

Prepared Jointly by Boston University's African Studies Center and Africa Access Review,
**Teaching About Nelson Mandela, the Apartheid and
the Struggle for Freedom**

For Elementary, Middle and High School students and beyond



We join the millions of South Africans in mourning the death and rejoicing in the life of Nelson Mandela. This annotated resource guide is to support teaching about Mandela and the freedom movement in South Africa. We have selected a few highly recommended resources.

For those in the Boston area, everything below can be borrowed by visiting Boston University's *Teaching Africa Library*, open M-F 9-5. (Call to make special arrangements.) We can often arrange speakers from South Africa, as well as other parts of the continent. For those beyond Boston, you can borrow our DVDs through the mail. Email: africa@bu.edu.

For those everywhere else, our online database can be searched. You can find an even broader selection than the list below of highly recommended K-12 books and DVDs:
<http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/outreach-library/>

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Part I: On Nelson Mandela

Part II: On Apartheid and the Struggle for Freedom

On Nelson Mandela:

For Middle and High School:

Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*. His stunning, beautifully written memoir.

Nelson Mandela Foundation, Umlando Wezithombe (illus.), *Nelson Mandela: the Authorized Comic Book* (Winner of the Children's Africana Book Award for Older Readers). Divided into eight chapters, the story of Nelson Mandela's life unfolds in beautifully drawn graphic images accompanied with narrative text.

Mandela, Nelson; *Mandela: An Illustrated Autobiography*. The book combines nearly 200 stunning photographs with text adapted from his remarkable memoir.

DVD "*Amandla!*" Perhaps the best DVD on the freedom struggle and winner of Sundance Film Festival and several Emmy's. This award-winning

DVD shows through music and narrated film clips how the struggle developed “in 4-part harmony.” Available to borrow through the mail from the Teaching Africa Library (africa@bu.edu)

CD “*Amandla!*” A separate CD from the movie includes songs that rock with power, sorrow, jubilation, and more. Several songs are specifically about Mandela. Available for pick up from BU’s Teaching Africa Library (africa@bu.edu)

DVD “*Invictus*” The sports drama of the World Rugby Cup, where Mandela overcame decades of sharp racial divisions in sports and brought a divided nation together to cheer the team to an astonishing victory.

Faces Magazine, the issue devoted to Nelson Mandela, February 2006.

Lesson plan: <http://civilrightsteaching.org/about/handouts-sample-lessons/movers-and-movements/>

Putting the Movement Back into Civil Rights Teaching. It focuses on people in the fight against apartheid. While including Mandela, it introduces students to other courageous leaders, both women and men, black as well as white and Asian.

Curriculum: www.overcomingapartheid.msu.edu

Search under Mandela which brings up teaching units, multimedia resources on his treason trial, video clips from his life, and even—at this holiday time--the list from Robben Island where he recorded the number of Christmas cards he hoped to be given permission to send out.

For Elementary School:

Letters to Madiba: Voices of South African Children, written and illus. by South African children and edited by Clarice Smuts. 80,000 South African children wrote to Nelson Mandela. This book selected some of the children’s best and most moving letters and drawings. Though published in South Africa, it’s available 2 ways: at BU for Boston-area borrowers or by purchase through The US non-profit South Africa Partners. Visit their children’s bookshop: <http://www.sapartners.org/what-we-do/education/masifundesonke.html>

Chris van Wyk; Paddy Nouma (illus.) *Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*. This authorized picture book version of Mandela’s memoir provides a useful summary of the highlights of Mandela’s life beginning with his growing up in the Eastern Cape in his youth to his adulthood.

Floyd Cooper; *Mandela : From the Life of the South African Statesman*. This book describes and depicts many of the salient points of Mandela’s life.

On Apartheid and the Struggle for Freedom:

For lessons on apartheid and the South African struggle for freedom, many resources exist. Here are some of the best, both in literature and in non-fiction. For literature, we’ve focused on shorter ones. (Please write to africa@bu.edu for recommendations of full-length novels). The section is divided both by grade level and then into literature and non-fictions sections.

For Middle and High School: Shorter Literary Readings:

Athol Fugard, *Master Harold and the Boys*. South Africa's greatest playwright gives us a story of a vulnerable white boy who almost destroys the love and protection his parents' two servants provide him. A play, it's also a moving film available on Netflix performed by superb cast.

Nadine Gordimer (Nobel Laureate), *A Soldier's Embrace*. Her collection of short stories of lives under apartheid.

Njabulo Ndebele, *Fools and Other Stories*. His collection of short stories of lives under apartheid.

Beverly Naidoo, *No Turning Back*. (Winner of the Children's Africana Book Award for Older Readers) "Gritty but optimistic" (*The Guardian*), this story takes us into the world of Sipho, who lives on the street and learns whom to trust as he makes his way forward, in the new South Africa where poverty persists.

Beverly Naidoo, *Journey to Jo'burg*. When their baby sister becomes dangerously ill, thirteen year old Naledi and her younger brother journey to Johannesburg where their mother works as a maid for a white family. Through the eyes of these children, readers grow to understand apartheid.

Beverly Naidoo, *Out Of Bounds: Stories of Conflict and Hope* (Winner of the Children's Africana Book Award for Older Readers)

Madam and Eve (a daily comic strip, about a white "madam" and her black servant, Eve; somewhat Doonesbury-ish). Especially recommended is the collection, *Madam and Eve Free at Last*, that covers the period of euphoria and adjustments following the 94 freedom elections.

<http://www.abebooks.com/Madam-Eve-Free-Last-Second-%20Collection/5816092618/bdCollection/5816092618/bd>

Available to pick up at BU's Teaching Africa Library (africa@bu.edu)

For Middle and High School: Non-Fiction:

Curriculum: <http://www.apartheidmuseum.org/resources> This interactive curriculum from South Africa's Apartheid Museum. It covers apartheid and the struggle for freedom in concise chapters, each on a distinct time period. The book contains very short documents, photos on every page and text, along with questions for students. A detailed teachers' guide is provided.

Curriculum: William Bigelow, *Strangers in Their Own Country*. A superb, interactive curriculum on South Africa by this justly well-known *Rethinking Schools* teacher.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/music-a-powerful-ally-in-mandela-led-revolution/>

An 8-min clip of the powerful songs and people of South Africa's freedom movement. A chance to glimpse a real jolt of defiance to apartheid and joy in achieving freedom.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25288934> (2 min.) BBC's South African reporter visits Johannesburg's Apartheid Museum to reflect on Mandela's legacy & to remember his own South African childhood.

South Africa's new national anthem: In the first selection, the Soweto Gospel Choir sings, while the second selection, you both hear the song and read the words in the original and in translation. Comes with visuals of the national flag.

1. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTtINHRja4k>
2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhUMsqeI7kM>

www.bu.edu/africa/outreach In the 1970's and 80's Americans played a useful role in weakening apartheid through economic sanctions. Students, including high school, organized for sanctions as did community organizations, churches, and government. These actions mirrored in a small, non-violent way the tremendous grassroots organizing by ordinary South Africans. It is critical to recall that Nelson Mandela did not have the key to unlock his prison cell; it was a popular mass movement that freed him. Find here the story of the successful Polaroid divestment campaign, addressing corporate and individual ethics. A shorter version of this resource will appear in the forthcoming teaching book on apartheid, created by Facing History and Ourselves with Boston University's African Studies Center.

DVD: "*Girls Apart*" visits two teens at home to learn about their lives and political views. (The black teen was politically active. Available to borrow/mail from the Teaching Africa Library (africa@bu.edu))

DVD: "*Amandla!*" See description above. Available to purchase at your favorite online retailer or to borrow/mail from the Teaching Africa Library (africa@bu.edu)

CD: "*Amandla!*" See description above. Available to purchase at your favorite online retailer or for pick up from BU's Teaching Africa Library (Africa@bu.edu)

For Elementary School:

Elinor Batezat Sisulu; Sharon Wilson (illus.) *The Day Gogo Went to Vote*. (Winner of the 1997 Children's Africana Book Award for Young Children) Thembi and her beloved great-grandmother, who has not left the house for many years, go together to vote on the momentous day when black South Africans vote for the first time.

Desmond Tutu, A. G. Ford (illus.) *Desmond and the Very Mean Word - A Story of Forgiveness*. When Desmond takes his new bicycle out for a ride through his neighborhood, his pride and joy turn to hurt and anger when a group of boys shout a very mean word at him.

For your information: the Shone bio is not acceptable; Roberts and Daniels are out of print

Please contact us with questions or comments.

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