

BARACK OBAMA – EXTRA

Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2. Suitable for users of CROWN/TEAM magazines.

SYNOPSIS

Barack Obama tells the story of the 44th President of the United States, from his childhood years in Hawaii and Jakarta to the presidential election of 4th October, 2008. On that day, America voted for its first African-American president.

The story begins at the University of Hawaii, where Barack's parents met. His mother was white and American, from Kansas. His father was black and African, from Kenya. The marriage didn't last, however, and when Barack was six, he and his mother moved to Jakarta, in Indonesia, where they lived with Barack's mother's second husband.

When Barack was ten and ready for high school, he returned to Hawaii, where he lived with his grandparents. They were a big influence on his life. Barack did well at school, and developed his lifelong passions for reading and basketball. He had lots of questions about his identity, however – about what it meant to be a black person in America.

Barack went to college, first in Los Angeles, and then in New York. At this point in his life, his father died. Barack had only met his father once, when Barack was twelve. He had planned to visit Kenya when he finished college to get to know his father. Now it was too late.

Barack's first job was as a community worker in Chicago, helping people on a poor housing project to help themselves and improve their lives. He felt the work was important, but he realised it was difficult to change things from the bottom.

Change, he saw, came from politicians, not community workers. And he wanted to change things.

He decided to study law at Harvard and then stand for election. But first he wanted to find out more about his family in Kenya. His half-sister, Auma, came to America to meet him, and later he travelled to Nairobi. He went all the way back to his roots in a tiny village in rural Kenya, where his grandmother still lived.

Back at Harvard, he was among the best students and won a summer internship at a top Chicago law office. There he met, and fell in love with, Michelle Robinson.

After Harvard, Barack worked as a lawyer in Chicago and began his political career. His rise to the top, with Michelle at his side, was very fast. People around America and the world liked Obama. They liked his politics, they liked him and they liked his family. 'America will never elect an African-American to the top job,' said many experts. But they were wrong, and on 20th January, 2009, Barack, Michelle and their daughters moved into the White House.

MEDIA LINKS

CD: A recording of *Barack Obama* is available to accompany the Scholastic Reader.

Internet: Barack Obama's website is at www.barackobama.com. Many of his speeches are available on YouTube.

Books: Barack Obama has written three books. The first one of these, *Dreams From My Father*, tells his life story up to the time he married Michelle.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right book for your class? What do students already know about Barack Obama, and what would they like to find out? Motivate them with background information and by reading aloud page 6 of the book.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self-Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All answers on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *Barack Obama* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet). Put them into context. Ask students to look out for them as they read.

Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. There are fact files throughout the text as well as at the back of the book. These provide information about Indonesia, Hawaii and Kenya, a short summary of African-American history, how the Government works and Barack's wife, Michelle. The fact files at the end of the book focus on three famous former presidents, living in the White House and a day in the life of the President of the USA.

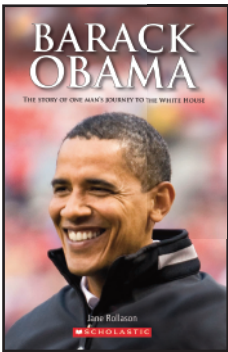
What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *Barack Obama*. Did they like it? Compare opinions. Did they find out anything new about him? Do they think he is the right man for one of the world's top jobs? Did you like it? Let us know at:

readers@link2english.com

COMPETITIONS AND UPDATES

Check www.scholasticelreaders.com for competitions and other activities related to the Scholastic Readers.



BARACK OBAMA

– EXTRA

People and places

1 Find words on pages 4–5 to complete these sentences.

- a) Barack and his *father* had the same name.
- b) Ann's second husband Lolo was from
- c) Ann's parents were called and
- d) Barack has a large family in
- e) Barack and Michelle have daughters.
- f) Barack lived in Indonesia for years.
- g) He started his working life in
- h) The US President's home is called the

Chapters 1–2

1 Circle the correct word in *italics* in these sentences.

- a) Barack's grandmother / *grandfather* worked on American war planes in WW2.
- b) *Two American women* / *Barack's first wife* told Barack to go to America to study.
- c) Barack's father studied law at the *University of Hawaii* / *Harvard University*, but Ann and Barack didn't go with him.
- d) A person's race *was* / *wasn't* very important in Hawaii.
- e) Indonesia sounded *frightening* / *exciting* when Gramps talked about it.

2 Tick (✓) the things that happened when Barack was in Indonesia.

- a) Lolo's cook killed a crocodile in the back garden.
- b) Barack learned the Indonesian language easily.
- c) Lolo taught Barack how to fight bigger boys.
- d) Barack went to the International School in Jakarta.
- e) Ann and Lolo had a new baby daughter.
- f) Ann taught Barack about black history.

3 Who do you think is saying these things?

- a) 'Let's move to Hawaii. It's a beautiful place to live.' *Gramps and Toot*
- b) 'I hate my job. It's so boring.'
- c) 'When we arrive in Jakarta, Barry, Lolo will meet us at the airport.'
- d) 'The house isn't finished, but I've got lots of pets for you, Barry – even a monkey!'

- e) 'This boy is going to be a leader one day.'
- f) 'I had a great summer in Hawaii with Gramps and Toot – the ice cream and comics were great!'
- g) 'It's 4 am – time to get up!'

4 Read about Indonesia on page 14. Work with a partner. One of you works at the Indonesian tourist board. The other wants to go there for a visit. Ask and answer about these things.

- the islands
- the language
- what people eat
- the number of people living there
- the capital city
- things to see

Chapters 3–6

1 All these things happen in Barack's high school years. Put them in the right order.

- a) A letter comes from Kenya – Barack's father is coming to visit.
- b) Barack starts at Punahou Academy.
- c) Barack's class enjoys Dr Obama's talk.
- d) He gets a weekend job in a burger bar.
- e) He starts going to parties and taking life easy.
- f) He starts playing basketball.
- g) His mother Ann goes back to Hawaii for three years.

2 Read about Hawaii on page 20. Would you like to live there? Why/Why not?

3 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a) Barack did very badly in his high school exams.
- b) Barack hung out with mainly white students at Occidental College.
- c) Barack didn't believe that speeches could change the world.
- d) After moving to New York City, Barack became a new man – he exercised more, ate less and studied harder.
- e) Barack gave up a job with good pay to become a community worker.
- f) Barack easily found a job as a community worker.
- g) Lots of important people were interested in Ruby's worries about her son.
- h) People in Altgeld liked Barack's street corner meetings.

4 Work with a partner. You are community workers in Altgeld. You hear the news that Barack is leaving. Have a conversation. Start like this:

- A: Have you heard? Barack is leaving.
- B: No, I didn't know, but I'm not surprised ...

5 Imagine you are Barack Obama. Write about your feelings at these times:

- a) your first day at Punahou Academy (page 15)
- b) meeting your father (page 16)
- c) at the college party (page 22)
- d) when the new MET office opened in Altgeld (page 27)
- e) meeting Auma at Chicago airport (page 30)

Chapters 7–10

1 Barack's father died in 1982. Complete this newspaper story about his life. Use these words.

better business car died five freely government
Hawaii job ~~Kenya~~ tenth troublemaker

Barack Obama was born in a) *Kenya*. He studied at the Universities of b) and Harvard. After c) years in America, he went back to Kenya as Dr Barack Obama. In Nairobi, he worked first for a big American d) and then for President Kenyatta's e) But Dr Obama spoke too f) about politics. President Kenyatta thought he was a g) and Dr Obama lost his job. He couldn't get a good h) after that. But when President Kenyatta i), Dr Obama was able to start again with a j) job and a new girlfriend. They had a son George, Dr Obama's k) child. But then he died suddenly in a l) accident.

2 Circle the correct words in *italics* in these sentences.

- Barack *liked* / *didn't like* Michelle the first time he saw her.
- Michelle *didn't think much of* / *really liked* Barack when they first met.
- Their first date went *well* / *badly*.
- Michelle *was* / *wasn't* surprised when Barack asked her to marry him.
- Barack and Michelle married in *Kenya* / *Chicago*.
- Michelle is *always* / *never* in magazine lists of the world's best-dressed women.

3 Answer these questions in your notebook.

- Did Barack's first book sell well when it first came out?
No, not many people bought it.
- What happened in Barack and Michelle's lives on Independence Day, 1998?
- Which speech made Barack famous around the world?
- Barack had a new way of doing politics – how was it different?
- Did Barack's second book sell well?
- What did Barack do for luck on Election Day, 2008?
- What did Barack and Michelle do in the evening of 20th January, 2009?

4 Imagine you and a friend are in the crowd at Barack Obama's inauguration on 20th January, 2009. Have a conversation. Talk about being at the event, about Barack, the crowd, the weather, the future.

FINAL TASKS

1 Choose an important day in Barack's life. Write a blog entry for Barack Obama on that day.

2 Make a timeline of Barack's life. Choose the most important events, put the dates on a long line and write a caption for each of the dates.

3 Has Barack Obama been a good president so far, do you think? What has he done that you liked? What has he done that you didn't like? Talk to other students.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Look at the 'New Words' at the back of Barack Obama. Find words to complete these sentences.

- The *president* is the head of the USA.
- A tries to change things for people in his or her area.
- In a group of people, the person with the strongest ideas often becomes the
- A decides how to spend its country's money.
- A helps you if you are in trouble with the police.
- Sports companies often use famous sportspeople in their TV and newspaper
- Do you have in your house about doing the washing up and feeding the pets?
- Hawaii's top wave is called 'the Big One'.
- The Maasai are Kenya's most famous
- Have you ever run a 100m ? Did you win?
- In the USA you can when you are 18.
- There were two world in the twentieth century. The USA fought in both wars.
- Alaska is the largest in the United States.
- Who would be the best in an election for 'Leader of the World'?
- The Republican was started by Thomas Jefferson in 1792.
- The of the United States of America starts in 1776.
- Will you vote in your country's next ?
- Martin Luther King made a very famous called 'I Have a Dream'.
- Who has the most in your country – the Church, the government or the army?

Casual language

- 'We clicked right away!' (p.37). Michelle means that she and Barack thought and felt the same about things from the first moment.
- 'She's a looker!' (p.38). This is something people used to say – it's no longer a very fashionable word. Gramps means that Michelle is good-looking.

Complete the sentences with the casual language.

- A: What do you think of my boy/girlfriend?
B:
- My boy/girlfriend and I met at a party.

BLACK HISTORY IN THE USA: SLAVERY (pages 24–5) AND SEGREGATION (pages 28–9)

I want to know ...

Divide the class into six groups. Hand out the following topics, one to each group: life for slaves in 17th century America; the American Civil War; segregation; Rosa Parks; Martin Luther King; Malcolm X.

Discuss each topic with the class and ask all the students to ask questions about the topic that they would like answered, for example: *I want to know how many slaves came to America in the 17th century. I want to know who assassinated Martin Luther King.*

Groups write down all the questions for their topic and bring their answers to the next lesson.

Time line

Students choose a history topic related to their own country. They present the topic as a timeline, choosing, say, five key dates and writing a short caption to go with each date.

Class play

If students are motivated by the story of Rosa Parks, get the class or groups to research more information about the story. They then write and produce a short play dramatising the events on the Montgomery bus. This event is especially significant because it started the Civil Rights movement.

FAMOUS PRESIDENTS (pages 48–9)

Profile of a president

Students choose one of the other 43 US presidents and write a profile of them, using the Fact File profiles as a model. We have selected three famous presidents for the Fact File; other interesting and controversial presidents include Woodrow Wilson (28th), Herbert Hoover (31st), Franklin D. Roosevelt (32nd), Richard Nixon (37th) and George W. Bush (43rd).

INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE (pages 50–1)

Inside your house

Students present where they live as a magazine-style article. They find or draw a picture of their house. They write a short introduction saying how long they have lived there and anything interesting, e.g. who lived there before, when the building was built. They choose five or six locations within their home or surrounding area, and write a short caption for each one. They arrange the captions around the image, and draw lines locating each one on the image.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT OBAMA (pages 52–3)

One-minute interview

Students use the information in the Fact File to write an interview between a journalist and the president, working in as many different events as they can. The president is in a hurry, though, so the journalist has only one minute to complete the interview. Pairs rehearse their interviews, and then act them out for the class.

CD FOLLOW-UP

Listening for key words

Choose five key words or phrases from a chapter of the reader. Write them on the board. Ask students to write down one piece of information to go with each of the key words while they listen. Example: Chapter 6: 1. *Chicago Airport* 2. *Germany* 3. *Death of President Kenyatta* 4. *'the most beautiful place'* 5. *Harvard Law School*

Possible answers: 1. Barack meets his half-sister Auma for the first time there. 2. Auma is studying there. 3. Dr Obama, Barack's father, was able to get a job again. 4. Their grandfather's land in Kenya. 5. Barack decides to study there.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 56–8)

- 1 a) surfing b) argument c) war d) tribe e) race
- 2 a) Kenya b) Los Angeles c) Hawaii d) Washington, D.C. e) Chicago
- 3 Open answers.
- 4 a) At the University of Hawaii. b) The didn't have enough money. c) Lolo Soetoro, from Indonesia. d) A chicken. e) She wanted to give him more English lessons. f) There was only one other black pupil in the class, and everyone laughed at Barack's name. g) Barack's father wanted him to study, not to watch TV.
- 5 Open answers.
- 6 a) history b) states c) law d) speech e) power f) campaign g) community
- 7 Open answers.
- 8 a) F. They talked about classes, jobs and going on dates. b) F. He loved making speeches, and he was good at it. c) T d) F. He walked around black Harlem but he didn't know where he would fit in. e) T f) F. People came to street corner meetings, and the Mayor's office opened a 'MET' office in Altgeld. g) F. They have the same father but different mothers. h) T i) F. It was after three years.
- 9 Open answers.
- 10 a) Aunt Zeituni b) His grandmother (Granny) c) Michelle Robinson d) They loved her. Gramps thought she was good-looking and Toot thought she was sensible. e) Not being with his mother when she died.
- 11 a) election b) vote c) candidates d) parties
- 12 The correct order is: d, b, f, g, c, e, h, a.
- 13 *Possible answers:*
 - When Lolo's cook killed a chicken, Barack learnt a lesson about real life.
 - When Regina told Barack a story about Mexican cleaners, he learnt to see life through other people's eyes.
 - He learnt that his father was dead from the surprise phone call from Aunt Jane.
 - Auma drove him around Nairobi in a Volkswagen car this kind of car on his first visit to Africa.
 - Barack and Michelle found that they liked the same kind of music, e.g. Stevie Wonder.
 - The American people chose Barack Obama as their new president on 4th November, 2008.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and Places

- b) Indonesia c) Gramps, Toot d) Kenya e) two f) four
g) Chicago h) White House

Chapters 1–2

- 1 b) Two American women c) Harvard University d) wasn't e) exciting
- 2 These things happened: c, e and f.
- 3 b) Barack's father c) Barack's mother d) Lolo e) Barack's teacher f) Barack g) Barack's mother

Chapters 3–6

- 1 The correct order is: b, a, c, d, g, f, e.
- 2 Open answers.
- 3 T: c, d, e, h F: a, b, f, g

4–5 Open answers.

Chapters 7–10

- 1 b) Hawaii c) five d) business e) government f) freely g) troublemaker h) job i) died j) better k) tenth l) car
- 2 b) didn't think much of c) well d) was e) Chicago f) always
- 3 b) Their first child was born. c) His 2004 speech to the Democratic Party. d) He liked to work with politicians from other parties, not against them. e) Yes, it was No.1 in the *New York Times* list. f) He played basketball. g) They went to ten different parties.
- 4 Open answers.

Vocabulary Builder

2. politician 3. leader 4. government 5. lawyer 6. campaigns
7. arguments 8. surfing 9. tribe 10. race 11. vote 12. wars
13. state 14. candidate 15. party 16. history 17. election
18. speech 19. power

Casual Language

1. We clicked right away! 2. She's/He's a looker!