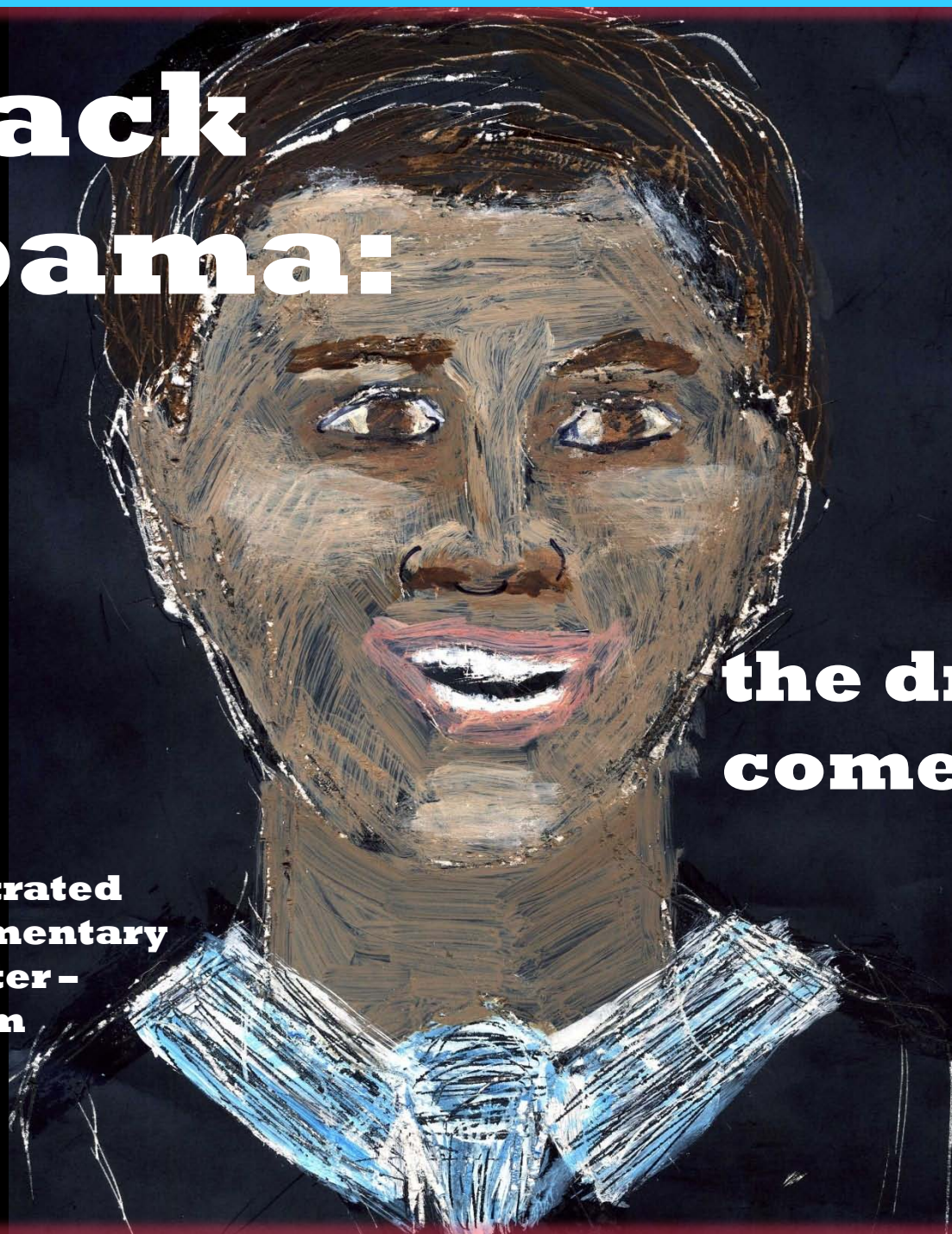


# **Barack Obama:**

**the dream  
come true**

**Written & Illustrated  
by Hughes Elementary  
21<sup>st</sup> Century After –  
School Program  
Students**



This project was developed and researched by the Hughes Elementary 21<sup>st</sup> Century After-School program. Students in grades 4-6 contributed to the research, writing, and the artwork for this project.

### Participating Students

#### Fourth Grade:

Tyrese Alfred  
Diaz Stewart  
Nariba Jackson  
Solomon Cochren  
Faith Copes  
Mya Gist  
Isaac Hester

Khari Odoms  
Augusto Gonzalez-Bonorino  
Yasin Whitted  
Malexa Maeweather  
Jonae Thomas  
Azaria McDonald

#### Fifth Grade:

Raymond Capers  
Tierra Hill  
Khaleel Jackson

John Dacosta  
Sheikree Keith  
Cebel Frazier

#### Sixth Grade:

Toni Hill

Mrs. Priscilla Frank, Editor and Library Media Specialist  
Ms. Mary Casella, Art Teacher

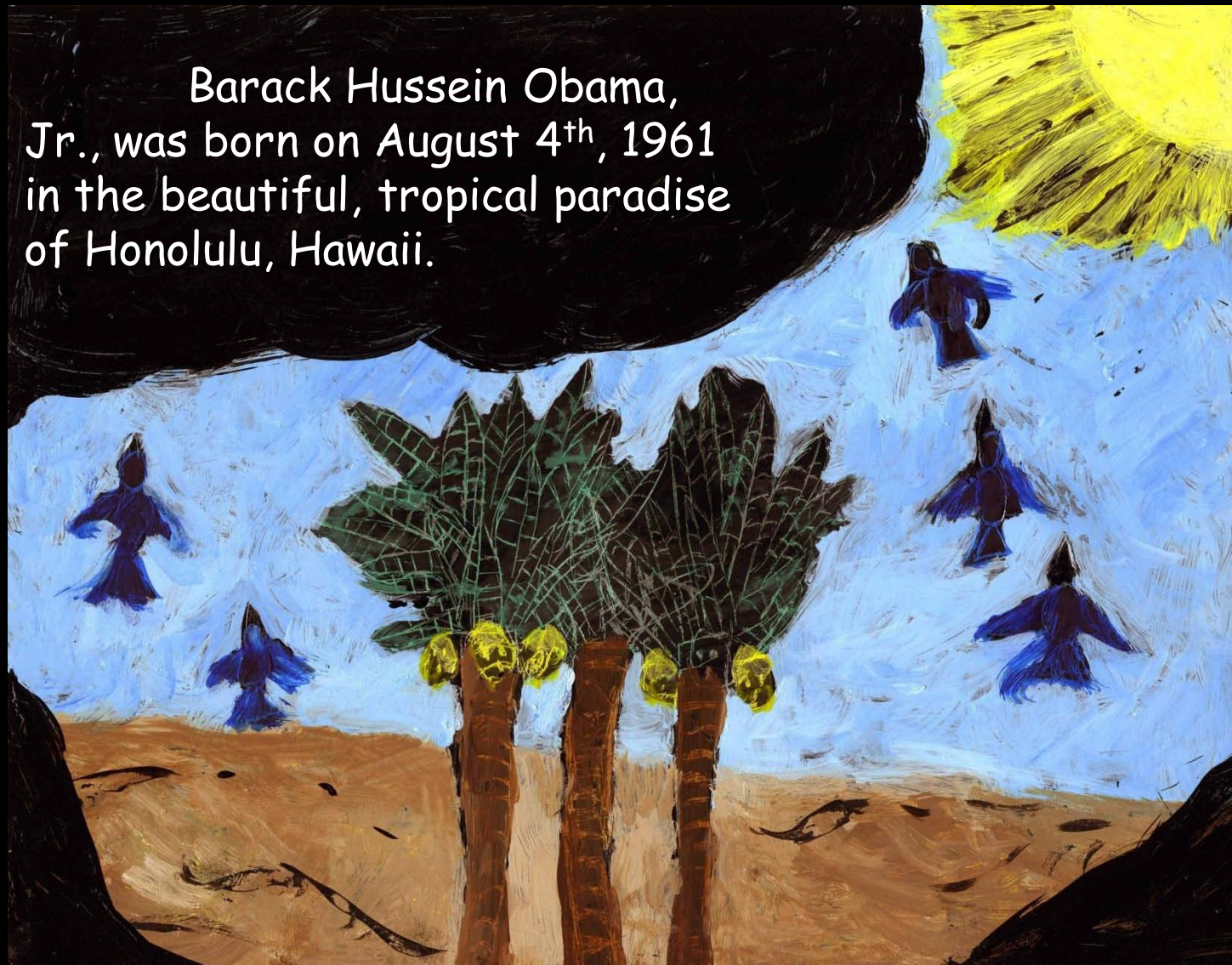
## Dedication Page

This project is dedicated to the hard-working staff and students of Hughes Elementary School, where dreams begin.

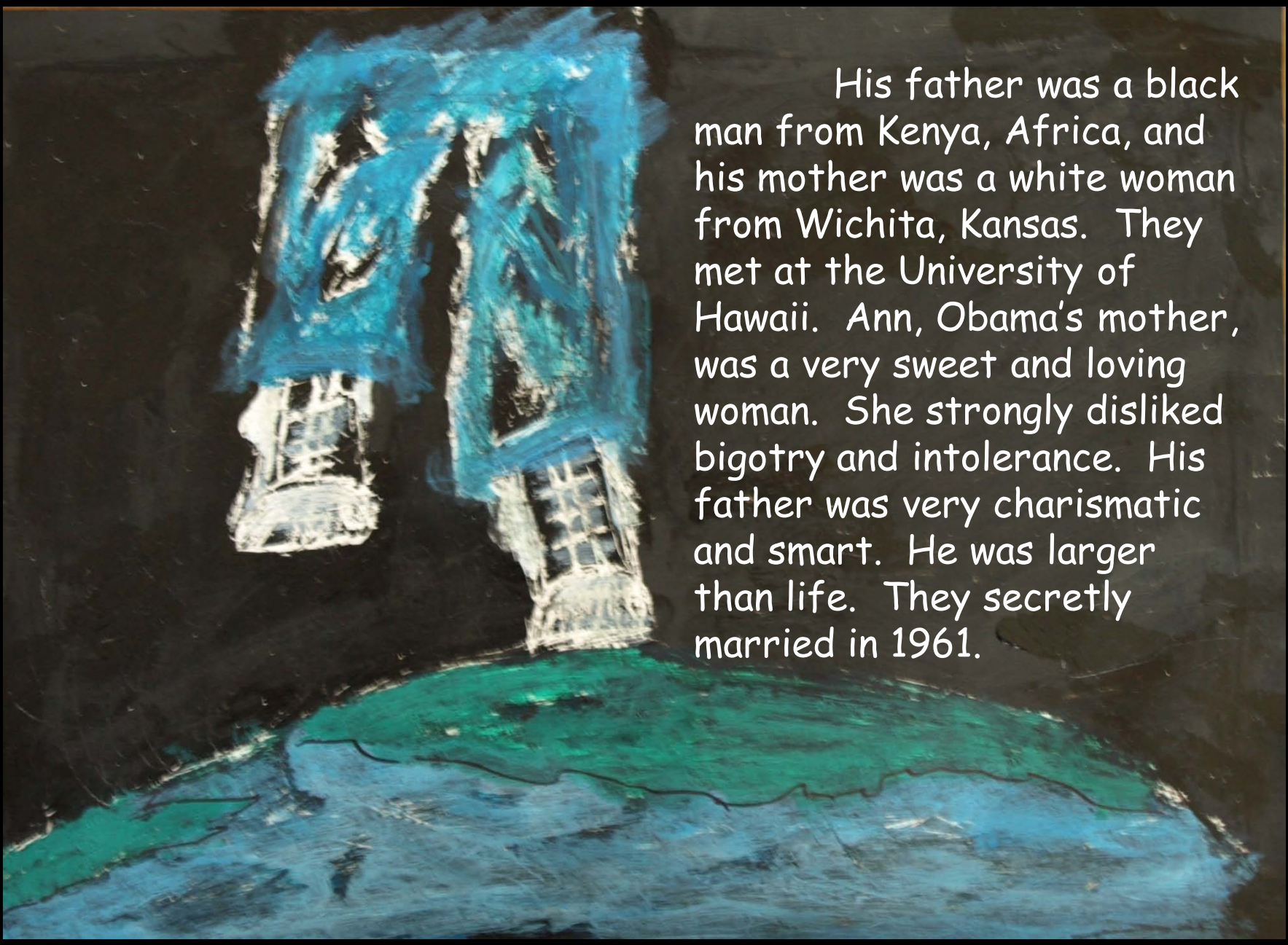
After studying the biographies of Andrea Davis Pinkney and the illustrations of J. Brian Pinkney, we tried to emulate their work as much as possible. We hope we have been able to do as much justice to our work, as they have done to theirs.



Barack Hussein Obama, Jr., was born on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1961 in the beautiful, tropical paradise of Honolulu, Hawaii.





A painting of a large, blue, textured figure, possibly a man, standing on a green and blue base. The figure is rendered in shades of blue and white, with a rough, textured appearance. The background is dark, and the base is a mix of green and blue. The overall style is expressive and somewhat abstract.

His father was a black man from Kenya, Africa, and his mother was a white woman from Wichita, Kansas. They met at the University of Hawaii. Ann, Obama's mother, was a very sweet and loving woman. She strongly disliked bigotry and intolerance. His father was very charismatic and smart. He was larger than life. They secretly married in 1961.





At first they were happy, but when Barack was two, his parents divorced. His father went back to Kenya, and his mother eventually remarried a man from Indonesia. They moved to Jakarta, Indonesia when Barack was six. Jakarta was a sprawling village full of poor people, open air markets and street vendors. In 1970, his stepsister Maya was born. Barack met and learned how to get along with all kinds of people. However, his mother was worried about his education and sent him back to Hawaii, to live with her parents.

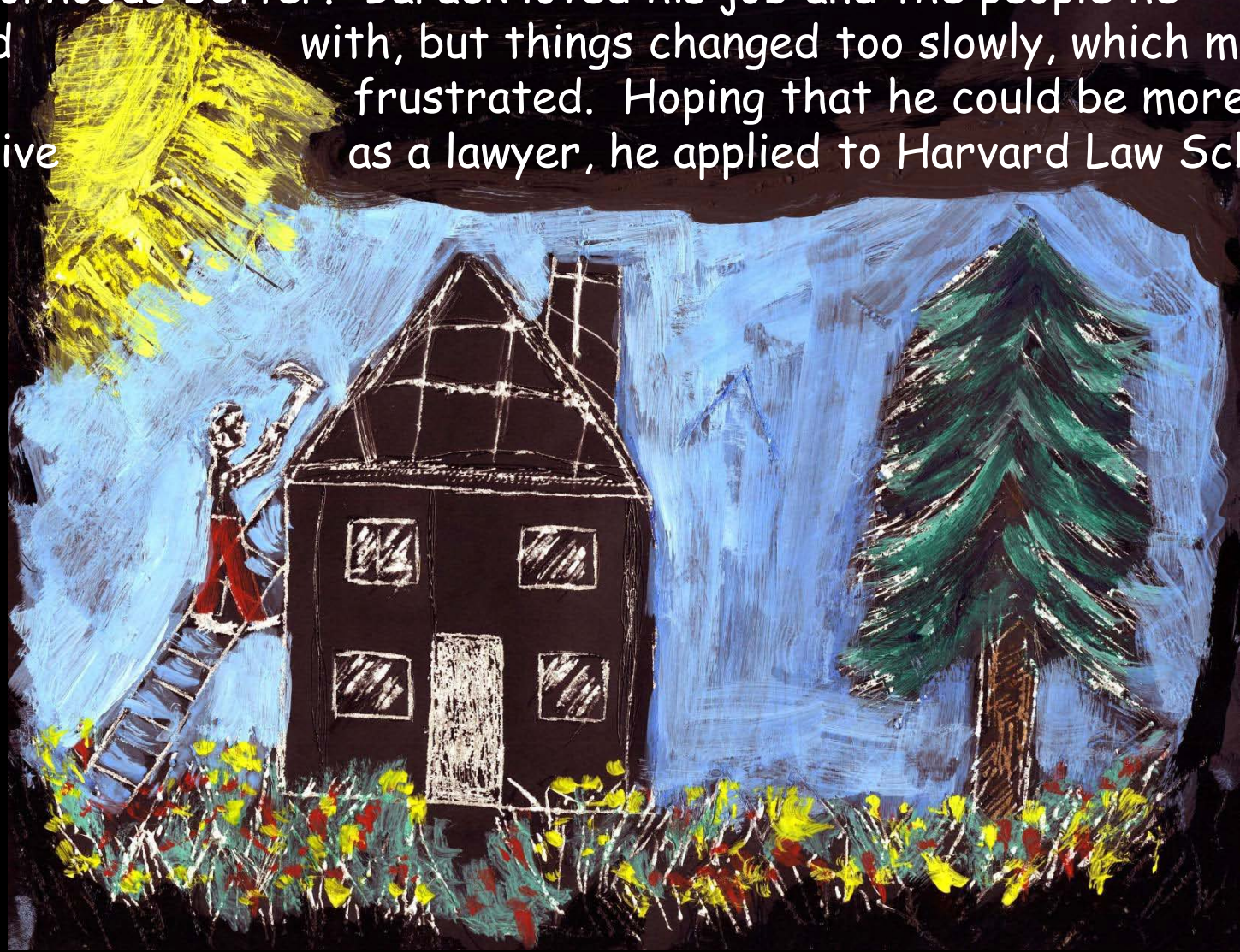


In high school, Barack was well-liked by his classmates, but he wasn't the best student. He loved to play basketball. His teammates called him "Barry O'Bomber." After high school, he was accepted at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. In college, he became interested in politics and decided to transfer to Columbia University in New York City. The unexpected death of his father made him realize that he wanted to make something of his life, and he became much more serious about his school work.





After Obama graduated from Columbia, he went to Chicago and became a community organizer. He worked with a church-based group that tried to help poor people make their lives and neighborhoods better. Barack loved his job and the people he worked with, but things changed too slowly, which made him frustrated. Hoping that he could be more effective as a lawyer, he applied to Harvard Law School.



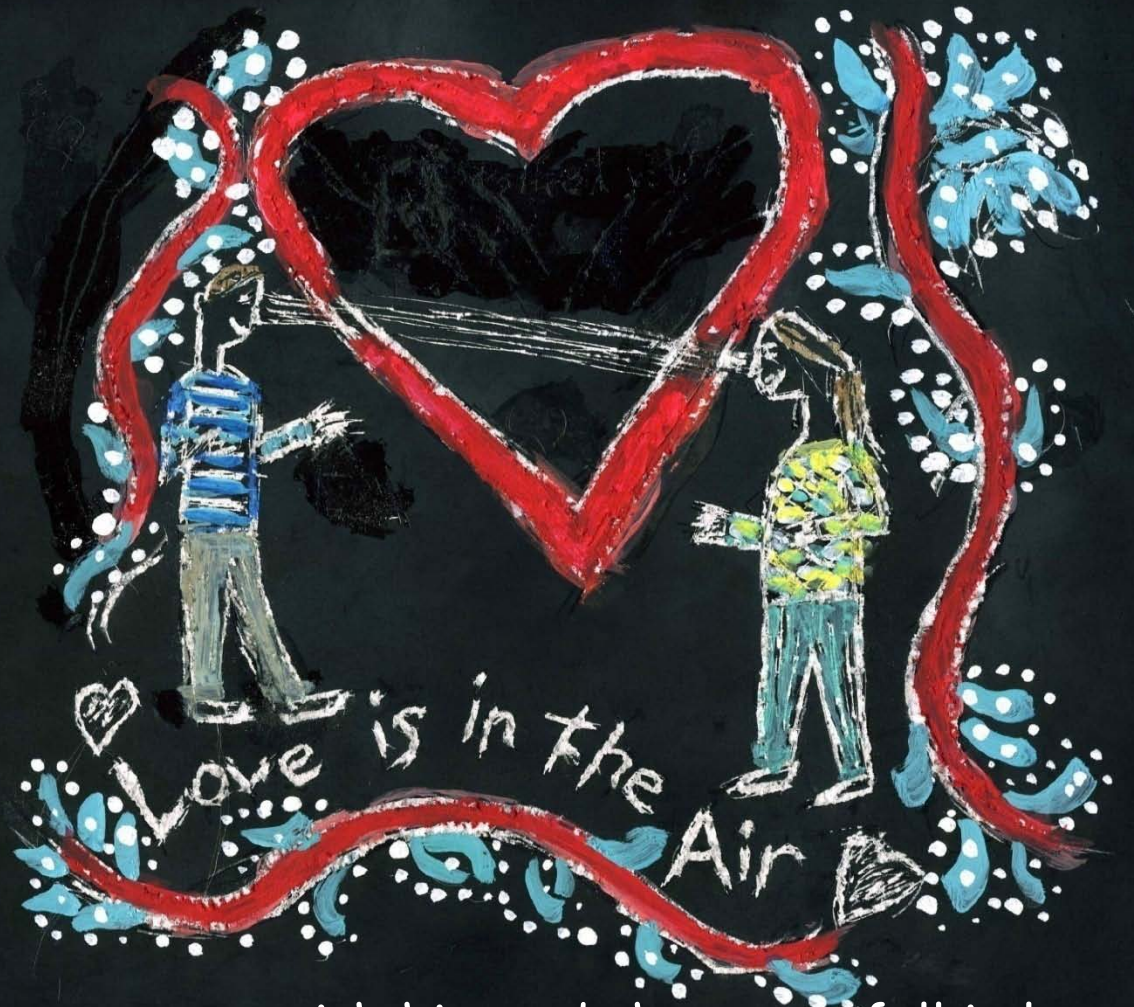




Before he began law school, he decided to go to Kenya to visit his father's family. He had always felt like his father had abandoned him and that he was split between two cultures. In Kenya, he finally learned where he had come from, and he was able to accept who he was and the kind of man his father had been.



Barack began law school in the fall of 1988. The very next summer he went to Chicago for a summer job and that is where he met Michelle Robinson. He thought she was beautiful, but she wouldn't date him because she didn't believe in dating someone she worked with. He eventually convinced her to go out with him and they soon fell in love.





Barack went back to Harvard Law School and he and Michelle began a long-distance relationship. He worked extremely hard and was the most out-standing student in the law school. In 1990, he became the first African-American President of the Harvard Law Review. When he graduated with honors, he could have gone to work for a famous law firm, or the Supreme Court, but Barack chose to go back to Chicago.

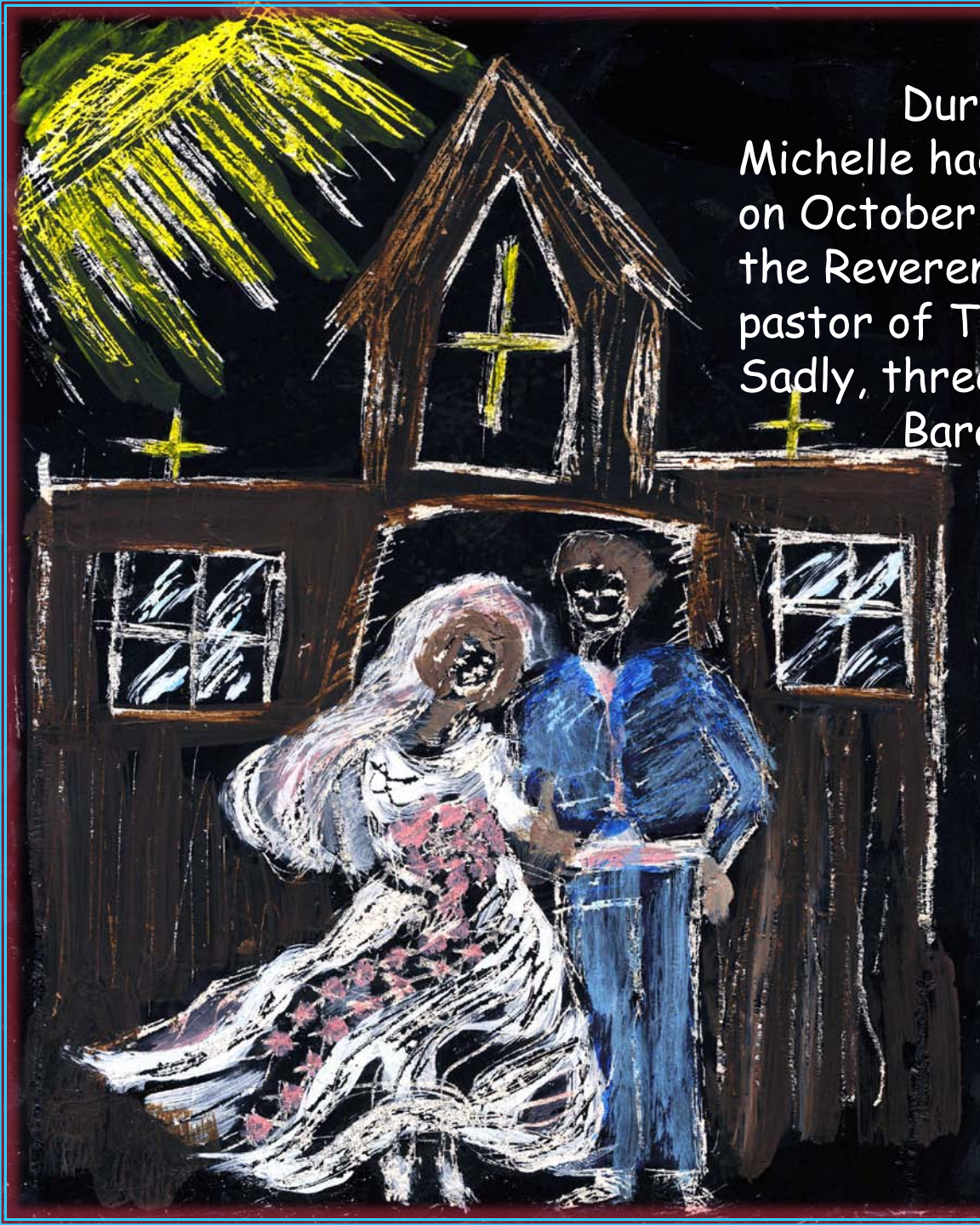




His strong belief in the democratic process led him to become a civil rights attorney. He also became the leader of the Chicago chapter of Project Vote! The group's job was to register low-income and minority voters. Obama had always believed that people must participate in the political process and the best way to do that was by voting. He also took on a third job as a professor at the University of Chicago Law School.







During this time, Barack and Michelle had still been dating. Finally, on October 18<sup>th</sup>, they were married by the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, pastor of Trinity United Church. Sadly, three years later in 1995, Barack's mother died of

ovarian cancer. She was only 52 years old. Barack and his sister Maya took their mother's ashes back to Hawaii. On a beautiful southern beach, they scattered their mother's ashes on the island she had loved so much.



When Obama returned to Chicago, he decided to become involved in politics. In 1996, he won a seat in the Illinois State Senate. At first, he wasn't well-liked. Some people thought he was too impatient and wanted things to happen too quickly. However, he was a hard worker and he began to win people over. He became involved with campaign finance and ethics reform. In 1998, his first daughter was born. He and Michelle named her Malia.







# Illinois

In 2000, Obama tried to become a U.S. Representative from Illinois. He was defeated by his opponent. Barack was disappointed. This was the first time he had not gotten something he really wanted. It made him think. He learned that he had to get to know people in politics better and to build relationships with them. One happy event that took place in 2001, was the birth of his second daughter, Natasha.

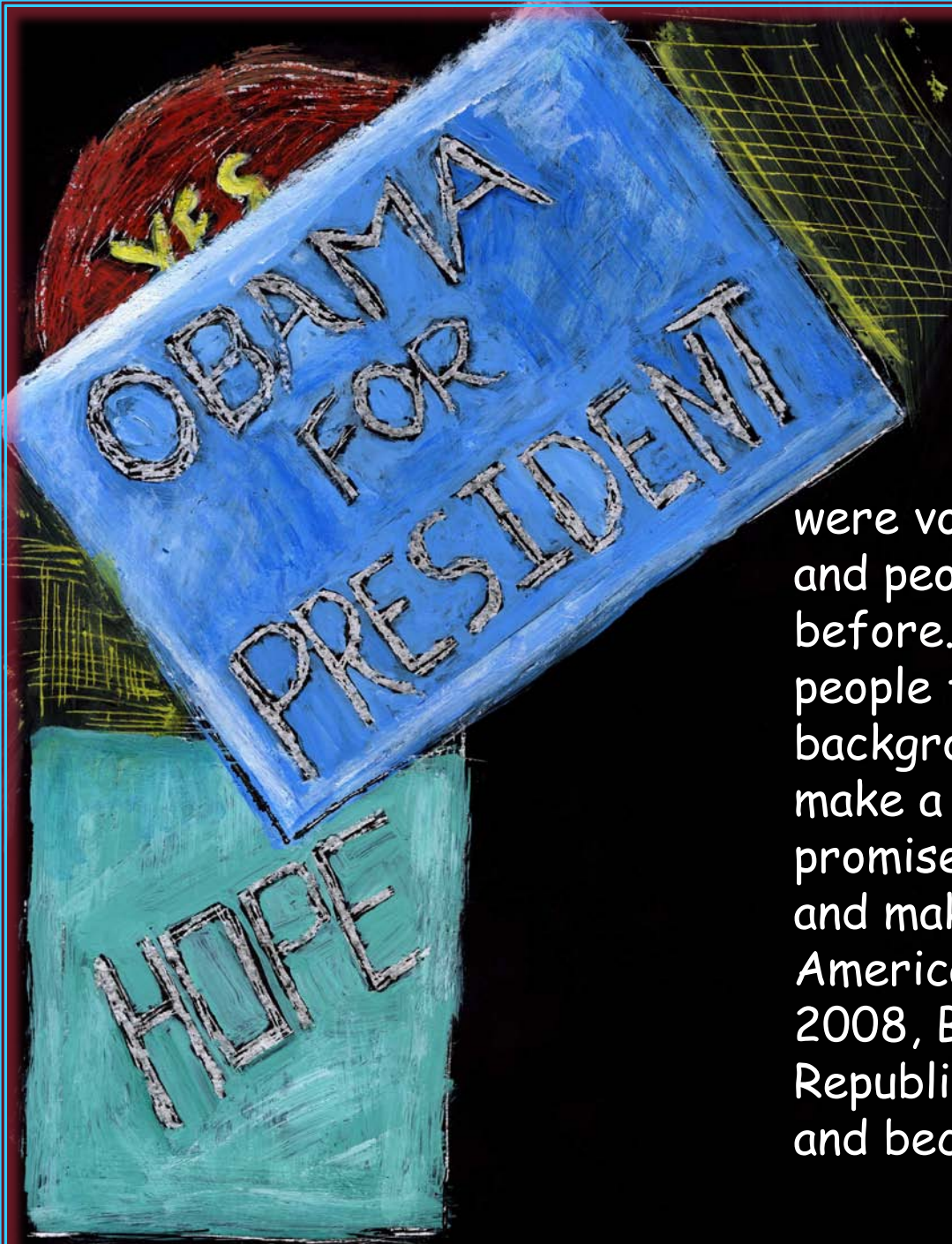
In 2002, Barack decided to run for the U.S. Senate. The national democratic leaders noticed his popularity, and invited him to give the Keynote Address at the Democratic Convention. He became an instant star. He won his Senate seat by a landslide.



Over the next few years, Obama's popularity grew. Very important democratic politicians were trying to convince him to run for The Presidency. At first he traveled around giving speeches for other democratic candidates. Everywhere he went, the crowds were huge. He was like a rock star. Many people were asking him to run for President. On February 10, 2007, Obama spoke these words, "I stand before you today to announce my candidacy for President of the United States of America." His main opponent was Senator Hilary Clinton. Slowly, state by state, he won enough votes to get the Democratic nomination in June, 2008.







Obama's campaign message for hope and change was very popular with the American people. They were looking for a new type of leader. Barack inspired many people, especially young people who were voting for the very first time, and people who had never voted before. Barack promised to bring people from many different backgrounds together to work to make a better America. He also promised to end the war in Iraq, and make health care available to all Americans. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Barack Obama beat his Republican opponent, John McCain, and became the President-Elect.



On January 20, 2009, a beautiful, but bitterly cold day, Barack Hussein Obama became our 44<sup>th</sup> president. He is also one of the youngest, and the first African-American to be elected. His wife Michelle stood by his side holding Abraham Lincoln's inaugural bible. Approximately two million people cheered wildly as he gave his inaugural speech expressing his hopes for the future and his reminder to the American people that everyone was going to have to help turn things around in this country.





After he finished giving his speech, his daughter Sasha said to him, "That was a pretty good speech, Dad." President Obama smiled at his daughter looking confident and ready to carry out his new job.





## Bibliography

Dougherty, Steve. Hopes and Dreams: the story of Barack Obama. Tess Press: New York, 2008

"Encore: Barack Obama Revealed." Interview with Suzanne Malveaux. Kids Search. 01 Nov. 2008. 11 Feb. 2009 <http://webbscohost.com>.

Grimes, Nikki. Barack Obama: son of promise, child of hope. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers: New York, 2008.

Obama: the historic journey. The New York Times. Calloway: New York, 2009.

"Obama, Barack." Reviewed by Harvard Sitkoff. Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia. 2009. Grolier Online, 11 Feb. 2009. <http://gme.grolier.com>.

"Obama, Barack." World Book Kids. 2009 [place of access.] 9 Feb. 2009. <http://www.worldbookonline.com>.