

Nelson Mandela

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A Before Reading

- 1 What do you know about Nelson Mandela? Complete the table with any ideas.

What is his nationality?	
Why is he famous? What did he do and want?	
When was he born?	
Is he living now?	
Does he have a family?	

As you start reading, compare your ideas above with what you learn in the book.

- 2 All the words in the box below are from the story. Decide if they are connected with politics or with law and put them in the correct column. Check any that you do not know in your Macmillan Dictionary. The first word is done for you.

lawyer prison guilty arrest government party vote judge trial
president election illegal punishment

Politics	Law
	lawyer

Can you think of any other words or expressions related to politics or law which you might find in the story? Add them to the table above.

- 3 In the story, you will learn more about the apartheid system which made the lives of black and white people in South Africa very different. How do you think their lives were different?

Example: *different education...*

B While Reading

- 4 The story includes many important events in the history of South Africa and the ANC. As you read, complete the details of when each event happened, what happened and what the result was. The first one ('Election') is an example.

Event	When?	What happened?	What was the result?
Election	1948	The conservative National Party (Afrikaner Broederbond) was elected.	Apartheid laws became much stronger.
Freedom Day			
Day of Protest			
Defiance Campaign			
Congress of the People			
Sharpeville Massacre			
Soweto protest			
The largest strike in South Africa			

- 5 a During apartheid, there were many rules for black people. As you read, complete the two lists of the things they had to do and the things they could not do.

They had to...	They couldn't...
<i>live in the townships</i>	<i>vote</i>

- b Now write similar lists for:

- what you had to do/couldn't do when you were a child.
- what people in your country had to do/couldn't do 50 years ago.

- c Think about your own country. Are there lots of rules? Are the rules the same for everyone or are there different rules for different groups of people, eg men/women, old/young, black/white, educated/not educated? Do you think it is a fair country with good rules for all?
- 6 At the end of his trial, Nelson Mandela did not defend himself. 'He did, however, make a statement. It lasted four hours. His statement spoke of the terrible suffering and unfairness that was everyday life for blacks in South Africa.' (p39).
- Imagine you are Mandela. Write a paragraph of this statement, describing the lives of black South Africans to the world.

C After Reading

- 7 Imagine that you are living in another country in the mid-1980s. Design an anti-apartheid poster, asking for Nelson Mandela to be freed and for action to help black South Africans. Include some information about:
- why apartheid is bad and must stop;
 - what people and governments must do to change the situation in South Africa.
- 8 a *Mandela had warned that the South African government 'were sitting on top of a volcano'. Now the volcano was exploding.* (p49)
- Can you think of any other countries – now or in the past – which have been like 'a volcano', with fighting between the Government and the people or between different groups of people?
- b Mandela always said he was a 'freedom fighter' and not a terrorist. What is the difference?
- c What punishment (if any) do you think these people should have?
- a terrorist who destroys buildings but does not hurt anyone
 - a terrorist who kills people
 - a freedom fighter who protests on the street for a group to have more rights
 - a person who is a member of an illegal political group
 - a student who takes part in a violent protest for better university education
 - a person who paints anti-government messages on public buildings
- 9 Imagine that you are Nelson Mandela being interviewed by a journalist as you retire from politics at the age of 85. Write your answers to the interview questions in the form on the next page.

An interview with Nelson Mandela

This year, Nelson Mandela will retire from politics at the age of eighty-five. We spoke to him about his life.

Interviewer: What was the most important moment of your life? Why?

Nelson:

Interviewer: Which people have been most important in your life?

Nelson:

Interviewer: How was it possible for you to stay hopeful during your 27 years in prison?

Nelson:

Interviewer: What do you think about the future of South Africa?

Nelson: