
Unit 3 - Mandela is Free

3A Introduction

In America, the civil rights movement of the 1960s helped end the policy of “separate but equal,” a system that separated blacks and whites. But in South Africa, a racist system called Apartheid kept power in the hands of whites, even though there were many more black people than white people in the country. Apartheid didn’t go away until very recently. It existed in the 1990s. Apartheid made it easy for whites to vote, own land and work wherever they wanted, but made it very hard for black people to own good land, work and vote.

When a boy grew up and decided to fight this racist system, there were many people who wished he’d go away. His name is Nelson Mandela. His story is true, and it is one of the most moving stories ever told. Locked in a jail cell for 24 years, Mandela never stopped fighting for the rights of his people.

3B Song Lyrics

In South Africa, in a **remote** town,
Far from the cities you know well,
Born in **poverty**, Mandela was poor,
No meat and sweets that they couldn’t afford.
Resources were **meager**, they didn’t have many,
But had a lot of love and a big family.
This story goes in order, it’s **chronological**,
The first to go to school, that’s hard to do.

He was a hard-working student, **diligent** with the books,
Some white people on the street, giving him looks.
Here’s the **context**, see the background now,
Colonial Dutch ruled South Africa.
The whole country at this time
Was divided along race lines, Apartheid.
So blacks were the **majority**, more than half,
But couldn’t vote, now that’s some bad math.

So Mandela was treated with **prejudice**,
People didn’t like him, even before they met him.
His loyalty, **allegiance**, was to freedom,
But his college kicked him out like, “we don’t need him.”
This caused and **generated** a feeling in his soul,
When a dream is held back, it just might blow!
Their hatred was just an **obstacle**,
Something in his way, but it’s not impossible.

Mandela! Yes, Mandela is free, but what about my people? My people!

He set out to change and **transform**,
The whole country one mind at a time.
Joined the African National Congress,
ANC, what’s that? Y’all gonna have to wait and see.



At first he tried to talk and **negotiate**,
Deal with the government, start bargaining.
But his talks were met with silence,
So as a last resort he turned to violence.

But he was **prosecuted** and put on trial,
The judge said, "You're going to go to jail for a while."
So they locked him up, and threw away the key,
In jail for twenty four years* in his cell.
But he **possessed** and had the spirit that
Was strong like his ancestors had.
And the people fought to end Apartheid,
And when Mandela was freed, yeah they went all wild.

You represent? Here's what representing is,
When you get out of jail, you're made President.
You represent? Here's what representing is,
When you get out of jail, you're made President like Mandela!

Hook

"Poverty is not natural. It is manmade. And it can be overcome and eradicated." - Nelson Mandela

**Note: Mandela served 24 years before being transferred to Victor Verster Prison, where he served an additional 3 years. He served a total of 27 years in prison.*

3C Words Defined

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. allegiance (noun) loyalty or devotion

Charlotte's *allegiance* to her farm animals was an inspiration to all of us.

2. chronological (adj) occurring or going in order of time

Mrs. Swanson had us do an activity in history class where we had to place a bunch of historical events in *chronological* order without the aid of our textbook.

Synonyms: consecutive

Antonyms: random

Other forms: When events are arranged in time, they form a *chronology* (noun).

3. context (noun) the background or situation for something

Shawna always takes my comments out of *context* and therefore I look like a mean person.

4. diligent (adj) hard-working or thorough

Amir was such a *diligent* worker that he was recognized as "Employee of the Month" for five months in a row.

Antonyms: lazy, negligent

5. generate (verb) to produce or create

The principal asked the teachers to *generate* a list of students who were passing and not passing their classes.

Antonyms: to destroy, demolish

6. majority (noun) the greater part or number

A *majority* of the athletes had bruises on their bodies from the rough game the night before.

Antonyms: minority

7. meager (adj) not enough; inadequate

A *meager* harvest can mean that some farmers won't be able to pay their bills.

8. negotiate (verb) to bargain; to try to reach a deal

Bailey tried to *negotiate* with the assistant principal and convince him that he should only serve three, not eleven detentions.

Synonyms: to haggle

Other forms: The *negotiator* (noun) attempted to talk the man into releasing his hostages.

9. obstacle (noun) something that gets in your way; an obstruction

The campers encountered an *obstacle* on the hiking trail, which forced them to rappel down the mountain.

Synonyms: barrier, hurdle

10. possess (verb) to own, occupy or control

I *possess* some antique coins that are worth a lot of money.

Other forms: Something that you own is a *possession* (noun).

11. poverty (noun) the state of being poor

The *poverty* in the inner city was out of control, so the mayor was attempting to solve it with new programs and policies.

12. prejudice (noun) judging someone or something before you know much about them; a preconceived attitude

Mostly because of *prejudice*, the short person found it hard to get a job as a salesman.

Synonyms: intolerance, discrimination

13. prosecute (verb) to accuse or put on trial

The attorney was hoping to *prosecute* Kimball to the full extent of the law.

Antonyms: to defend

Other forms: The *prosecution* (noun) is the group of lawyers who argue that someone is guilty. It is also the act of prosecuting someone.

14. remote  (adj) far out of the way and distant

Tokyo is not a *remote* town, but a small Japanese fishing village is.

Antonyms: nearby

15. transform  (verb) to change

Some reality television shows like to *transform* people with complete makeovers and surprise their family.

Other forms: There was a huge *transformation* (noun) in Alex's behavior once he was released from juvenile hall.

3D Fix the Mistake

Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. Jeff constructed a timeline that accurately arranged all of the Civil War battles **diligently**.

2. Every day Ms. Weldon leads her students in the pledge of **context** to the American flag.

3. After some intense **transformation**, Michael was able to convince his mom to buy him a new bicycle in exchange for the responsibility of more chores.

4. Our camping location at Yellowstone Park was so **chronological** that I saw more bears than human beings while on our family vacation.

5. Though no one at school cared at first, Heather's amazing speech **possessed** a lot of support for her plan to fix school lunches.

6. Though he didn't win the trophy, Elijah still defeated the **diligence** of students his age to claim fifth place at the State Championship Chess Tournament.

7. The traffic jam was a(n) **prejudice** we had to overcome in order to get to the airport on time.

8. Anthony's most prized **generation** is his Derek Jeter autographed baseball.

9. Madison was a **majority** inch short of the height requirement to ride the roller coaster.

10. **Negotiators** are toys that can quickly change from automobiles into robots.

11. Natasha **remotely** worked on perfecting all of the dance moves included in the new Ciara music video.

12. I like how in history class we learn the **obstacles**, or background, of many different historical events.

13. At the beginning of the Dr. Seuss book *The Sneetches*, some of the characters show their **allegiance** by treating others unfairly, based on their appearances.

14. The teenagers were **transformed** for vandalism after tagging the side of the brick building with artistic graffiti.

15. The United States donates food to people living in **prejudice** in other nations.

3E Pick the Winner

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.

1. Olivia did not (**possess OR transform**) enough money to buy her subway ticket, so I bought it for her.
2. _____
3. Living in (**context OR poverty**) can be very difficult.
4. _____

- 5. Many customers were disappointed that the jukebox had a **(majority OR meager)** selection of funk songs.
- 6. _____
- 7. It was crucial that the **(negotiations OR generations)** for a new contract went well, so the workers' strike would end.
- 8. _____
- 9. Teachers love to have a class full of hard-working, **(diligent OR prejudice)** students.
- 10. _____

3F Draw the Relationship

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

1	diligent nearby	something in the way remote	disloyal lazy	obstacle allegiance
2	keep the same transform	majority put on trial	less than half make or create	generate prosecute
3	discrimination meager	rich out of order	prejudice chronological	many poverty
4	generate negotiate	to have or own context	possess background or framework	reach a deal destroy

3G Understanding What You Read

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

Apartheid was a system of separating or segregating races from one another in the country of South Africa. It was an institution that existed for many years, since it was backed by laws. To provide some context chronologically, it started in the year 1948, and it was finally dissolved in the year 1994, when the South African government held its first truly democratic elections.

Prior to 1994, the system prevented black people from having the opportunity to vote in all elections. It was a system based on prejudice, in which the white minority tried to control the black majority. Blacks were only allowed to vote in remote regions called Bantustans. Many black people lived and worked in the “white” regions in the country, which had better land for farming. Still, they were still not able to vote there. Black citizens could only vote in the “black” regions.

There were other obstacles for blacks in South Africa as well. The education provided in all “black” schools was worse than the education provided in all “white” schools. Without a voice in the government or the right to vote, black South Africans could not transform the system of Apartheid into something fair for everyone. If they spoke up against Apartheid then they would be breaking the law and would be prosecuted for it.

Breaking the law is exactly what Nelson Mandela did in an attempt to bring about change. At first he tried to end Apartheid through peaceful negotiations, but when that failed, violence erupted. He was prosecuted and sentenced to 27 years in prison for his actions. He did not give up, however, on his dream to end Apartheid in South Africa. After his release in the year 1990, he again took on a peaceful approach for ending this unfair system. After three long years of peaceful negotiations, Nelson Mandela finally achieved his goal and Apartheid ended. Now all South Africans, regardless of their race, could pledge their allegiance to a new integrated country and its first democratically elected President, Nelson Mandela.

1. According to the text, Apartheid

- (A) never really existed in South Africa
- (B) lasted for just under 50 years
- (C) lasted for over 250 years
- (D) lasted for just over 50 years

2. Which statement is a fact?

- (A) Apartheid is still present in South Africa.
- (B) Nelson Mandela did not break any laws.
- (C) There were no elections held at all between the years 1948–1994.
- (D) The first integrated democratic elections took place in 1994.

3. After reading this, I can infer that

- (A) the prisons in South Africa are worse than the prisons in America
- (B) even in winter, South Africa is hot
- (C) many black citizens of South Africa voted for Nelson Mandela
- (D) prejudice was not as big a problem in South Africa as in the United States

4. Poor schools in South Africa were, for blacks,

- (A) an obstacle to gaining power in society
- (B) a context for gaining power in society
- (C) a prejudice for gaining power in society
- (D) an allegiance for gaining power in society

5. After reading the text, I can infer that

- (A) schools are still segregated (separated) by race in South Africa
 (B) all white people left South Africa when Apartheid ended
 (C) Nelson Mandela stayed true to his beliefs while in jail
 (D) all black citizens left South Africa when Apartheid ended

3H Thinking Creatively

Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

1. Describe the biggest **obstacle** you've had to overcome in your life.

2. Knowing the definition of the word **remote**, why do you think they named a TV changer a "remote control"?

3. Describe why or why not the pledge of **allegiance** should be recited every day in school?

4. Think of another time in history when a famous person was **prosecuted** (note: not Nelson Mandela). Describe why the person you thought of was put on trial.

5. Make a **chronological** timeline below of your own life. Include and choose three significant events (in order) that have happened in your life (note: being born and present day do not count towards your three entries).

Born on:

Present Day:

Word Breakdown

The word *chronological* is an adjective form of *chronology*, which comes from Greek *khronos* (meaning "time") and *logos* (meaning "idea or word").

The word *blog* is a new word. It's defined as "a website where entries are written in chronological order." The word *blog* is just a shortened version of "web log." A *log* is a journal, often kept by a captain at sea. You might guess that *log* comes from the Greek word *logos*, but it doesn't. Instead, it's related to the logs you might throw on a campfire. The word *log* comes from the Old Norse word *lag* (meaning "fallen tree"). What's the connection between the log you write in and the logs you get when you chop down a tree? Well, a sea captain would write the daily speed of his ship in a *logbook*. They called it that because, in order to see how fast a ship was moving, a sailor would drop a log off the front of the boat and count how many seconds it took for the log to reach the end of the boat. Then they'd do some crazy math to figure out how fast the ship was moving. Thus, the captain logged the speed of the logs in his log. Get it?