**Of Thee I Sing**

**AUTHOR:** Barack Obama  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Loren Long

**PUBLISHER:** Knopf  
**COPYRIGHT DATE:** 2010

**ART MEDIUM:** watercolors/mixed

**GENRE:** nonfiction

**LIFE SKILLS:** personal best, courage, effort, perseverance, pride, cooperation

**SYNOPSIS:** Written in the form of a letter to his daughters, President Barack Obama shows his children a look back at inspiring personalities in America. With soft, loose illustrations of diversity, he shows the potential of all Americans.

**BOOKTALK:** If the president of the United States was your dad, what do you think he would say to you? In this book, President Obama writes a letter to his two daughters, Sasha and Malia. President Obama encourages all children to “never give up” and be proud to be part of the American family.

**AUTHOR:**  
Barack Obama has written the New York Times best sellers: Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream and Dreams from my Father. He was elected the 44th President of the United States 11/4/08. Born Barack Hussein Obama II on 8/4/61 in Honolulu Hawaii.

**Other books written by the author:**
- *The Audacity of Hope*
- *Dreams From my Father*

**ILLUSTRATOR:**  
#1 New York Times best-selling Illustrator. Loren Long graduated from the University of Kentucky. He started out as an illustrator for a greeting card company, and then became an editorial illustrator for magazines. He won the Golden Kite Award for *I Dream of Trains*. Lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with his wife and two sons.

**Other books illustrated by the illustrator:**
- *Angela and the Baby Jesus,*  
- *The Day the Animals Came,*
- *I Dream of Trains,*
- *The Little Engine that Could,*
- *Mr. Peabody’s Apples*
My Dog, My Hero
Toy Boat
When I heard
The Learn’d Astronomer

Author and Illustrator of:
Drummer Boy
Otis and the Tornado
The Sluggers Series

CHALLENGING WORDS (...due to pronunciation, spelling and/or defining):
Forging, picketed, afar, rhythms, braid, Sioux, gardenia, amidst, unyielding, creeds, lunar, kin, generations, melodies, sacrifices, equality, compassion, enslaved, principles

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Please include 4-6 questions)

1. Explore biographies of artists, singers, or others of interest. What did they enjoy doing as children? What schools did they attend?
2. If you were writing a letter to a child, what would you tell them was important?
3. This book tells about qualities that demonstrate good character. What are some other words that describe good character?
4. Do you recognize any of the names of the famous people in this book? Discuss those who are familiar to you and ask questions about those who are not familiar.
5. Why do you think Barack Obama wrote this book?
6. Why do you think the illustrator chose to draw all the famous characters as children?

ACTIVITIES with CORE STANDARDS:

Language Arts:
1) Ask an adult (parent, teacher, caretaker) if they have a role model or someone who has inspired their life. Who has inspired you so far?

3.RI.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

Language Arts activities, include Core Standards
2) Explore biographies of past presidents. Do you find some who have children? What careers have they chosen?

3.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Language Arts:
Write another page in this book, talking about another famous American and how they can be described.
W.K.2. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

W.1.2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

W.2.2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Social Studies:
Pick your favorite person from this book and research him/her some more.

W.K.7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).

W.1.7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of “how-to” books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).

W.2.7. Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).

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www.teachingbooks.net/pronounce.cgi?aid=3412
Pronunciation of author/illustrator names

Random House, about the book including video