

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Barack Obama writes children's book

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens\\_books.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens_books.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**17th September, 2010**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens\\_books.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens_books.html)

U.S. president Barack Obama has written a children's book. It is called "Of Thee I Sing" and is about 13 of President Obama's American heroes, including baseball great Jackie Robinson and President George Washington. The book has a sub-title: "A Letter to My Daughters". White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the book is "an inspirational book about the country [Obama's daughters] live in, and about their ability and the ability for children throughout [America] to...dream big and accomplish whatever they want to."

The book is addressed to President Obama's two daughters Malia and Sasha, but they will not be part of its release on November 16th. The front cover of the book has a painting of the two girls taking their dog Bo for a walk. President Obama does his best to keep his children out of the spotlight. He wants them to grow up normally. It must be worrying for a parent to think that the world's photographers want to take photos of their children. It's a good thing President Obama is keeping his girls out of the public eye.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens\\_books.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens_books.html)

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 13 of President Obama's | a. title           |
| 2. baseball great          | b. book            |
| 3. The book has a sub-     | c. secretary       |
| 4. White House press       | d. they want to    |
| 5. an inspirational        | e. American heroes |
| 6. accomplish whatever     | f. Jackie Robinson |

## Paragraph 2

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. part of its release      | a. normally          |
| 2. two girls taking their   | b. of their children |
| 3. grow up                  | c. for a parent      |
| 4. It must be worrying      | d. the public eye    |
| 5. take photos              | e. on November 16th  |
| 6. keeping his girls out of | f. dog Bo for a walk |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens\\_books.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens_books.html)

U.S. president Barack Obama \_\_\_\_\_ book. It is called "Of Thee I Sing" and is about 13 of President Obama's American heroes, \_\_\_\_\_ Jackie Robinson and President George Washington. The \_\_\_\_\_: "A Letter to My Daughters". White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the book is "\_\_\_\_\_ about the country [Obama's daughters] live in, and \_\_\_\_\_ the ability for children throughout [America] to...dream big and accomplish \_\_\_\_\_ to."

The book is addressed to President Obama's two daughters Malia and Sasha, but they \_\_\_\_\_ its release on November 16th. The \_\_\_\_\_ has a painting of the two \_\_\_\_\_ Bo for a walk. President Obama does his best to keep his children out of the spotlight. He wants them to \_\_\_\_\_. It must \_\_\_\_\_ a parent to think that the world's photographers want to take photos of their children. It's a good thing President Obama is keeping his girls out \_\_\_\_\_.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens\\_books.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens_books.html)

U.S. president Barack Obama has (1) \_\_\_\_ a children's book. It is called "Of Thee I Sing" and is about 13 of President Obama's American (2) \_\_\_\_, including baseball great Jackie Robinson and President George Washington. The book has a (3) \_\_\_\_-title: "A Letter to My Daughters". White House (4) \_\_\_\_ secretary Robert Gibbs said the book is "an inspirational book about the country [Obama's daughters] live in, and about their (5) \_\_\_\_ and the ability for children throughout [America] to...dream big and accomplish whatever they want (6) \_\_\_\_."

The book is (7) \_\_\_\_ to President Obama's two daughters Malia and Sasha, but they will not be part (8) \_\_\_\_ its release on November 16th. The front cover of the book has a painting of the two girls (9) \_\_\_\_ their dog Bo for a walk. President Obama does his best to keep his children out of the spotlight. He wants them to grow up (10) \_\_\_\_\_. It must be (11) \_\_\_\_ for a parent to think that the world's photographers want to take photos of their children. It's a good thing President Obama is keeping his girls out of the public (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |               |              |               |
|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) writing   | (b) written  | (c) write     |
| 2.  | (a) hero      | (b) heroes   | (c) heroism   |
| 3.  | (a) sub       | (b) pub      | (c) rub       |
| 4.  | (a) iron      | (b) push     | (c) press     |
| 5.  | (a) able      | (b) ability  | (c) ably      |
| 6.  | (a) to        | (b) so       | (c) by        |
| 7.  | (a) mailed    | (b) written  | (c) addressed |
| 8.  | (a) off       | (b) from     | (c) of        |
| 9.  | (a) taking    | (b) walking  | (c) talking   |
| 10. | (a) normality | (b) normally | (c) normalize |
| 11. | (a) worrying  | (b) worried  | (c) worry     |
| 12. | (a) ear       | (b) mouth    | (c) eye       |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens\\_books.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens_books.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. ietrntw a children's book
2. Obama's American seorhe
3. The book has a sub- lteit
4. White House rspse secretary
5. about their liitbya
6. drema big

## Paragraph 2

7. its arseele on November 16th
8. The front cvreo
9. out of the liposhttg
10. grow up larmolny
11. It must be nigoyrrw
12. out of the plibuc eye

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens\\_books.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1009/100917-childrens_books.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) "an inspirational book about the country [Obama's daughters] live in, and about their ability and the ability
- ( ) walk. President Obama does his best to keep his children out of the spotlight. He wants them to grow up
- ( ) The book is addressed to President Obama's two daughters Malia and Sasha, but they will not be part of its release
- ( ) normally. It must be worrying for a parent to think that the world's photographers want to
- ( ) The book has a sub-title: "A Letter to My Daughters". White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the book is
- ( ) take photos of their children. It's a good thing President Obama is keeping his girls out of the public eye.
- ( **1** ) U.S. president Barack Obama has written a children's book. It is called "Of Thee I Sing" and is about 13
- ( ) for children throughout [America] to...dream big and accomplish whatever they want to."
- ( ) of President Obama's American heroes, including baseball great Jackie Robinson and President George Washington.
- ( ) on November 16th. The front cover of the book has a painting of the two girls taking their dog Bo for a

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. children's has a book Obama written.

---

2. book The title - sub a has.

---

3. book the inspirational about country An.

---

4. The Obama's live country daughters in.

---

5. whatever Accomplish to want they.

---

6. part They of will its not release be.

---

7. walk girls dog a Two their for taking Bo.

---

8. his Keep spotlight the of out children.

---

9. must It parent a for worrying be.

---

10. his girls out of the public eye Obama is keeping.

---



## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. CHILDREN'S BOOKS:** Search the Internet and find more information about children's books. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about President Obama's book. Include imaginary interviews with Obama and his children. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. HEROES LETTER:** Write a letter to President Obama. Ask him three questions about his book. Tell him about three of your heroes. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.