

Name _____ Date _____

from DREAMS FROM MY FATHER
Reading Skill

RECOGNIZE CAUSE-AND-EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS

Understanding **cause-and-effect relationships** between actions, events, and feelings can give you greater insight into the people you read about. Sometimes cause-and-effect relationships are stated directly. More often you will have to look deeper to notice when one or more things are responsible for causing another.

Directions: Complete this chart to identify important cause-and-effect relationships in the autobiography. One example has done for you.

Cause	Effect
<i>Obama feels isolated at school.</i>	<i>He spends most of his time watching TV with his grandfather.</i>

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Literary Analysis

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

An **autobiography** is the true story of a person's life, told by that person.

Autobiographies share the following characteristics:

- They are told from the first-person point of view.
- They focus on significant people and events in the writer's life.
- They express the ways those people and events affected the writer.

Directions: Use the chart to write notes about the relationship between Obama and his father over the course of their month-long visit.

Before his father arrives	
The day his father arrives	
First two weeks of his father's visit	
The day his father speaks to Obama's class	
Final days of his father's visit	

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Answers will vary. Possible responses are provided.

Cause

Obama feels he has nothing in common with his classmates.

Obama is embarrassed by his classmates' chants calling him Coretta's boyfriend.

Obama wants to impress his classmates and make them like him.

Obama's father speaks as though Dr. King and the Kennedys are still alive.

Obama's father criticizes the family for allowing Obama to watch too much TV and not making him work hard enough.

Obama does not want his classmates to find out that he lied about his father.

Obama's father talks to the class about Kenya.

Obama watches his father dance to the African music.

Effect

Obama is uncomfortable around his classmates.

He pushes Coretta away.

He tells them that his father is a prince, and his grandfather is the head of the tribe.

The family becomes more spirited and optimistic

Tensions build and the family becomes upset.

Obama is afraid to have his father visit the class.

The students are impressed and think Obama's dad is "cool."

He feels more connected to his father and his heritage.