

Discussion Guide

Hillary Rodham Clinton: a Woman Living History

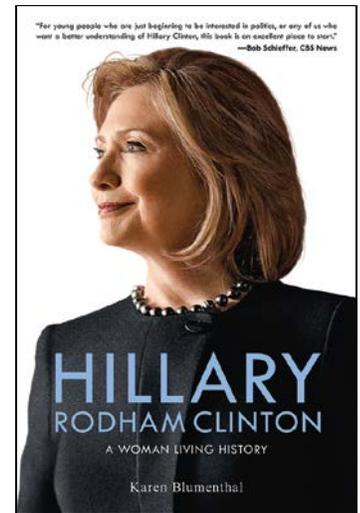
by Karen Blumenthal, 2016, Feiweil & Friends

BOOK SYNOPSIS

“As a young girl, Hillary Diane Rodham's parents told her she could be whatever she wanted - as long as she was willing to work for it. Hillary took those words and ran. In a life on the front row of modern American history, she has always stood out - whether she was a teen campaigning for the 1964 Republican presidential candidate, winning recognition in *Life* magazine for her pointed words as the first student commencement speaker at Wellesley College, or working on the Richard Nixon impeachment case as a newly minted lawyer.

For all her accomplishments, scrutiny and scandal have followed this complex woman since she stepped into the public eye - from her role as First Lady of Arkansas to First Lady of the United States to becoming the first female U.S. senator from New York to U.S. secretary of state. Despite intense criticism, Hillary has remained committed to public service and dedicated to health-care reform, children's issues, and women's rights. Now, she aspires to a bigger role: her nation's first woman president.

Critically acclaimed author Karen Blumenthal gives us an intimate and unflinching look at the public and personal life of Hillary Rodham Clinton. Illustrated throughout with black-and-white photographs and political cartoons, this is a must-have biography about a woman who has fascinated - and divided - the public, who continues to push boundaries, and who isn't afraid to reach for one more goal.”



ABOUT KAREN BLUMENTHAL

“Ole Golly told me if I was going to be a writer I better write down everything ... so I’m a spy that writes down everything.” —*Harriet the Spy*, Louise Fitzhugh

Like Harriet M. Welsch, the title character in *Harriet the Spy*, award-winning author Karen Blumenthal is an observer of the world around her. In fact, she credits the reading of *Harriet the Spy* as a child with providing her the impetus to capture what was happening in the world around her and become a writer herself. Like most authors, Blumenthal was first a reader and an observer. She frequented the public library as a child and devoured books by Louise Fitzhugh and Beverly Cleary. She says as a child she was a “nerdy obnoxious kid with glasses” who became a “nerdy obnoxious kid with contacts” as a teen. She also loved sports and her hometown Dallas sports teams as a kid and, consequently, read books by sports writer, Matt Christopher, who inspired her to want to be a sports writer when she grew up.



In college, thinking she might major in accounting, Blumenthal spent time at the campus newspaper office, which renewed her interest in writing and journalism. Eventually, she majored in economics at Duke University, and went on to earn an MBA from Southern Methodist University. She combined her interests in business and writing working for the *Wall Street Journal*, and has been a journalist for over twenty-five years.

Blumenthal has shared her expertise through appearances on the *Today Show*, *ABC World News Tonight*, and the *Nightly Business Report*.

Passionate about the importance of nonfiction reading and writing for young people, Blumenthal says, "...I believe in its ability to help us understand the bigger picture things and all of the information that swirls around us every day." She has written several nonfiction books for teens and adults. In an address to middle schoolers as part of the 2012-13 Spirit of Texas Middle School Reading Program she said, "I'm quite fascinated by true stories. I always think they're so interesting, sometimes more interesting than what you can make up." Blumenthal demonstrates this enthusiasm in her writing of nonfiction for young people.

She and her husband have two daughters and live in Dallas where they are great fans of their hometown sports teams. As an ardent advocate for public libraries, Blumenthal serves on the Friends of the Dallas Public Library board.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS BY KAREN BLUMENTHAL

Six Days in October: The Stock Market Crash of 1929 (2002)

Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX: The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America (2005)

Grande Expectations: A Year in the Life of Starbucks' Stock (2007)

The Wall Street Journal Guide to Starting Your Financial Life (2009)

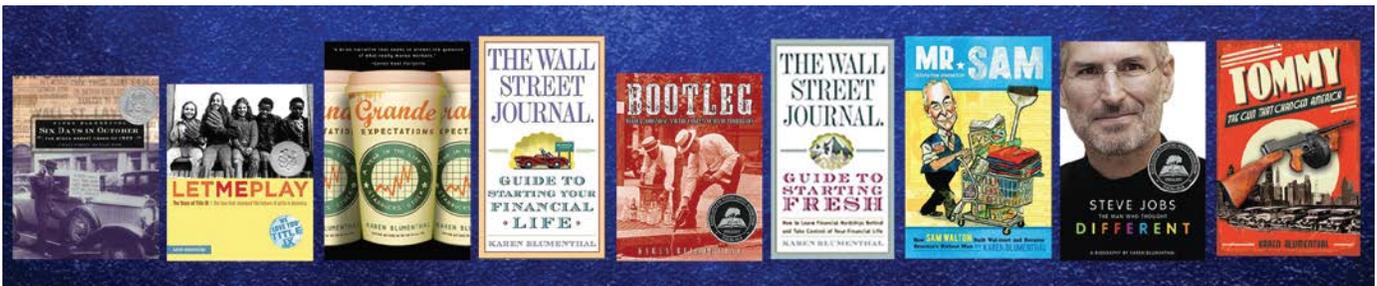
Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition (2011)

The Wall Street Journal Guide to Starting Fresh (2011)

Mr. Sam: How Sam Walton Built Wal-Mart and Became America's Richest Man (2011)

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different (2012)

Tommy: The Gun That Changed America (2015)



Visit Karen Blumenthal's website: <http://www.karenblumenthal.com/>

A NOTE FOR TEACHERS: The following questions and activities support the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.

BEFORE YOU READ

1. We learn on page 3 that Hillary Rodham Clinton has been named the "**Most Admired**" woman in the United States 19 times in the past 22 years. Make a list of the qualities that you find admirable in a person. Who is the woman you most admire? Explain and give examples of the qualities that she possesses.
2. Explore your own political beliefs. Define what it means to be a **Democrat**, what it means to be a **Republican**, and what it means to be an **Independent** (generally considered to be the three major political parties in the United States). If you are unsure, consult websites such as:

<http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/> (Pew Research Center – a quiz to help you determine which political party most closely aligns with your beliefs)

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/spc/vote2012/quiz/> (Public Broadcasting Service – a quiz to help you determine which political party most closely aligns with your beliefs)

3. Do you think that a person's **political party** affiliation has anything to do with his or her age, family, gender, income, race, sexual identity, etc.? Explain and give examples.
4. What do you feel are the qualities of a good **leader**? Once you have compiled an individual list, come together as a group, discuss your ideas, and then come up with a group list of the five most important characteristics of an effective leader. There are many lists available online for you to compare and contrast to your own ideas. For instance, the traits and behaviors that author and leadership expert, Stephen R. Covey, believes make an effective leader can be found in this article:

<http://www.ereMEDIA.com/tlnt/7-habits-for-leadership-success-from-dr-stephen-covey/>

5. Author Karen Blumenthal is known for her exceptional, thorough, and unbiased **research**. Browse the bibliography of resources at the end of *Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History*. What is the difference between a **primary resource** and a **secondary resource**? Look for examples of each as you read the book.

AFTER YOU READ

1. In her 2008 concession speech, Hillary Rodham Clinton stated, "Always aim high, work hard, and care deeply about what you believe in...And when you stumble, keep faith. And when you're knocked down, get right back up, and never listen to anyone who says you can't or shouldn't go on." (p. 2) Do you feel she was true to this statement in her own personal life and career? Explain and give specific examples. Give examples from your own life of how you have, or have not, lived by this **motto**.
2. A theme throughout Hillary Rodham Clinton's career has had to do with her love-hate relationship with the **media**. Blumenthal tells us that, "For more than two decades, she has been in the public eye as much as any movie star, yet she remains intensely protective of her private life. She has never developed a good rapport with the media, but reporters cannot write enough about her, her ambitions, her marriage, her pantsuits, and her hair." (p.4) Discuss with your group Hillary's relationship with the media. Do you feel she was treated fairly by the media? Do you feel that the fact that she was a woman had anything to do with how she was treated by the media? Do you feel that you personally could live with the public scrutiny that Clinton (and many public figures, for that matter) has faced throughout her years in politics? Explain why or why not.
3. Throughout *Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History* we learn of Hillary's relationship with her **parents** and, eventually, her in-laws. Upon her mother's passing, she was quoted as saying, "No one had a bigger influence on my life nor did more to shape the person I became." (p. 12 and p. 348) Discuss specific ways in which Hillary's parents impacted her personal life and her politics. How have your own parents influenced, both positively and negatively, the person you are today? Name some other individuals who have had the biggest influence on you as a person, and discuss why and how they have influenced you. How have these individuals influenced your political beliefs?
4. As a public figure, every detail of Hillary's life has been **scrutinized**. Note the inclusion of her 2nd and 3rd grade report card on page 14 (a **primary resource**). On page 159, Blumenthal tells us that, "Despite spending much of their adult life in politics, she said later, 'we were unprepared' for the hardball politics and relentless scrutiny they would face and the way political opponents and journalists would sift through the details of their lives 'as if we were some sort of archaeological dig.'" At one point, the philanthropist, Richard Mellon Scaife, spent millions of dollars "...to fund investigations to find dirt on Bill and to tie

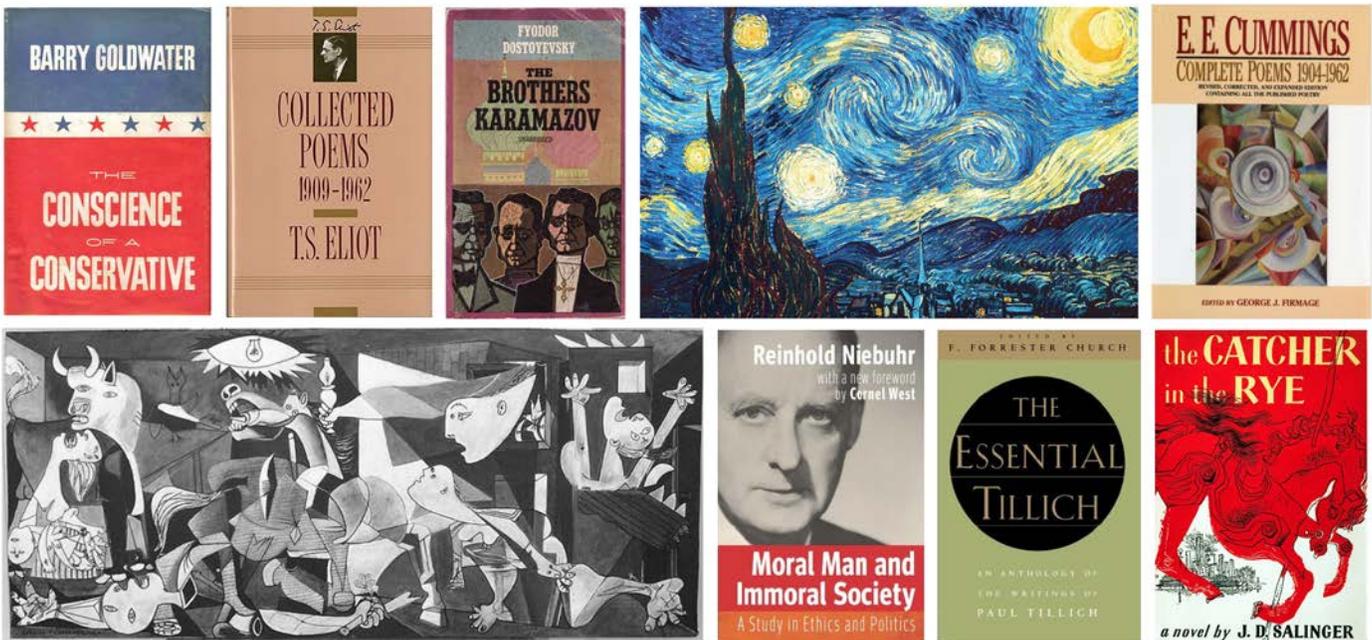
Vince Foster’s death to the Clintons.” (p. 219) Imagine that you someday become a politician. What things from your past might others use to characterize and/or criticize you? Old report cards? The times you got in trouble in school? Forgotten Facebook postings? Past speeding tickets? Is it fair for the media, those who disagree with you, etc., to use things from your past against you? Explain.

5. Why is it important for us to be exposed to **great works of literature, art, music, and dance**? Do you feel that classes in each of these areas of the arts should be required offerings in public schools? Why or why not? Here is one teen’s opinion: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/murray-rosenbaum/should-the-arts-be-require-6640194.html>. Discuss the ways in which you agree or disagree with Murray Rosenbaum.

Choose one of the works of art below, which had an impact on Hillary while she was growing up, to research. Share your findings with the group.

- *The Conscience of a Conservative* by Senator Barry Goldwater
- the poetry of T.S. Eliot
- *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- *Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh
- the poetry of e.e. cummings
- *Guernica* by Pablo Picasso
- “Remaining Awake Through a Revolution” by Martin Luther King Jr.
- the work of Reinhold Niebuhr
- the work of Paul Tillich
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

* Note that President Bill Clinton played the saxophone in his high school band and loved gospel music!



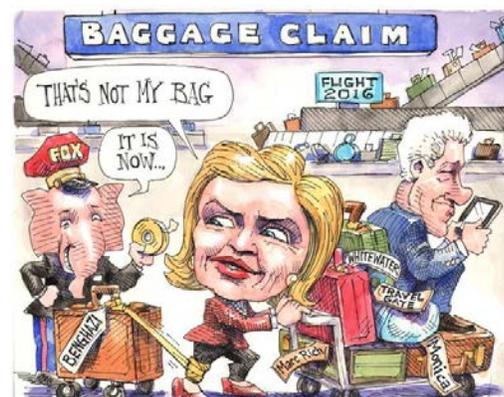
6. Beginning on page 23, Hillary's **faith** and its importance in her life is discussed. What role did Hillary's upbringing at the First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge play in her political life? On page 85, we learn that a woman whom Hillary once worked for, Sara Ehrman, "...remembered Hillary as a voracious reader who frequently carried a Bible with her, a liberal Christian who seemed to be trying to line up her politics with her religion. She also went at campaigning with an almost religious fervor..." She turned to her faith to get her through many difficult times in her personal life and political career. We learn on page 295 that while serving as a New York Senator she was a member of a "...Wednesday morning Christian prayer group." (p. 295) What is the relationship between one's faith and one's politics? Explore this relationship as it pertains to the "separation of church and state."
7. In the mid-1960's, Hillary's **high school** is described in this way: "... more than 5,000 teens crammed into Maine East High School. Even in a school where the students came from similar backgrounds, there were many cliques: athletes and cheerleaders; brains and student-government types; and 'greasers' and 'hoods,' the terms used for tough guys who spent more time on cars than schoolwork and hoodlums, or troublemakers...fights broke out among the different social circles at games and in the school parking lot." (p. 29) Compare and contrast your high school to Hillary's high school. What is the size of your school? Does this have any effect on you and your peers? Do cliques exist in your school? What are the different groups and how are they characterized? Which group do you feel you belong to? Are there conflicts between these groups, or are conflicts more likely to occur between individuals? What impact, if anything, do these groups have on your school experience?
8. Throughout the history of the United States, there have been many **pivotal moments**. People will often recall where they were when these events occurred, as well as how these events impacted their lives and our country. Two such events for Hillary were the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (p. 30) and September 11th, 2001 (p. 296). Events such as the stock market crash of 1929, the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, Apollo 11, the Challenger explosion, and the shootings at Columbine are additional examples. Do you feel there have been any such pivotal moments in your lifetime? Explain. Explore one of these pivotal events in American history in terms of its impact on American politics.
9. Hillary was voted as "**most likely** to succeed" by her classmates. (p. 33) Were they correct in their assessment? Explain. Complete the following statement: "My classmates would probably elect me as the most _____." Complete the following statement: "My classmates would probably elect me as the person most likely to become a _____." Explain your answers.
10. Blumenthal presents **statistics** on page 38 that indicate that when Hillary was going to college, 3 of every 100 lawyers were women, and that 6 of every 100 doctors were women. Go to the United States Department of Labor at http://www.dol.gov/wb/stats/stats_data.htm and look at current statistics regarding the number of women in professional occupations, as well as the pay they receive as compared to men in the same occupations. Analyze how these numbers have changed. What can you conclude from these statistics?
11. Hillary's father was very conservative where politics were concerned. Do you find it surprising that Hillary was a Republican and a conservative early on? What were some of the things that led to the shift in her political ideology? How could her early work for the Republican Party be to her advantage now? Do your **parents** discuss politics with you? Are they Republican or Democratic, liberal or conservative? What influence do they have on your own politics?
12. On pages 57-61, Blumenthal discusses the controversial commencement speech that Hillary gave when she graduated from Wellesley. Have you ever dared to **speak up** about something you had a strong opinion about, despite the fact that your opinion may not have been a popular one? Have you witnessed someone

else do the same? Share these experiences with the group. Are brave acts like this common and/or necessary in a Democratic society?

13. David Schultz, a professor of Political Science from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and political analyst, believes that one's political leanings are developed in **adolescence** (about the age that you probably are right now if you are reading this question), and shaped by what is happening in the world at the time. He believes that we often see the world as our generation does, and that we are unlikely to change these beliefs as we age. (April 14, 2016 - "A Political Junkie's Guide to the 2016 Elections," University of St. Thomas) Hillary, an early Baby Boomer, grew up during the Vietnam War and Civil Rights era. How do you think this impacted her political beliefs? It is interesting to note that her political beliefs DID change as the result of her experiences. What about the world in which today's adolescents live, "Millennials" (those born between about 1982 and 2000) and "Digitals" (those born beginning in 2001) might be impacting their/your political beliefs?
14. In Chapter 6, Blumenthal covers Hillary's work for Wright Edelman's Washington Research Project where she did research on migrant workers and their children. This experience had a significant impact on her. The welfare of children became one of the **recurring themes** in her career. With your group members, list some of the issues that Hillary has focused on throughout her career. What seem to be the issues that matter most to her? What would you say her accomplishments have been in regards to each of these issues?
15. Hillary met Bill Clinton while attending Yale Law School in 1970. (Chapter 7) Compare and contrast Hillary and Bill's **upbringings** (where they grew up, their income level, their educational experiences, their families, etc.). What influence did their upbringings seem to have on their lives and careers?

16. Some critics of Hillary Rodham Clinton claim that she tied herself to Bill Clinton, and stayed with him despite his lack of loyalty, so that she might further her own political career. In what ways do you feel that Hillary's political career has benefited from, and in what ways has her political career suffered from, her personal and political relationship with Bill Clinton? Consider the political cartoon at right.

(from <http://www.politico.com/wuerker/2014/02/february-2014/001604-022869.html>)



17. At what point in life does a "child" become an "adult"? Does it have to do with a person's age, physical maturity, intellect, emotional maturity, life experiences, etc.? Do all children become adults at the same point in their lives? Explain. As children grow up, they assume more and more rights and responsibilities. Give examples of rights that come with age, along with the age that one legally earns a particular right (such as the right to get a driver's license at age 16). Do you feel that the legal ages at which we attain each of these rights are appropriate? Explain. Reread pages 88-90 to review some of Hillary's background and beliefs on the issue of adulthood.
18. **Secrets**, and the controversy associated with them, seem to be a running theme in politics. The same can be said of the life and career of Hillary Rodham Clinton. Beginning with her work on the Watergate scandal in 1974, right through the accusations that she used a private e-mail server while serving as the Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013, secrets have plagued Hillary Rodham Clinton. Discuss examples from her life and career of other secrets that she has been associated with and how they have impacted her life and career. How transparent do you feel the government and its employees should be? How about the political

process and politicians? Are there times when secrets are justified, even necessary, especially where national security is concerned? Discuss.

19. On page 103 you will find another **primary resource**, an ad for Bill Clinton's run for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. Note that it says, "We Must Elect **Men** To Congress Who Are Not Afraid To Take Responsibility For The Future Of Our Country." What is the **irony** in this statement, especially in an ad for a man who would marry Hillary Rodham Clinton? Do some research on women in federal government. When was a woman first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives? The U.S. Senate? The U.S. Supreme Court? Who were these women? How many women now hold seats in the House, Senate, and the Supreme Court? **Women's rights** have played a central part in Hillary's career. Discuss her role and beliefs in regards to this issue.
20. Throughout her career, Hillary's **appearance** has been fodder for discussion and criticism (her hair, her pantsuits, etc.). On page 136, Blumenthal tells us that, "As she pushed her husband to move forward, to lay the groundwork for the next election, she also began a personal makeover." This is just one of many examples of Hillary changing her appearance to please critics. Check out the political cartoon on p. 287, "The Evolution of Hillary's Hair." Is one's personal appearance a legitimate factor in determining one's worth as a politician? Why or why not? Are the standards in this regard the same for men and women? Consider this brief article on the subject from *USA Today*:

<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/washington/story/2012-05-09/hillary-rodham-clinton/54860282/1>
21. **Education** has been an important issue in both Hillary's and Bill's political careers. For instance, in 1983 as Arkansas Governor, Bill Clinton put Hillary in charge of a newly formed commission whose charge it was to assess the state's education system and make recommendations based on its findings. The commission eventually pushed for "...mandatory full-day kindergarten, smaller classes for elementary grades, and more requirements for high school graduation. Students also would be tested at the end of third, sixth, and eighth grades and would have to pass the eighth-grade test to go to high school," (p. 141) along with several additional recommendations. Visit your state's Department of Education website and research the current state of each of the above issues. For instance, is mandatory full-day kindergarten required for students in your state?
22. At one point, in an interview, Hillary said, "What I have given up in trying to balance my life ... is primarily with **friends**. If I had one less role, that's what I'd add back in: the spur-of-the-moment decision to go see a movie, the weekend with friends in Hot Springs, just getting together with people for dinner. But there is really no way." (p. 149) One of the costs of Hillary's demanding schedule has been her friendships. Discuss some of Hillary's friendships and the role that these individuals played in her life - for instance, her long-time friendship with Diane Blair. Think about the adults in your life and their friendships. What have you learned about the value and impact of friendship from your observations of the adults in your life? Think about your own friendships. Do you have someone whom you would consider a best friend? Describe your relationship with this person. What qualities are important in someone whom you would consider a friend?
23. Should one's **personal life** be a factor voters consider when deciding who to vote for? Discuss. Bill Clinton's infidelity has been the subject of much debate, as has Hillary's decision to stay with him in light of this knowledge. Blumenthal tells us on page 153, "Up until that point, a politician's sexual activities had been considered mostly a private matter, unless they somehow were very public. Numerous presidents are said to have engaged in extramarital affairs, including Warren Harding, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Franklin Roosevelt. Their behavior may have been wrong, but it had never been front-page news." Should Bill and Hillary's marriage be fair game for the media and voters? Imagine

that it became known that a female American politician has been accused of infidelity. Would she be treated in the same manner as a male would by the press and the public? Discuss.

24. Expanding on the above question, should a politician's **wife and children** be fair game for the press? Discuss the Clinton's family life and the role it played in their political decisions. What did they do to achieve some normalcy in their family life and to protect their daughter, Chelsea, from the press? (Reread pages 151, 166-7, 178.)

25. On pages 179-80, 287-8, and 371-2 we see several **political cartoons** from different points in Hillary's career (**primary resources**). Find at least two current political cartoons featuring Hillary Clinton for your group to analyze. Compare and contrast them to the cartoons found in *Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History*. Are the issues explored in the current cartoons similar to the issues explored in the earlier cartoons? How is Hillary portrayed in each?



(from: <http://www.startribune.com/sack-cartoon-coral-reefs/375626961/> - April 15, 2016)

26. In his first term as President of the United States, Bill Clinton gave Hillary the tough assignment of reforming the **health-care system**. (Chapters 18-22) Though her work, and that of her team, was ultimately unsuccessful, many feel that this work began a discussion that eventually led to the Affordable Care Act (2010). In what ways might Hillary's work at this time have paved the way for the Affordable Care Act or "Obamacare"? (See p. 240.) Are you aware of your own family's health care situation? Consult your parents or caregivers and ask about your own health care coverage. Do your parents/caregivers have health insurance through their work? If not, how are your medical needs and those of your family members met?

27. There are several inspiring **quotes** found throughout the book, such as the quote from a poem by Anasuya Sengupta found on page 225 :

Too many women
In too many countries
Speak the same language.
Of silence...

(The entire poem can be found at: <https://youngfeminists.wordpress.com/2009/01/02/silence/>.)

Find an inspiring and motivational quote from a public figure whom you admire. Write about the meaning of this quote as it pertains to the public figure who originated it, and then write about how it applies to your own life and why you find it to be true and helpful. Share your writing with the group.

28. On September 5, 1995, Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. She spoke boldly on the issue of **women's rights** in what some have called "...her finest moment in public life." (p. 229) (See the excerpt on p. 228 and/or read the entire speech at: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/hillaryclintonbeijingspeech.htm>.) Analyze the speech with your group members. In the twenty years since she delivered this memorable speech, have we made progress in terms of the issues she presented: "...access to education, health care, jobs and credit, the chance to enjoy basic legal and human rights and to participate fully in the political life of our countries..."? Have women been given a voice on the world's stage? Discuss.

29. On January 25, 1996, Hillary Clinton testified before a **federal grand jury** in regards to recently discovered documents in the Whitewater investigation. On August 17, 1998, Bill Clinton testified before a grand jury in regards to his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. What is a grand jury? How does it differ from a trial jury? (Consult <http://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/jury-service/types-juries>.) Research a recent case in which a grand jury was involved. For instance, the recent Michael Brown/Ferguson case involved a grand jury and their controversial decision. Find more about this decision at:

http://www.law.columbia.edu/media_inquiries/news_events/2014/november2014/Facts-on-Ferguson-Grand-Jury.

30. Methods that we use to communicate information have had a dramatic impact on politics over the past century. From the telephone, to the radio, to television, to the Internet, to texting, these **technology cycles** have changed the way that politicians do business. On page 251, Blumenthal says, "The rapid growth of the World Wide Web and its quick adoption meant news and rumors that used to be reported in print and during radio and television newscasts would now travel faster and farther than ever." How did the development of the Internet, and technology in general, impact Hillary's personal life and career? (See Chapters 25, 34, and 35.) In what ways is information today being communicated, and how is it impacting the current election?

31. On December 19, 1998, President Bill Clinton was **impeached** for lying under oath and obstructing justice in regards to the Monica Lewinsky case. What is impeachment? Have any other American presidents been impeached? For what reasons? Consult this website for brief information on impeachment:

http://www.congressforkids.net/Executivebranch_impeachment.htm

32. In 2008 Hillary "... became the first woman to win a binding **presidential primary**." (p. 325) In the process of choosing presidential candidates, each state holds either a **caucus** or a **primary**. (p. 317-8) What is the difference between a caucus and a primary? Consult this website for more information:

<http://usgovinfo.about.com/cs/politicalsystem/a/delegateprocess.htm>

What are the pros and cons of each? Does your state hold a caucus or a primary? Look up the results of the caucus or primary which was recently held in your state for the 2016 presidential election. (The official website of your state's Secretary of State should provide this information.)

33. In 2008, Hillary lost her bid to become the Democratic presidential nominee. In her concession speech, she said, "'the highest, hardest **glass ceiling**' wasn't broken, but 'thanks to you, it's got about eighteen million cracks in it.'" (p. 332) What is the "glass ceiling" that she is referring to in this statement? (For a simple definition, go to: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/glass%20ceiling>.) In what ways has Hillary either made headway in terms of cracking the glass ceiling for women, or actually broken through that glass ceiling, throughout her career?

34. Define the term "**empathy**." Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright once said of Hillary Rodham Clinton, she, "... knows how to do what I think is essential: putting herself in other people's shoes." (p. 336) Do you feel that the ability to empathize is an essential quality for a leader? Explain. Is there a difference in this regard between the expectations and perceptions of male and female leaders? Explore these ideas with your group. Discuss ways in which Hillary demonstrated her ability to empathize with others, or not, throughout her career.

35. After leaving her position as Secretary of State in 2013, Hillary set up a Twitter account. Her **profile** read, "'Wife, mom, lawyer, women & kids advocate, FLOAR, FLOTUS, US Senator, SecState, author, dog owner, hair icon, pantsuit aficionado, glass ceiling cracker, TBD..." (p. 366) In many ways this statement sums up Hillary's adult life, and tells us many things about the qualities she possesses (her sense of humor, for

instance). Discuss this profile. Were your Twitter profile to include a similar list, what items would you include? Share this profile with your group.

36. In many ways, Hillary Rodham Clinton was a **woman ahead of her time**. Discuss the ways in which she paved a trail for others. In what ways did her work as a female lawyer, first lady, and politician pave the way for those who followed her?

FOLLOW-UP

1. Based on the list of qualities that you most **admire** in others, and now that you have read about Hillary Rodham Clinton, is she a woman whom you would place on your “Most Admired” list? Give specific examples of why or why not.
2. Did you know that there is no affirmative language in the United States Constitution that guarantees citizens **the right to vote**? Did you know that women, persons of color, and 18-20 year olds in this country were once not considered eligible to vote, and were denied this basic right of citizenship? In a Democratic society, citizens elect officials by voting for them. Eventually, through the passage of the 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments, it was stated that these groups should not be denied the right to vote. Many individuals throughout the history of the United States have fought so that we ALL have the right to vote in national, state, and local elections.

Choose an individual to research who fought the battle on behalf of women, persons of color, and 18-20 year olds to earn the right to vote. Present your findings to your classmates.

Research individuals such as:

- Susan B. Anthony
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Alice Paul
- Lucy Stone
- Ida B. Wells
- Lyndon B. Johnson
- Edward M. Kennedy
- Jennings Randolph
- Frederick Douglass
- Fannie Lou Hamer
- Victoria Gray Adams
- Bob Moses
- Amzie Moore
- Amelia Boynton

Consult sites such as:

- <http://www.archives.gov/historical-docs/document.html?doc=13>
(The National Archives – 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the right of women to vote)
- <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/voting-rights-act>
(History.com - Voting Rights Act of 1965, the right of blacks to vote)
- <https://www.aclu.org/issues/voting-rights/voting-rights-act>
(American Civil Liberties Union - Voting Rights Act of 1965, the right of blacks to vote)
- <http://www.civilrights.org/voting-rights/vra/>
(The Leadership Conference, Voting Rights Act of 1965, the right of blacks to vote)
- onevotesncc.org
(One Person, One Vote, the right of blacks to vote)
- <http://www.history.com/topics/the-26th-amendment>
(History.com, 26th Amendment, the right of those 18 years of age and older to vote)
- <http://www.youthrights.org/issues/voting-age/top-ten-reasons-to-lower-the-voting-age/>
(National Youth Rights Association, 26th Amendment, the right of those 18 years of age or even younger to vote)

3. If you are eighteen, or will be by the date of the next election, do you know how to **register to vote**, where to vote, etc.? If not, consult the following websites:
 - <http://www.rockthevote.com>
(Rock the Vote is a website designed for young people. “As the largest living generation, we have the power to define our future – that’s why we Rock the Vote! Rock the Vote is the largest nonprofit and nonpartisan organization in the United States driving youth to the polls. Together, we can ensure that our voices are heard and that on Election Day, we shape our country’s history.”)
 - <https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>
(This government site will help you find out how to register to vote and where to vote.)
4. If you are still questioning where you or your **political party** stands on a particular issue, consult sites and databases like <http://2016election.procon.org/> to find a summary of how each party views a particular issue.
5. Refer back to your individual and group list of the characteristics of a good **leader**. Now list some of the leadership positions that Hillary has held throughout her life. What leadership qualities from your list has she exhibited in fulfilling these leadership roles? Do you feel she has been an effective leader in the positions she has held thus far? Explain.
6. Analyze the current state of the 2016 United States presidential election. What is Hillary’s current status? Based on your political beliefs, would you **vote** for Hillary Rodham Clinton in the 2016 presidential election? Make a list of specific reasons why or why not. Share these with your group. If you would not vote for Hillary Rodham Clinton, who would you vote for? What are three issues on which you agree with this candidate? Share these ideas with the group.

Here is a link to Hillary Clinton’s official campaign website: <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/>

7. Now that you have read *Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History*, how do you feel about the quality of Blumenthal’s **research**? Share examples of **primary resources** and **secondary resources** used by Blumenthal. For at least one of each type of resource, analyze the quality and reliability of that resource. For instance, for a website, you could consult the “About Us” section to determine who put the website together and any biases they may have. Take a look at this short article about evaluating a website: <http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2014/04/the-5-elements-students-should-look-for.html>. For at least one of the statistics that Blumenthal presents, check the related note in the “Notes” section beginning on page 388. Go to the original source and **fact check** the information.

*Note that throughout her career, Hillary was known for doing meticulous research herself. Others have said, “...she did her homework.” (p. 335) What is the value of effective research?

8. When a book is published, professional journals provide editorial **reviews** to help readers determine if they may wish to read and/or to purchase that particular book. Below is a review of *Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History* from a review journal called *Publisher’s Weekly*. Note that the review includes:

- a brief summary of the book (without giving too much away)
- who the book might be appropriate for
- how the book is packaged and how the material is presented
- comments about the quality of the writing of the book
- an overall thumbs up or thumbs down for the book (books given “starred” reviews are seen as exceptional)

Starred Review – “After decades in the public eye, Hillary Rodham Clinton is still an enigma, as Blumenthal (*Tommy: The Gun That Changed America*) emphasizes in this compelling portrait of the former U.S. Senator and Secretary of State’s journey from budding activist to presidential aspirant. Ticketed from an early age for great things – her college commencement speech was covered by *Life* magazine – she baffled mentors by joining then-boyfriend Bill in Arkansas, rather than pursuing her own high-profile career. Blumenthal hits the highlights – becoming First Lady of Arkansas and then the nation, winning a Senate seat, joining Obama’s cabinet – and the lowlights, including Whitewater, Bill’s infidelity, and the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi. The most engrossing chapters give context to Hillary’s choice to marry her fate with Bill’s, and chronicle the tense weeks leading to the assassination of Osama bin Laden while she headed the State Department, yet the sense that Clinton still struggles with being a public figure dominates. B&W photographs and political cartoons appear throughout. Ages 12–up. (Jan.)”

Discuss with your group, whether you agree or disagree with this assessment of this book. Then write your own review of *Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History*. Be sure to include the elements listed above.

EXPLORE FURTHER

Consult Blumenthal’s extensive bibliography at the back of *Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History* for additional materials on the subjects covered in the book.

Consult the text of this discussion guide for suggested digital resources.

Books by Hillary Rodham Clinton:

- *It Takes a Village* (1996)
- *Dear Socks, Dear Buddy* (1998)
- *An Invitation to the White House* (2000)
- *Living History* (2003)
- *Hard Choices* (2014)

Recent Books about Hillary Rodham Clinton Published for Children and Teens:

- *Hillary Clinton (Ignite: Extraordinary Women)* by Michael Burgan (2014)
- *Hillary Rodham Clinton: Dreams Taking Flight* by Kathleen Krull (2015)
- *Hillary Clinton (Rookie Biographies)* by Jodie Shepherd (2015)
- *Hillary* by Jonah Winter (2016)
- *Hillary Rodham Clinton: Some Girls Are Born to Lead* by Michelle Markel (2016)
- *Hillary Rodham Clinton: Do All the Good You Can* by Cynthia Levinson (2016)

Books about Hillary Rodham Clinton Published for Adults:

- *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton* by Carl Bernstein (2008)
- *Alter Egos: Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and the Twilight Struggle Over American Power* by Mark Landler (2016)
- *Her Way: The Hopes and Ambitions of Hillary Rodham Clinton* by Jeff Gerth and Don Van Natta Jr. (2007)
- *Hillary: An American Life* by Time Magazine (ed.) (2014)
- *Hillary Clinton in Her Own Words* by Lisa Rogak (2014)
- *HRC: State Secrets and the Rebirth of Hillary Clinton* by Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes (2014)
- *Hillary: The Photographs of Diana Walker* by Diana Walker (2014)