

# Hillary Clinton

*A Reading A-Z Level R Leveled Book*  
*Word Count: 1,022*

## 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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# Hillary Clinton



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## Focus Question

Who is Hillary Clinton, and why is she important?

## Words to Know

Congress  
conservative  
first lady  
lawyer  
nomination

oath of office  
political science  
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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## Correlation

### LEVEL R

Fountas & Pinnell	N
Reading Recovery	30
DRA	30



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## Big Dreams

From the time she was a girl, Hillary Rodham had big goals. When she 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 discouraged her at first. It also made her want to follow her dreams—no matter what.

Attitudes in America were changing. Hillary Rodham was one of the people who helped change them, especially for women. She has achieved many firsts in her life and career. In 2016, she became the first woman to run for president on behalf of a major U.S. political party.



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.



Hillary Rodham was born in 1947 and grew up near Chicago, Illinois. She was the oldest of Hugh and Dorothy Rodham's three children. Hillary became a top student. She won awards as a Girl Scout. She also worked on the newspaper and student council at her high school.

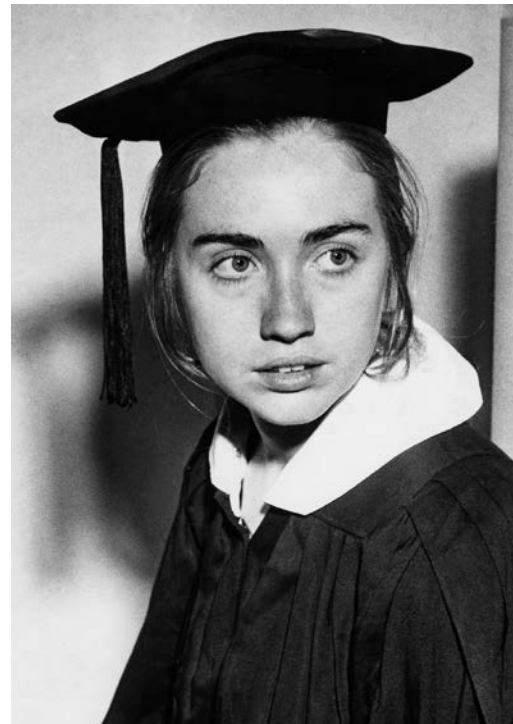
Hillary grew up at a time when many Americans believed that only men should be firefighters, soldiers, and politicians. Men were supposed to earn money and be the head of the household in most families. Women were often expected to stay home and care for children.



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

Hillary's father was a **conservative** man who believed many of these ideas. At the same time, he saw that his daughter was very smart. He wanted her to fulfill her dreams. Her mother knew Hillary would have to be brave and tough to compete in a man's world. "You have to stand up for yourself," she told her daughter.

In 1965, Hillary went to Wellesley, a college in Massachusetts. She studied **political science**. The more she learned, the more she believed



that the rights of women, African Americans, and other groups needed more protection. After graduating, she was accepted at Yale Law School.

Hillary Rodham was selected by her classmates to give a graduation speech at Wellesley in 1969.

## Lawyer, Wife, and Mother

In 1971, Rodham met someone special in the Yale law library. A young man with bushy hair kept looking at her. She walked up to him and introduced herself. He was surprised by her confidence.

His name was Bill Clinton, and he would one day be elected president of the United States. Clinton and Rodham started dating. She noted that he was one man who did not seem scared off by her intelligence and strong opinions.



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.

Both Rodham and Clinton had big dreams. She planned to work in Washington, D.C., after earning her law degree. Clinton wanted to go back to his home state of Arkansas and go into politics.

Clinton asked Rodham to marry him three times. Twice she said no. She was just starting out as a **lawyer** and wanted to build her career. In the end, she changed her mind. She moved to Arkansas, and the two were married in 1975.

In 1978, Rodham became **first lady** of Arkansas when Bill Clinton was elected governor. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980. Hillary became a successful lawyer. As Arkansas's first lady, she also worked hard to make the education system for the state's children better.

Bill Clinton served as Arkansas's governor from 1978 to 1980 and 1982 to 1992. By then, he had also started running for a new position—president of the United States.



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**

On January 20, 1993, Hillary Clinton held a family Bible. Her husband put his hand on it and took the **oath of office**. He became the forty-second president of the United States.

For the first time in history, the first lady of the United States had her own law degree. She had already proven herself a successful lawyer. Her husband named her to lead a committee to improve the U.S. health care system. The goal was to help more Americans afford the medical care they needed. **Congress** and many Americans distrusted the plan, though, and it did not win enough support.



Many conservatives did not like Hillary Clinton. They felt that she was too outspoken and not traditional enough as first lady. She took a less public role for the rest of her husband's time in office.

Bill Clinton was re-elected president in 1996. The first lady put her energy into speaking out in support of children and women's rights. She traveled to seventy-nine countries to represent the United States, the most ever visited by a first lady.



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

The Clintons faced many challenges during their eight years in the White House. They got through them together. While his political career was winding down, though, hers was ramping up.



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 become a U.S. **senator** for New York. She won easily, becoming the first female senator from that state.

After terrorists attacked New York City on September 11, 2001, Senator Clinton worked to get money to help the city recover. She also voted for U.S. military action in Afghanistan and Iraq. She was re-elected easily in 2006.

The next year, Clinton announced that she was running for U.S. president in the 2008 election. Her chances seemed good to win the Democratic **nomination**. For months, she was in a close contest with Senator Barack Obama from Illinois. Obama narrowly beat her, then went on to become president with Clinton's support.



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**, one of the most important positions in the U.S. government. Clinton oversaw relations between the United States and other countries. She was only the third woman ever to hold the position. She traveled to meet leaders in 112 countries—more than any other U.S. secretary of state.

Clinton left the position in 2013 after President Obama's reelection. However, there was one more race she wanted to run.





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 announced that she was running for U.S. president. She officially won the Democratic nomination in late July 2016. In November, Americans went to the polls to cast their votes for president. In the end Hillary Clinton lost to Donald Trump, the Republican nominee.

Throughout her life, Hillary Clinton has broken through barriers that have blocked many women from pursuing their dreams. Though she lost the presidential election, her life and work set a strong example for the girls and women who follow.

## Glossary

<b>Congress</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the highest lawmaking body of the U.S. government, which includes the Senate and the House of Representatives (p. 10)
<b>conservative</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	traditional and reluctant to change (p. 6)
<b>first lady</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the wife of a president or other leader; the leading woman in a particular profession or activity (p. 9)
<b>lawyer</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a person whose job is to give people advice about the law or to represent them in court (p. 8)
<b>nomination</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the act of selecting someone as a candidate for a job or position (p. 13)
<b>oath of office</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a promise by an elected official to perform his or her duties faithfully and lawfully (p. 10)
<b>political science</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the study of the structures and workings of government (p. 6)
<b>secretary of state</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the head of the department in the U.S. government that handles relations with foreign countries (p. 14)
<b>senator</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a member of a group of people who discuss and make laws for a country, state, or other group (p. 12)