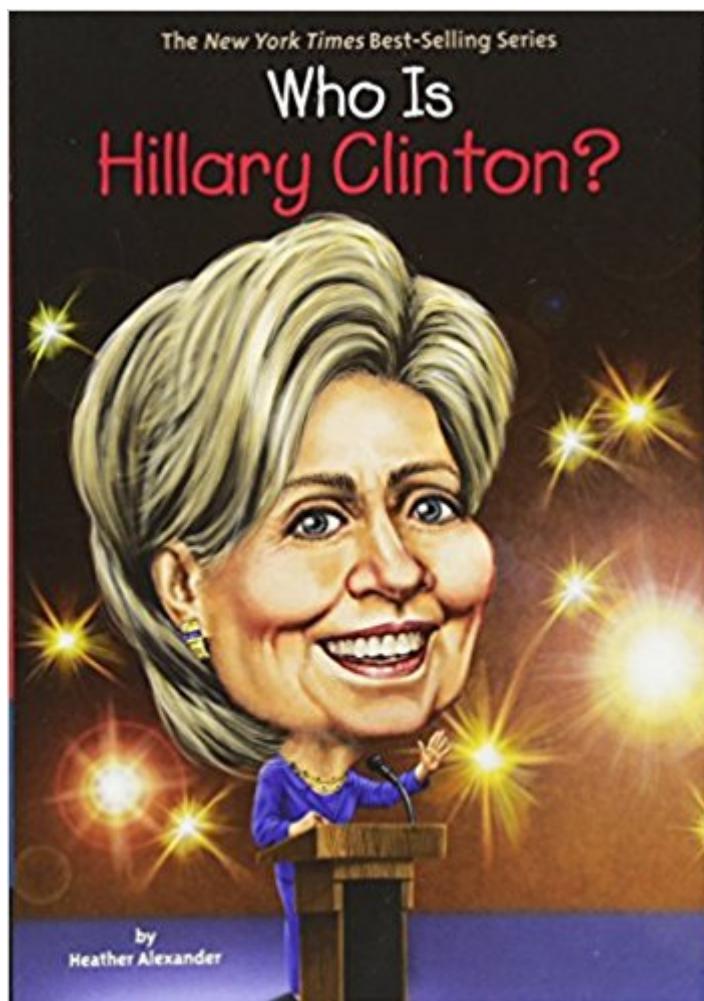


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Who Is Hillary Clinton? (Who Was?)



Synopsis

Who Is Hillary Clinton? Readers of our New York Times best-selling series can find out now! At age fourteen, Hillary Clinton thought it would be thrilling to become an astronaut, so she sent an application to NASA. The reply was a flat out rejection: the space program didn't take women. It was a critical moment for the young girl, one that made her realize the world she lived in needed changing and that she had better try to make those changes happen. Clinton's life has been a thrilling series of firsts—First Lady of the US, then first First Lady to become a US Senator, Secretary of State, and possibly the first woman to run as the Democratic candidate for President. This easy-to-read biography gives readers a firm grounding not only in Clinton's life history but the history of the times in which she's lived. It comes out as she makes her historic run for the White House.

Book Information

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Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Heather Alexander has written numerous books for children, including the nonfiction *A Child's Introduction to Art* and *A Child's Introduction to Greek Mythology*, and the fiction series *The Amazing Stardust Friends*. She is a former children's book editor and lives in New Jersey.

Who Is Hillary Clinton?  When Hillary Rodham was thirteen years old, she wanted to become an astronaut. It was 1961. In one of his speeches, President John F. Kennedy promised that American astronauts would land on the moon by the end of the 1960s. Hillary dreamed of flying into outer space.  The idea was exciting and challenging, and that made Hillary want to do it even more. Hillary was not afraid of doing things few people had tried. So she wrote a letter to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). NASA is in charge of the United States' space program. She asked what she needed to do to become an astronaut.  Several weeks later, a letter came. It read:  "We're not interested in women astronauts."  How could this be? Hillary was as smart, if not smarter, than any boy at school. She played softball with the boys. Why did being a girl matter?  "It was the first time I had hit an obstacle I couldn't overcome with hard work and determination, and I was outraged," said Hillary.  But when Hillary was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, women faced many obstacles. They didn't have nearly the number of career choices that women do today. Back then, if a woman worked outside the home, she was usually a secretary, nurse, or teacher. Back then, women couldn't even buy a house or open a bank account in their own name. Society treated women as weaker and less intelligent than men.  Hillary promised that she would never let being a girl stop her from anything.  In April of 2015, she announced that she would run for president in 2016. It was the second time she decided to try to become the leader of the United States. And she was determined to win. Although she never became an astronaut, she has never stopped reaching for the stars.     Chapter 1:  Standing Up for Herself  Hillary Diane Rodham was born on October 26, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois. Her dad, Hugh, owned a small business that made curtains. Her mother, Dorothy, stayed at home, taking care of Hillary and her two younger brothers, Hugh Jr. and Tony. Dorothy Rodham was a strong, loving woman, but she felt there had been many limits on what she could do with her life. She wanted more for her daughter.  When Hillary was three years old, her family moved to a brick house with a big backyard in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge. There were forty-seven kids in her neighborhood! Front doors were left open, and kids ran in and out of everyone's houses. People often called Hillary a tomboy. She loved playing softball and basketball, going swimming, and ice-skating on a nearby pond with her friends.  One day the kids on the block wouldn't let her play with them. Hillary ran home in tears. But her mother wouldn't let her in.  "You have to stand up for yourself," her mother told her. She sent Hillary back outside. Hillary was scared. But she did stand up for herself—and it worked! After that, she was included in every game.  Hillary's father pushed her to do

her best. "Can you do better than that?" he'd say. Hillary didn't mind. Unlike other fathers of girls, he never treated Hillary differently from her brothers. He taught her to throw a football, switch-hit in baseball, and take an interest in world events. The Rodhams' dinner conversations often turned to politics. "I learned that a person was not necessarily bad just because you did not agree with him, and that if you believed in something, you had better be prepared to defend it," Hillary once wrote. When Hillary was nine years old, some kids at school started saying she was "stuck up." But that wasn't true. Hillary had a secret. She often couldn't see if somebody was talking to her because she had bad eyesight and didn't like wearing her glasses. But she needed her glasses, especially since Hillary loved to read. Every week she walked to the library with her mother. Her mother thought education was very important, especially for girls. Hillary also loved being a Girl Scout, because she liked helping people. Near Hillary's home, there were big farms. Migrant workers from Mexico came to pick the crops. Migrant workers move from state to state when different crops are ready to harvest. They work long hours for little money. Hillary wanted to help them. She babysat for their children. But she wanted to do more. So she and friends held a carnival to raise money for the migrant workers. This was the beginning of Hillary's life as an activist—someone who sees a problem and works to solve it.

Partisanship aside, this easy-to-read series helps very young children understand the childhood and human dimension of famous leaders as well as the historic background for their work. While not offering a critical examination, it gives a fairly even-handed accurate narrative of Secretary and Candidate Clinton's efforts, including both successes and failures, such as the 1993 to 1994 healthcare initiative. Note to parents: Suggest you read first as there are some discussions of controversies that may be inappropriate for young children. And I think you may enjoy doing so as your own learning experience.

I talk to my kids about politics and I try to be fair, although I do have a bias. What I like about this book is that it was positive and honest in an age appropriate manner. HRC is an exceptional person, that is clear in the book. But the book also hits on her failures and the impeachment of her husband. There is enough information to have a conversation but not presented in a sleazy way that would be inappropriate for children or biased.

Love all these "Who Is" books. So do my fourth graders.

We love The Who HQ books - they all provide good information for both kids and adults to learn from. These are good go-to books for general information on historical figures/events for elementary school age kids. (But I enjoy reading them too!)

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This was a good book while the election is going on for my 4th grader.

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