



Michelle Obama Special Teacher's Notes

If you'd like to do something "a bit different" in your A2.2 / B1 courses, why not try this lesson, which provides material for approximately 60 minutes? If your class enjoys this story, tell them they can find more biographies in **English Network Pocket Biographies** (ISBN 978-3-526-50665-2).

A Guess the person

1 (10 mins) Before the students read the text, read out the following facts, pausing after each one and asking students to put up their hands when they think they know who the person is. After the last fact, ask one student to name the person – Michelle Obama.

- This person is a woman.
- She's an African-American.
- She was born in 1964 and she's still alive.
- Before she got married, her name was Robinson.
- She went to university.
- She's got a famous husband and two daughters.
- She has been on the front cover of *Vogue* magazine.
- She lives in the White House.

2 (5 mins) Ask students to say what they know about Michelle Obama.

B Read the text

1 (10-15 mins) Ask your class to read the text and try to understand the main ideas – and not to worry if there are some words which they don't know. Without looking at the text again, students say what they have found out about Michelle Obama. Praise them for grasping so much of the information and emphasise that it isn't necessary to understand every word in a text.

C Facts and figures

1 (5-10 mins) Ask students to underline all the numbers in the text. Then different volunteers read out the numbers and one of the more able students writes them on the board.

2 (10 mins / 20 minutes) Without looking at the text, students try to make sentences about Michelle, using the numbers on the board. This can be done orally, or **if time permits**, they can write the sentences and then read them to the class.

D Biography game

1 (15-20 mins) Students work in pairs. Give them a few minutes to think of a famous person, dead or alive. Help them by listing some possible categories on the board:

politician, sportsperson, TV personality, musician, film star, writer, composer, painter

The pairs of students write down 6 facts about their person and then read them out to the class so that the class can guess who the person is. If no-one has guessed the person after all the facts have been read out, the class can ask 6 questions to the pair about their famous person.

2 An alternative for weaker groups: Write the following sentences on the board and ask students to complete the relevant information about their famous person. (Or you can write this on individual cards and discreetly offer it to weaker students.) Then play the guessing game as above.

- This person is a *man / woman*.
- He/She was a famous ...
- He/She is *dead / alive*.
- He/She was born in (*country*)
- ... reminds me of this person.
- He/She is *younger / older* than me.
- And one more piece of information is:
.....