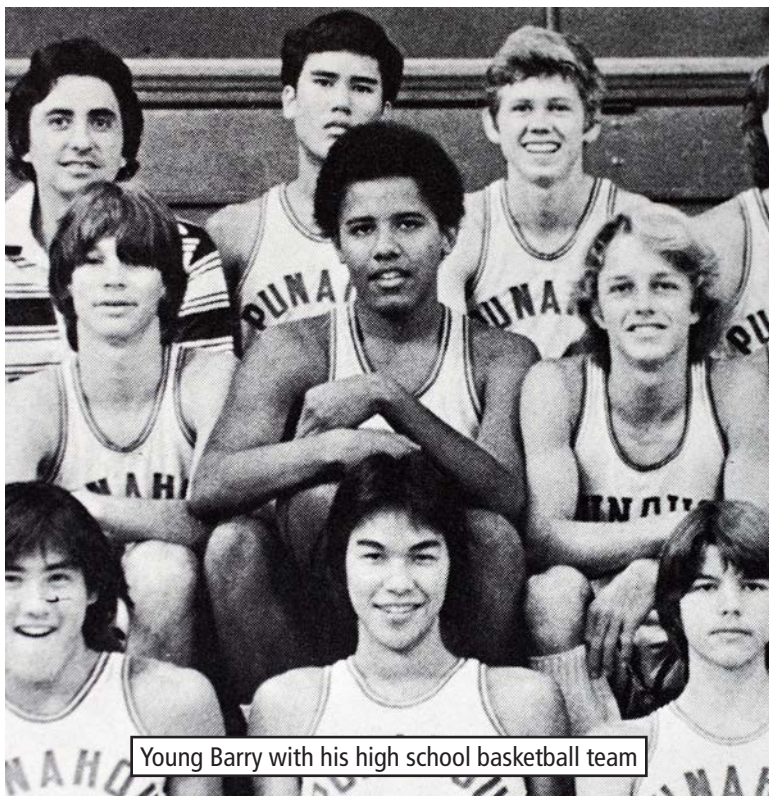
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Young Barry with his high school basketball team

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A Big Job

Did you ever think about being president of a country? Do you wonder why someone would want such a big job?

Barack Obama was **elected** president of the United States in November 2008.

Growing Up

Barack was born in 1961 in Hawaii. People called him Barry when he was young.

His mother was a white woman from the United States. His father was a black man from an African country.



Barack as a boy with his mother, Ann

Barry's father left when Barry was very young.

Later, his mother married a man from a country in Asia. Barry's family moved to that country. Many people there were very poor.



Barack as a boy with his father, Barack Sr.

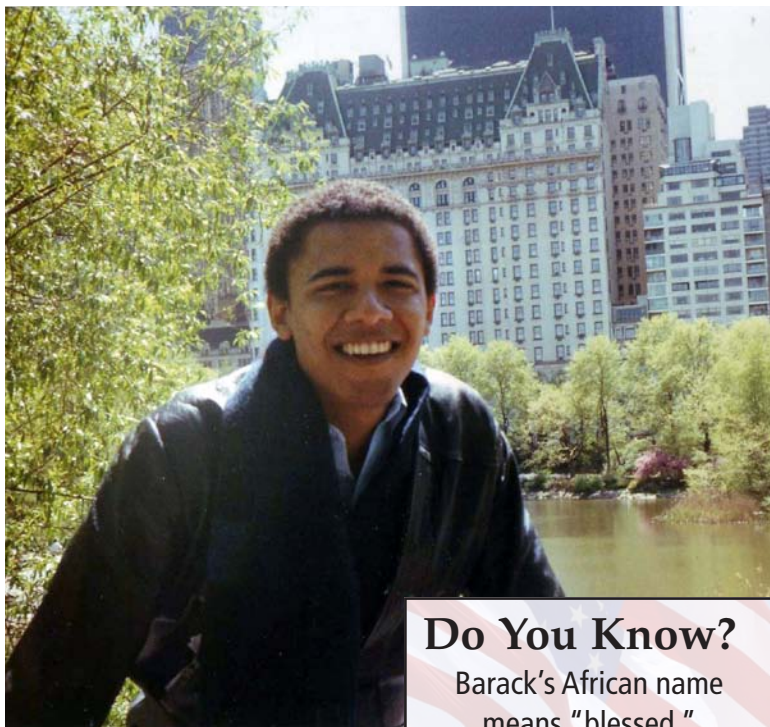


Barry's grandparents were proud when he finished high school.

Barry moved back to Hawaii at age ten. He lived with his grandparents until he finished high school.

Barry lived in many homes and many **cultures**. He did not know where he belonged in the world.





Barack at college in New York

Do You Know?

Barack's African name means "blessed."

Finding His Way

Barry left Hawaii in 1979. He moved away to go to another school.

He started to use his African name, Barack. He started to see that he was African American and white. He did not have to choose between the two.

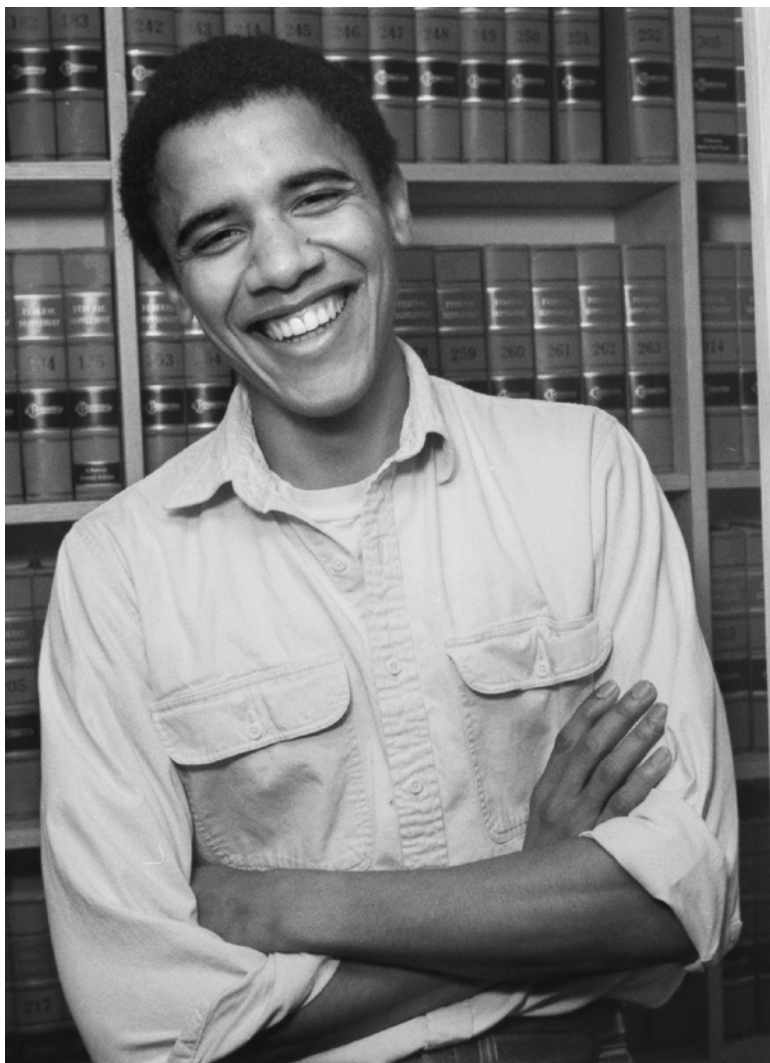
Barack wanted to help poor people have better lives.

He moved to Chicago. He helped people learn about new jobs.

But he wanted to help even more.



Barack helped people in this Chicago neighborhood.



Barack at Harvard Law School

Barack wanted to become a **lawyer**.
He wanted to help change laws.

He moved to Boston and studied law.

After Barack became a lawyer, he moved back to Chicago.

He helped change laws to make life better for poor people.

Do You Know?

Barack met a lawyer named Michelle Robinson when he moved back to Chicago.

They married the next year. They have two daughters, Malia (mah-LEE-uh) and Sasha.



In Government

Barack wanted to help even more.

He became part of the **government** of his state. Later, he became part of the government in Washington.



Barack campaigned for U.S. Senate in 2004. His family campaigned with him.



Barack giving an important speech

Barack made a big **speech** in 2004. He saw ways to help the United States be a better nation. He asked all Americans to work together. He spoke about peaceful ways to solve problems.

Many people liked Barack's speech.
They liked his **message** of hope and
peace. They liked his clear thinking.
They wanted Barack to be president.

After four years of hard work, Barack
was elected president.



Barack's two books
are best sellers.



Barack spoke to a big crowd after he was elected president.

The New President

Barack began his job as president on January 20, 2009. He and his family moved into the White House.

In October 2009, President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize. He received the award for helping to make the world a better and more peaceful place.

Glossary

- cultures** (*n.*) the ideas and customs of different groups of people (p. 7)
- elected** (*v.*) chosen by people who voted (p. 4)
- government** (*n.*) a group of people who make and enforce laws for a country (p. 12)
- lawyer** (*n.*) a person whose job is to give people advice about the law or to represent them in court (p. 10)
- message** (*n.*) idea (p. 14)
- speech** (*n.*) a talk given by someone to a group of people (p. 13)

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