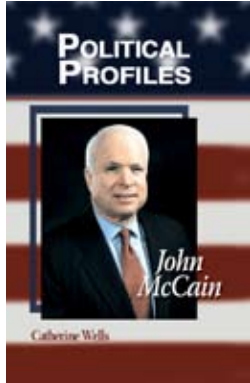
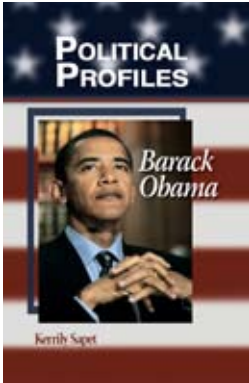


Political Profiles



VOYA

December 2007

Political Profiles. Morgan Reynolds, 2007. PLB \$27.95. Index. Illus. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology.

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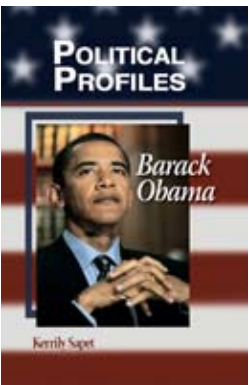
Sapet, Kerrily. **Barack Obama.** 128p. 978-1-59935-045-5.

Wells, Catherine. **John McCain.** 112p. 978-1-59935-046-2.

This biography series is indeed timely with profiles of presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, and Rudy Giuliani along with other notable politicians, including Nancy Pelosi and Arnold Schwarzenegger. These two lively, intimate glimpses include their subjects' childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. They portray quite different personalities and upbringing, but

both men triumphed over difficult challenges and serve as role models for youth. Political philosophy is woven throughout the narratives, but one suspects that most students will find the personal details much more fascinating. Barack Obama describes himself as the skinny kid with big ears and funny name. He was shuffled among adults and locations from Indonesia to Hawaii as he coped with developing his personal identity. Photos and descriptions of his trips to his father's native Kenya will intrigue students. John McCain had a much more privileged and stable childhood, but he exhibited adolescent rebellion. The key exciting portion of the book for most students will be the narrative of McCain's experiences as a fighter pilot and a prisoner of war in Vietnam. The political threads in Obama's biography focus particularly on urban issues, whereas McCain's story emphasizes campaign reform and military issues.

These two books should be painless, even enjoyable reading for reluctant readers, whether to meet requirements for class or for pleasure. They need to be available for youth of all ages.—Marilyn Brien.



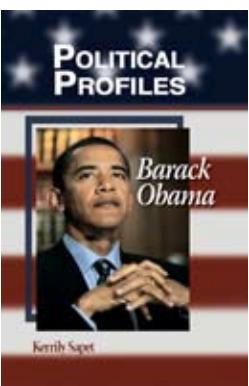
Booklist

September 15, 2007

Political Profiles: Barack Obama. Sapet, Kerrily (Author) Aug 2007. 128 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$27.95. (1599350459). 328.730.

Just in time for the 2008 election season, this lively, up-to-date biography in the new Political Profiles series draws on Obama's own writings as well as on the ample media coverage of his personal and public life. Sapet begins with the politician's mixed-race family story; part Kenyan, part white, he was raised in Hawaii and Indonesia and later connected with his African roots. The focus then shifts to the hopes and ambitions fueling the rising star's graduation from Harvard Law School, his social-justice work in Chicago, and, eventually, his election to the U.S. Senate. Extensive quotes from campaign speeches spell out Obama's views on crucial issues, from the Iraq War to health care to global warming, and lots of color photos illustrate, including

many of his family. At the back are excellent chapter notes, a clear chronology, and a bibliography. From a series that also covers other presidential candidates, this is sure to be in demand right now. — Hazel Rochman



School Library Journal

December 2007

SAPET, Kerrily. **Political Profiles: Barack Obama.** 128p. maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2007. PLB \$27.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-045-5. LC 2007018657.

Gr 5-8—This serviceable, but not stellar, biography of the Illinois senator will probably be dated before it hits library shelves. It follows the usual series formula of anecdote followed by chatty

narration. ("He kept Michelle in his heart though, and knew he would return to Chicago...When he graduated, opulent law firms flung their doors open to him.") Full-color photos appear throughout; many are relevant but others are merely filler—an aerial view of Chicago's coastline, a "Colored" water fountain, asbestos fibers, and more. This book is longer than Marlene Targ Brill's *Barack Obama: Working to Make a Difference* (Millbrook, 2006) though not necessarily more useful or readable.—Linda Beck, Indian Valley Public Library, Telford, PA



Booklist

November 15, 2007

Hillary Clinton. Wells, Catherine (Author) Nov 2007. 144 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$27.95. (1599350475). 973.929.

Wells' slim volume in the Political Profiles series hits the major points in Clinton's life that set the foundation for her current presidential campaign. Though readers gain glimpses of Clinton's girlhood in suburban Chicago, most of the book's emphasis falls on the former First Lady's impressive career. Wells stresses Clinton's ability to triumph over everything from gender stereotypes to public disapproval and marital difficulties, mentioning the Monica Lewinsky scandal but avoiding graphic details. Admiring in her discussion of Clinton's shattering of glass ceilings in law and politics, the author also points out how her subject's famously outspoken style—"I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas"—has defined her

as a polarizing force. Wells suggests that Clinton's forceful opinions may prove either her greatest defect or greatest strength. Broken up with numerous color photos, the text concludes with a time line, source list, bibliography, and suggestions for Web research, including a link to Clinton's official campaign site. — Rebecca Jensen Advanced Review
– Uncorrected Proof



Booklist

November 15, 2007

Nancy Pelosi. Shichtman, Sandra H. (Author) Oct 2007. 112 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$27.95. (1599350491). 328.7.

Although this profile of Pelosi, who is currently the highest woman official in the land, reads like campaign literature, it provides a coherent account of her career and at least some insight into her political philosophy. Shichtman traces Pelosi's rise from daughter of a longtime mayor of Baltimore to chair of the California Democratic Party and on into the House of Representatives, examining her work as a public figure—from the rush of legislation that followed her election as House Majority Leader to her sharp criticism of President Bush's conduct of the Iraq War. The color photos are unexceptional if plentiful; source notes are quite detailed. A list of mostly adult further readings and a time line round out the volume. Consider this a satisfactory and timely

introduction to a woman who has, to use her own term, broken through the "marble ceiling." — John Peters