

Preview

**Read the first sentence of each paragraph in this section.
Study the picture and caption. What is the section about?**



I WAS NOT BORN WITH A HUNGER TO BE FREE. I was born free—free in every way that I could know. Free to run in the fields near my mother’s hut, free to swim in the clear stream that ran through my village, free to roast **mealies** under the stars and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls. As long as I obeyed my father and abided by the customs of my tribe, I was not troubled by the laws of man or God. **9**

It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the **transitory** freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased, and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I **yearned for** the basic and honorable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family—the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life.

But then I slowly saw that not only was I not free, but my brothers and sisters were not free. I saw that it was not just my freedom that **was curtailed**, but the freedom of everyone who looked like I did. That is when I joined the African National Congress, and that is when the hunger for my own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of my people. It was this desire for the freedom of my people to live their lives with dignity and self-respect that animated my life, that transformed a frightened young man into a bold one, that drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, that turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home, that forced a life-loving man to **live like a monk**. I am no more virtuous or self-sacrificing than the next man, but I found that I could not even enjoy the poor and limited freedoms I was allowed when I knew my people were not free. Freedom is indivisible; the chains on any one of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me. **10**

9 Word Choice

What word does Mandela repeat in this paragraph? What important idea in Mandela’s argument does it emphasize?

10 Word Choice

What are the “chains” Mandela refers to?

In Other Words

mealies corn

transitory temporary

yearned for strongly wished for

was curtailed was limited

live like a monk lead a very simple life with only the basic necessities



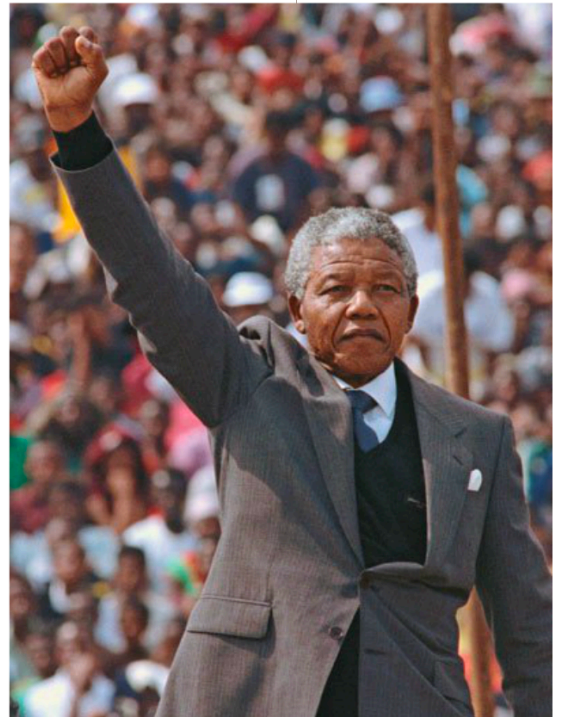
It was during those long and lonely years that my hunger for the freedom of my own people became a hunger for the freedom of all people, white and black. I knew as well as I knew anything that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity. ¹¹

When I walked out of prison, that was my mission, to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor both. Some say that has now been achieved. But I know that that is not the case. The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning.

I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to **falter**; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended.

11 Form
Generalizations

What ideas presented earlier in the argument does this sentence tie together?



On the day he was released from prison, Mandela told fellow South Africans, "Our march to freedom is irreversible."

In Other Words

falter hesitate, stumble



Monitor Comprehension

Interpret

Why do you think Mandela says achieving freedom is a "long walk"?



CLOSE-UP: South African Independence

BY THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, many European countries had established colonies in Africa. European rulers enacted laws that took away the land of the native people and forced them to work in mines or on farms. Many native people were little more than slaves. They had no rights and no support.

After decades of this treatment, Africans wanted to regain their independence. This process was called decolonization. ¹² It was complicated by the many divisions within the African societies. Many language groups, religions, and ethnic differences existed, and many different solutions were set forth. . . .

One of the most amazing examples of decolonization occurred in South Africa. Originally the Dutch colonized the region, which later passed to British control. In 1948, the British enacted strict laws separating blacks and whites, a policy known as apartheid.

Blacks, who made up the majority of the population, struggled against the unjust rules. Apartheid governed every part of life: where a person could live, what entrance to the train he or she could use, how or if he or she would be educated. Many blacks were killed or jailed as a result of uprisings. ¹³ Nelson Mandela, a black leader, was arrested in 1962 for resisting apartheid and

¹² Access Vocabulary

Define
decolonization
by looking at the context and the parts of the word: *de-* means “undo”; a colony is a land ruled by another country; and *-ize* means “to become.”

¹³ Word Choice

How are the victims of apartheid described here? What details in the description invite an emotional response?

THE HISTORY OF APARTHEID

C.E. = Common Era

300 C.E.	1652	1910	1912	1913	1948
South Africa is populated by black Khoisan and Bantu-speaking peoples	Dutch settlers (called Boers) establish Cape Town	Union of South Africa is formed by British and Dutch	African National Congress (ANC) is formed to protect black African interests	Native Land Act is passed to prevent blacks from owning land	Policy of apartheid is adopted when white Afrikaner National Party takes power



Source: African National Congress



sentenced to life in prison. For twenty-seven years he remained a prisoner who believed in the cause of freedom.

Sanctions were passed against South Africa. Many nations, including the United States, refused to trade with the country because of its human rights violations. In addition, violent protests within the nation were heightened in 1984. Indians and “colored” people, who were of mixed race, gained some civil rights while blacks were still excluded. Finally, the white rulers determined that all nonwhites should be allowed to vote. Nelson Mandela was freed from Robben Island Prison in 1990. Four years later, when the first democratic elections were held, Mandela became the first democratically elected president of South Africa.

Present-Day South Africa



Analyze the Map How many capital cities does South Africa have? What are their names?

Interpret the Time Line For how many years was apartheid an official policy in South Africa?

1962

United Nations forms Special Committee Against Apartheid

1964

Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage

1989

F.W. de Klerk becomes president

1990

Nelson Mandela is released after 27 years in prison

1991

De Klerk repeals, or ends, apartheid laws

1994

ANC wins first nonracial elections; Mandela becomes president





EPILOGUE

As president, Nelson Mandela worked to ease racial tension between blacks and whites and rebuild the reputation of South Africa in the international community.

When he retired from public office in 1999, Mandela remained involved with social and human rights organizations. In 2003, he lent his support to the 46664 Campaign, an AIDS awareness organization named after his prisoner number on Robben Island. He also established the Nelson Mandela Foundation to share his ideals and values with the rest of the world. ❖

ANALYZE Long Walk to Freedom

1. **Explain** What **motivated** Nelson Mandela to fight for freedom in South Africa? Give examples from the selection.
2. **Vocabulary** How did the **oppression** of people in South Africa affect Mandela's relationship with his family?
3. **Analyze Viewpoint: Word Choice** Copy a passage from the selection that inspires you. Underline words that appeal to the reader's emotions.
4. **Focus Strategy Form Generalizations** What is one generalization you formed based on what you read and your own experience or knowledge? Have a partner identify ideas that the generalization ties together.

Return to the Text

Reread and Write Imagine you are Mandela in prison. A comrade asks, "Why did you decide to struggle for human rights?" Reread to find at least two reasons in the text. Use the reasons to write a personal letter to your comrade.