Name: Kayla Landers Color: Purplish

Name: Michael Guthrie Color: Greenish

Name: Color:

Name: Color:

Topic of Research:

How Obama’s life influenced his decisions and policies…

Group’s Stance/claims:

Obama’s childhood influenced his entrance into politics. His ideology was formed in part by his liberal grandparents and mother. He spent much of his life searching for his identity and found that identity in politics. The connections he was able to form with others provided him with a mirror into himself. His early life organizing created the foundation of his beliefs and joining the Illinois State Legislature, the US Senate, and eventually becoming President expounded upon these beliefs.

Works Cited

1. Dreams from my Father (Book)
   1. Page 56-57
      1. Talks about Toot and Stanley. Conflicts in marriage because Toot made more money than Stanley.
         1. Possibly shaping Obama’s progressivism regarding women’s rights, equal pay.
   2. Page 58
      1. Got into middle school because of affirmative action, but not because of race. Instead because of Stanley’s boss’ intervention.
         1. Possibly shaping Obama’s position on affirmative action.
   3. Page 67
      1. Talks about Obama’s early view of his father, particularly his effect on others.
         1. Shaping the way Obama leads. Trying to emulate his dad.
   4. Page 85
      1. After driving his friends home from party realization of the relationship between blacks and whites.
   5. Page 88-89
      1. Toot becomes afraid of man at bus stop because he’s black. Stanley upset. Obama’s realizing the relationship between blacks and whites.
   6. Page 90
      1. Talking to grandfather’s friend (Frank) about Toot and man at bus stop. Frank says whites can never “know” blacks because they will never experience the same sorts of “humiliations.”
         1. Shaping Obama’s belief in descriptive representation?
   7. Page 93-94
      1. Talks about experience with drugs. Used the high to “hide from” his identity. When smoking no one questions whether you’re black or white, you blend in with everyone else.
   8. Page 95
      1. “They were relieved-- such a surprise to find a well-mannered young black man who didn’t seem angry all the time.”
   9. Page 97
      1. Talks about the “real price of admission” into college. The challenge of maintaining your culture. Frank says you leave your race at the door and that you are not learning in college you are being trained. You are a token because of being black.
   10. Page 98-100
       1. The general of being black. Would rather not identify as black for fear of being labeled as less than. So once educated does not associate with blacks. Minorities would rather assimilate to the majority. The majority willing to accept a few “exotics” (minority and educated.
   11. Page 105
       1. Obama’s desire to have words that influence people as he realized people actually listened to him. (This is in college when he first began to organize)
          1. His first introduction to politics. Influenced him to pursue politics.
   12. Page 106-107
       1. Giving a speech at his college for a rally. Remembered when dad spoke to his class about Kenya. He captivated the class. Wanted to emulate that. Felt he had a purpose to pursue. At the end of it he felt deflated that he didn’t/couldn’t have enough influence. Felt like a puppet. He was on the outside preaching about something he couldn’t understand. Feeling of being a puppet.
   13. Page 111
       1. “My identity might begin with the fact of my race, but it didn’t, couldn’t end there. At least that’s what I chose to believe.”
   14. Page 124
       1. “The emotions between the races could never be pure; even love was tarnished by the desire to find in the other some element that was missing in ourselves. Whether we sought our demons or our salvation, the other race would always remain just that: menacing, alien, and apart.”
   15. Page 133-134
       1. Talks about how the people in his life and his experiences inspired his interest and participation in organizing.
          1. Reasoning behind entrance into politics.
   16. Page 135-136
       1. Man telling Obama to give up on organizing. “Can’t help people who have no chance”
          1. Inspired him to work harder?
   17. Page 138
       1. Auma brings news of David’s death and struggles in Kenya and a few months later Obama quits job at accounting firm and starts looking for organizing job.
          1. Seeing challenges his family faced inspired him to was to have a real world influence and the first step was organizing
   18. Page 142
       1. “Marty put his glasses back on and met my stare. ‘It’s not a question of fault,’ he said. ‘It’s a question of whether any politician, even somebody with Harold’s talent, can do much to break the cycle. A polarized city isn’t necessarily a bad thing for a politician. Black or white.’”
          1. Maybe didn’t influence him to get into politics, but offered “advice” for his campaigning for the Presidency?
   19. Page 147-148
       1. Talks about how important the election of Harold (the first black Mayor of Chicago) was for black people.
          1. Maybe Obama wanted to emulate that. Become a beacon of pride for his race/community.
   20. Page 152
       1. Talks about an organizing event. Whites and blacks came together to discuss a common issue. Obama discusses how in that moment he realized that people are willing to discuss what’s important, but it is necessary to give everyone a “seat at the table.”
          1. Became one of his campaign slogans in 2008.
   21. Page 171
       1. Talking to Angela, Mona, Shirley, and Mary about them quitting. Asks questions about who is going to take care of the children of Chicago.
          1. That motivation of making sure everyone has equal opportunity and is “taken care of” = motivation for continuing in politics. The “if not me, who?” attitude.
   22. Page 185
       1. Finished meeting with the MET. Success.
          1. Gave him the motivation and confidence he could make changes.
   23. Page 188, 190-191
       1. Talks about the connections he made with the people he was organizing for and what they taught him.
          1. Taught him the importance of connections with the people leader is servicing. You can be more effective in your service with a personal relationship. Influenced the way he lead because adopted a personal approach. At the same time can teach him about himself.
   24. Page 192-195
       1. Right after Ruby shows Barack her blue eye contacts. Begins to discuss blacks hatred of themselves and culture. The insecurity of the self to fit in and not draw attention. Also discredits the idea that lack of self-esteem is the root of all the issues within the race. Instead the situations and challenges that blacks face = lack of self esteem. Not the other way around. Lack of self esteem is not causal to… With basics tended to (education, healthcare, etc.) one can search for their own self worth.
   25. Page 198-199
       1. Black nationalism = engaging in self-criticism while displacing the criticism upon whites. “Yes, you have a lot of problem… But it’s not your fault. It’s white people’s fault.” This is the flaw in nationalism. The need to blame. Further alienates the races. Obama suggests this frame of my mind weakens race and nation.
   26. Page 212-221
       1. Obama hears story of his father from Auma. Learns of his “fall from grace.” Realizes his dad wasn’t the perfect image he constructed for him in his mind.
          1. Having the image he used to have of his father shattered made him happy. The feeling of being held to an impossible standard = gone. A fear was also implanted: that he would succumb to the same fate as his father. (Make him more determined to be better than him? Inspired his quest to the presidency?)
   27. Page 227
       1. “Maybe it was connected to Auma’s visit and the news she had brought of the Old Man. Where once I’d felt the need to live up to his expectations, I now felt as if I had to make up for all his mistakes.”
          1. Inspiration for pursuing political positions, particularly Presidency. In a sense needed to be better than his father.
   28. Page 230
       1. “In a sense, then, Will was right: I did feel that there was something to prove-- to the people of Altgeld, to Marty, to my father, to myself. That what I did counted for something. That I wasn’t a fool chasing pipe dreams.”
          1. Inspired him to continue his pursuit of politics, to help people, to prove that his desire to be “great” was worth it. Prove something to the people that told him he was working towards a loss cause.
   29. Page 242
       1. After the bus ride with the parents about the asbestos. = Success.
          1. Obama cites this as an important change for him. It “spurred him forward” encouraging him that he could really make something happen. That belief that he could change things inspired his continual pursuit for public office.
   30. Page 292-295
       1. Audacity of hope sermon by Reverend Wright.
          1. First real cited connection with religion. Importance of having faith and hope in order to change things. Became campaign slogan: hope.
   31. Page 310-311
       1. In Africa with Auma. Reflecting on the naturalness of being himself. Didn’t have to question race or identity or how people would perceive you because. The feeling of being okay in own skin.
   32. Page 329-330
       1. Talks about the lack of access to necessities in Kenya. Also the betrayal and disloyalty that seemed to appear when black people tried to be successful. Feels as if betraying race. Obama faces this challenge. Auma faces this challenge.
          1. The lack of access influence politics in the sense that Obama wanted no one else to experience it. Lack of healthcare = Obamacare. Lack of access to education = educational initiatives taken by administration. Idea that his familial/personal experiences shaped his policy decisions/endeavors. For the struggle with loyalty to his race… maybe encouraged more self-reflection and analysis. Looking at himself as independent from these expectations? This independence making it easier to run for President?
   33. Page 338
       1. “Hearing my aunts traffic in such stereotypes, I would try to explain to them the error of their ways. ‘It’s thinking like that that holds us back,’ I would say. ‘We are all part of one tribe. The black tribe. The human tribe. Look what tribalism has done to places like Nigeria or Liberia.”
          1. Idea that in order to be successful as a “tribe” (nation), must all work together. Cannot be a separation between race, socioeconomic status, etc.. Must look beyond that. Campaign slogan in 2008 “Yes WE can.”
   34. Page 352-353
       1. Talking to Francis (Kenyan?) about attitudes toward participating and helping community in Kenya. Poor afraid to pay taxes for fear doesn’t really go to them. Rich would rather not participate if doesn’t have to. Every man for himself.
          1. Obama finds flaws in that attitude. Put handicap on success. → campaign emphasized the importance of togetherness (Everyone having seat at the table, together we can, yes we can)
   35. Page 429
       1. Crying over father’s grave hoping he will not become tiles in the ground without a name.
          1. Inspiration to stay focused? Make a difference without making the mistakes his father made? Becoming someone great? Dreams to become President.

2. Audacity of Hope (Book)

1. Page 1
   1. During Senate race describing his campaign tactics. Did not have the benefit of money like incumbents so talked to anyone he could.
      1. Learned this from organizing when he was young. The best way to make an impact is to make connections with the people you want to represent. Learn what they are passionate about.
2. Page 2
   1. Obama’s campaign platform. The idea that we are different, but the same and if we commit to solving the core issues something meaningful can be done.
      1. Learned this from organizing when young. He saw the ideas that drove people apart so he made a commitment to focus on what brings people together?
3. “...that every man is trying to either live up to his father’s expectations or make up for his father’s mistakes, and I suppose that ay explain my particular malady as well…” (page 3).
   1. Talks about this after discussing his failure in his first political campaign.
      1. In *Dreams From My Father* Obama struggles to live up to the image he had of his father. His dad was a leader and able to influence people so he tried to cultivate those qualities in himself. Once Auma told him of his father’s demise he wanted to make up for his dad’s failures, finish what his Dad started. The pressure to be the exact image of his father was replaced with the pressure of being different from his father.
4. Page 6
   1. Talks about listening to the issues the people had no matter how small or seemingly irrelevant in order to make connections.
      1. Learned this from organizing-- the importance of connections.
5. “In the world’s greatest deliberative body, no one is listening” (page 15)
6. Page 17
   1. If he reached the voters directly and focused on the matters that are important to them eventually they would come around.
      1. In *Dreams From My Father,* Obama describes the conversation with Angela, Mona, Shirley, about them wanting to quit because nothing seemed to be working. Obama asked them who was going to take care of the boy outside. He personalized the issue to gain their commitments. Became his “political strategy”-- personalizing the issues and drawing in voters based on the shared stories, issues, concerns.
7. “No what’s troubling is the gap between the magnitude of our challenges and the smallness of our politics-- the ease with which we are distracted by the petty and the trivial, our chronic avoidance of tough decisions, our seeming inability to build a working consensus to tackle any big problem” (page 22).

3. Barry (Documentary)

1. [**Barry**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6863919/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): You know, every time I open my mouth in class, it's like... I'm supposed to speak on behalf of all Black people. Meanwhile, I, uh... I quit going to Black Student Union meetings because I didn't feel like I belong there either. [**Ann Dunham**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000171/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): The world is a big place, honey. You'll find your way.

4. Barack Obama: Life Before the Presidency. (n.d.). Retrieved April 19, 2017, from https://millercenter.org/president/obama/life-before-the-presidency

1. Obama's mother, who "to the end of her life [in 1995] would proudly proclaim herself an unreconstructed liberal," deeply admired the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s and taught her son, he later wrote, that "To be black was to be the beneficiary of a great inheritance, a special destiny, glorious burdens that only we were strong enough to bear."

5.https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-44th-president-was-his-mothers-son/2012/05/11/gIQA6NV1IU\_story.html?utm\_term=.67153f73c6b0

6.Kantor, J. (2007, January 27). In Law School, Obama Found Political Voice. Retrieved April 19, 2017, from <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/28/us/politics/28obama.html>

1. As the ribbing in the Revue suggests, Mr. Obama was realizing the power of his own biography. He proved deft at navigating an institution scorched with ideological battles, many of which revolved around race. He developed a leadership style based more on furthering consensus than on imposing his own ideas. Surrounded by students who enjoyed the sound of their own voices, Mr. Obama cast himself as an eager listener, sometimes giving warring classmates the impression that he agreed with all of them at once.

7. <http://obamaspeeches.com/>

1. Summary: “On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord. On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics.”

8. https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/27/magazine/the-speech-that-made-obama.html?\_r=0

1. Summary: “The speech became a touchstone of national unity and a soaring manifesto of hope that would form the foundation of his 2008 presidential campaign. It would also represent, strikingly, the exact opposite tenor of Obama’s two terms in office. He is no longer a flavor of the month, and today’s flavor is a very different one of division.”

9. <http://www.ontheissues.org/Barack_Obama.htm>

1. Obama is a liberal/Democrat. Use his childhood to justify his positions on policies.

10.Barack Obama. (2017, January 31). Retrieved April 19, 2017, from <http://www.biography.com/people/barack-obama-12782369>

1. Similar to Dreams From My Father. Use events to justify why he wanted to be in politics.

Source Integration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rhetorical and/or historical context**: Introduce the source, the author’s name, and comments about the author. | The source of the quote is Obama's book titled, Dreams From My Father. The author of the book is Barack Obama, this is a book about his life from childhood to his presidency. He explains all of his experiences and how they had influenced him in his life decisions. |
| **Citation**: Provide a paraphrase or direct quotation. (Begin with a verb and end with a parenthetical citation.) | Obama identified that he “did feel that there was something to prove-- to the people of Altgeld, to Marty, to my father, to myself…hat what I did counted for something. That I wasn’t a fool chasing pipe dreams” (p. 101). |
| **Citation’s importance**: Comment on why this part of the text is important, relevant to the prompt, or significant in some other way. | This is an important part of the text because I think it shows his true intentions. It shows how he was trying to prove to others that he can accomplish his dreams and that they aren't just dreams, but they are something bigger. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rhetorical and/or historical context**: Introduce the source, the author’s name, and comments about the author. | The source of the quote if from *The New York Times*. The author of this article is Jodi Kantor, she is a New York Times correspondent whose work has covered the workplace, technology, and gender. |
| **Citation**: Provide a paraphrase or direct quotation. (Begin with a verb and end with a parenthetical citation.) | She contends “he developed a leadership style based more on furthering consensus than on imposing his own ideas…” (Kantor, ) |
| **Citation’s importance**: Comment on why this part of the text is important, relevant to the prompt, or significant in some other way. | I think that this quote shows how he is trying to show the people that he isn't trying to force his ideas on them. It shows that he is showing he wants his opinion to be everyone's opinion. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rhetorical and/or historical context**: Introduce the source, the author’s name, and comments about the author. | In *Audacity of Hope*, by Barack Obama identifies his motivations behind being a senator. |
| **Citation**: Provide a paraphrase or direct quotation. (Begin with a verb and end with a parenthetical citation.) | Obama asserts, “ every man is trying to either live up to his father’s expectations or make up for his father’s mistakes, and I suppose that may explain my particular malady as well…” (p. 3). |
| **Citation’s importance**: Comment on why this part of the text is important, relevant to the prompt, or significant in some other way. | While it is important for Obama to lead for reasons such as helping others and improving the world, he also had solely personal motivations to be as great as and better than his father. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rhetorical and/or historical context**: Introduce the source, the author’s name, and comments about the author. | In *Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama, Obama explains the people and isolated events that help mold his ideology and entrance into politics. |
| **Citation**: Provide a paraphrase or direct quotation. (Begin with a verb and end with a parenthetical citation.) | Obama identifies that his grandparents “vaguely liberal” ideology helped mold his own. Since he lived with them much of his developmental years, they were the greatest agents of socialization (1995). |
| **Citation’s importance**: Comment on why this part of the text is important, relevant to the prompt, or significant in some other way. | Obama’s childhood is where, unconsciously, his ideology began to form. Thus, as he entered politics the imprint of his liberalized youth became his platform. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rhetorical and/or historical context**: Introduce the source, the author’s name, and comments about the author. | In *Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama, Obama discussed the importance of change and where the stimulus to change lies. |
| **Citation**: Provide a paraphrase or direct quotation. (Begin with a verb and end with a parenthetical citation.) | Obama identified that “change won't come from the top, change will come from mobilized grassroots” (1995). |
| **Citation’s importance**: Comment on why this part of the text is important, relevant to the prompt, or significant in some other way. | His conviction that a “mobilized grassroots” is what will be causal to change was his motivation to begin organizing while in college. At this time he didn’t hold a political office, but realized that he needed to be the change he sought. By organizing he encouraged that grassroots to be active participants in the changing process. |

Vocab:

1. Brevity - (n) shortness of duration
2. Grist - (n) useful material, especially to back up an argument
3. Pundit (n) a learned person, an expert or an authority
4. Nihilism- (n) the belief that all existence is senseless and there’s no possibility of an objective basis for truth
5. Apocryphal - (adj) of doubtful authenticity, although widely circulated as being true
6. Veracity - (n) conformity to fact, accuracy
7. Miscegenation - (n) interbreeding of people believed to be of different racial types
8. Opine - (v) hold and state as one’s opinion
9. Peripatetic - (adj) travelling from place to place especially working or based in various places for relatively short periods of time
10. Bohemian - (n) person who has informal and unconventional social habits, especially an artist or writer
11. Parochialism - (n) limited or narrow outlook especially focused on a local area; narrow mindedness
12. Epithet - (n) an abusive or contemptuous word, phrase, or expression
13. Proselytize - (v) to attempt to convert someone to another opinion, religious belief, etc
14. Parley - (n) discussion; conference
15. Resumption - (n) a continuance after interruption
16. Pugnacious (adj) - inclined to quarrel or fight readily
17. Coronet - (n) a small crown worn by nobles or peers
18. Plenary - (adj) full; complete
19. Contrivance - (n) a thing that is created skillfully and inventively to serve a particular purpose
20. Iconoclasm - (n) action of attacking or assertively rejecting cherished beliefs and institutions or established values and practices
21. Sagacious - (adj) having acute mental discernment and keen practical sense; shrewd
22. Injunction - (n) a command or order
23. Presentiment - (n) a feeling that something is about to happen especially evil
24. Affectation - (n) something artificial that is only fone for show and to impress others
25. Fustian - (n) pompous or pretentious speech or writing
26. Abeyance - (n) a temporary inactivity, cessation, or suspension
27. Abrogation - (n) abolishment
28. Vicissitude - (n) change in phases or variations
29. Obliquities - (n) deviations from moral rectitude or sound thinking
30. Corroborate - (v) confirm or give support to
31. Fastidious - (adj) hard to please
32. Ascendant - (n) a position of dominance
33. Temerity - (n) reckless boldness
34. Injudicious - (adj) Showing poor judgment; unwise
35. Intrepid - (adj) fearless; adventurous
36. Irascible - (adj) having or showing a tendency to be easily angered
37. Equivocal - (n) deliberately ambiguous
38. Ingratiating - (adj) intended to gain approval or favor
39. Punctiliousness - (adj) showing great attention to detail or correct behavior
40. Alacrity - (n) brisk and cheerful readiness
41. Sapience - (n) quality of being wise; wisdom
42. Ascetic - (adj) characterized by or suggesting the practice of severe self discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence
43. Recondite - (adj) little known; abstruse
44. Oracular - (adj) hard to interpret; enigmatic
45. Pithy - (adj) concise and forcefully expressive
46. Sagacious - (adj) having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgment; shrewd
47. Ineffable - (adj) to great or extreme to be expressed or described in words
48. Palatial - (adj) of or resembling a palace
49. Vitriol - (n) something highly caustic in effect
50. Zealous - (adj) full of or characterized by eager desire or fervor
51. Raillery - (n) food humored ridicule; banter

DOMF QUIZ QUESTIONS:

*1.Obama run a voter registraction project in?*

* + A. 1996
  + B. 1193
  + C. 1995
  + D. 1992
  + E. 1998

*2. He won the Democratic nomination for a seat as the U.S Senator from?*

* + A. New York
  + B. New Jersey
  + C. Illinois
  + D. Washington
  + E. California

*3. His father left Hawaii back in 1963, when he was?*

* + A. 2-year old
  + B. 5-year old
  + C. 7-year old
  + D. 11-year old
  + E. 12-year old

*4. His father was born in Kenya on the Shores of Lake Victoria in a place called?*

* + A. Marasabit
  + B. Alego
  + C. Mara
  + D. Eldoret
  + E. Wajir

*5. His grandfather's name was?*

* + A. Barack Obama
  + B. Berry Obama Barack
  + C. Husein Onyango Obama
  + D. Barack H. Obama
  + E. Obama Onyango Barack

*6.* ***His parents married in?***

* + A. 1960
  + B. 1966
  + C. 1972
  + D. 1979
  + E. 1980

*7. Obama Means?*

* + A. "Bad Boy"
  + B. "Blessed by God in Arabic"
  + C. "Burnning Spears"
  + D. Nothing
  + E. All of above

*8. Barack means?*

* + A. "Burnning Spears"
  + B. "Blessed by God in Arabic"
  + C. "Exellent Boy"
  + D. Nothing
  + E. All of above

*9. His father had gone to?*

* + A. Havard
  + B. UCF
  + C. Yale
  + D. Valencia
  + E. All of above

10. Obama studied law in?

* + A. Havard Law
  + B. Yale Law
  + C. UCF Law
  + D. Nothing
  + E. All of above

*11. He Graduated in?*

* + A. 1982
  + B. 1986
  + C. 1990
  + D. 1991
  + E. 1994

*12. His mother's name was?*

* + A. Mata Obama
  + B. Mata Barack
  + C. Maya Obama
  + D. Maya Dunham
  + E. Ann Dunham

*13. She died in?*

* + A. 1982
  + B. 1983
  + C. 1986
  + D. 1991
  + E. 2006

*14. She died from cancer at the a age of?*

* + A. 52
  + B. 63
  + C. 54
  + D. 42
  + E. 72

*15. Barack Obama Become the first Black President Of the Harvard Law Review in?*

* + A. 1998
  + B. 1990
  + C. 1991
  + D. 2006
  + E. 2007

*16. Obama comes back to the United States to live with his grandparents because he*

a.dislikes his parents

b. wants to live in Hawaii

c. has been accepted to a good school

d. wants to be with his grandparents

*17. What causes Obama's embarrassment on his first day of school?*

a. his classmates' questions about his father

b. Miss Hefty's questions about life in Kenya

c. Gramp's insistence that they arrive early

d. his betrayal of Coretta on the playground

*18. Which statement is a lie that Obama tells to several of his classmates?*

a. He and his mother once lived in Indonesia

b. His grandfather is a chief of his tribe in Kenya

c. His father has six children living in Kenya

d. He watches television all evening long

*19. A significant event in Obama's autobiography occurs when his family's reunion is marred because of*

a. an argument about watching television

b. a car accident that injures his father

c. his father's visit to Obama's school

d. lies that he tells about his father

*20. When Obama watches his father dance to African music, you can tell Obama feels connected because he*

a. accepts the records that his father gives him

b. fails to understand his father's gestures

c. shifts uncomfortably while listening

d. dances with his father

*21. The main reason that Obama looks forward to starting school at Punahou Academy is that*

a. he wants to find companions his own age

b. his new teacher had once lived in Kenya

c. his father attended the same school

d. he will be able to play soccer

*22. What is the effect of Miss Hefty's questions about Kenya as she talks with Obama in class?*

a. the class applauds heartily and accepts him

b. Obama becomes speechless with embarrassment

c. Obama eagerly explains the customs of his tribe

d. Coretta watches with a look of satisfaction

*23. Obama's relations with his classmates improve slightly after*

a. they learn his father was injured

b. Obama publicly rejects Coretta

c. he tells them that his father is a prince

d. they find out that he lives with his grandparents

*24. Obama's classmates are impressed with Obama's father because he*

a. encourages them to learn more about African tribes and customs

b. brings traditional African music and dances in the classroom

c. tells interesting stories and answers their questions seriously

d. informs them of Obama's family history in Kenya

*25. A key event in Obama's autobiography that brings him closer to his father occurs when his father*

a. gives him a basketball for Christmas

b. insists that Obama begin to study harder

c. takes him to the Dave Brubeck concert

d. shows him how to dance to dance to African music

SHORT ANSWER:

26. Why do you think Obama begins his memoir with him learning of his father's death?

27. How does his father's absence from much of his life affect Obama?

28. When Obama's father visits him in Hawaii, how does the man compare to Obama's prior image of him?

29. Why did he title the first section of the book "Origins"?

30. What roles did his other family members play in shaping Obama's youth, especially his grandparents, mother and stepfather?

31. In the first section of the book, Obama writes, "I learned to slip back and forth between my black and white worlds, understanding that each possessed its own language and customs and structures of meaning, convinced that with a bit of translation on my part the two worlds would eventually cohere." How does he "slip back and forth" between his worlds, and is he ever successful at making them cohere?

32. As a child, how does Obama come to learn about the existence of racism?

33. Why does Obama decide to become a community organizer?

34. What problems does he encounter in the Altgeld Gardens project? What factors does he talk about that contribute to these problems?

35. What successes do Obama and his group achieve in Chicago?

36. What does he learn during his years as a community organizer?

37. How does the visit from his sister Auma affect Obama's understanding of and attitude towards his father?

38. When Obama visits Trinity church, he picks up a brochure that makes a distinction between "middleincomeness" and "middleclassness." What is meant by those terms, and why is the distinction important? Why do you think Obama includes this?

39. What does he mean by the phrase "the audacity of hope"?

40. Why does he decide to go to Harvard law school?

41. When Obama goes to Kenya, what does he learn about his father's family?

42. How is his relationship with his African family the same or different from his relationship with his American family?

43. About his stay in Kenya, Obama writes that he felt that "a sense that everything i was doing, every touch and breath and word, carried the full weight of my life; that a circle was beginning to close, that I might finally recognize myself as I was, here, now, in one place." What does he mean by this?

44. How does his trip to Kenya change him?

45. Why do you think he titled the book *Dreams from My Father*? What dreams does he feel he received from his father? How did these dreams shape him?

46. Bonus question: Some editions of the book include Obama's keynote address from the 2004 Democratic Convention. How do the themes in that speech reflect the themes in his memoir?

47.Describe the difficulties Obama had as a child—not fitting in with white children and fearing social "out-casts."

48.Is it possible for any individual born of two ethnic origins to find a society in which he or she truly belongs? Think of recent authors who have struggled with similar issues: Amy Tan (Chinese), Jhumpa Lahiri (Indian), Louise Erdrich (Native American). Also consider the classics of African-American writers like Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*.

49.Discuss Obama's family. What about his mother—would you have liked more attention paid to her in this work? Also consider his grandparents and they role they played in his life.

50.When he makes his trip to Kenya, what does he come to understand about his father—and his own heritage.

Introduction

Title 1 center

Title 2

Title 3

Other Perspectives

Conclusions