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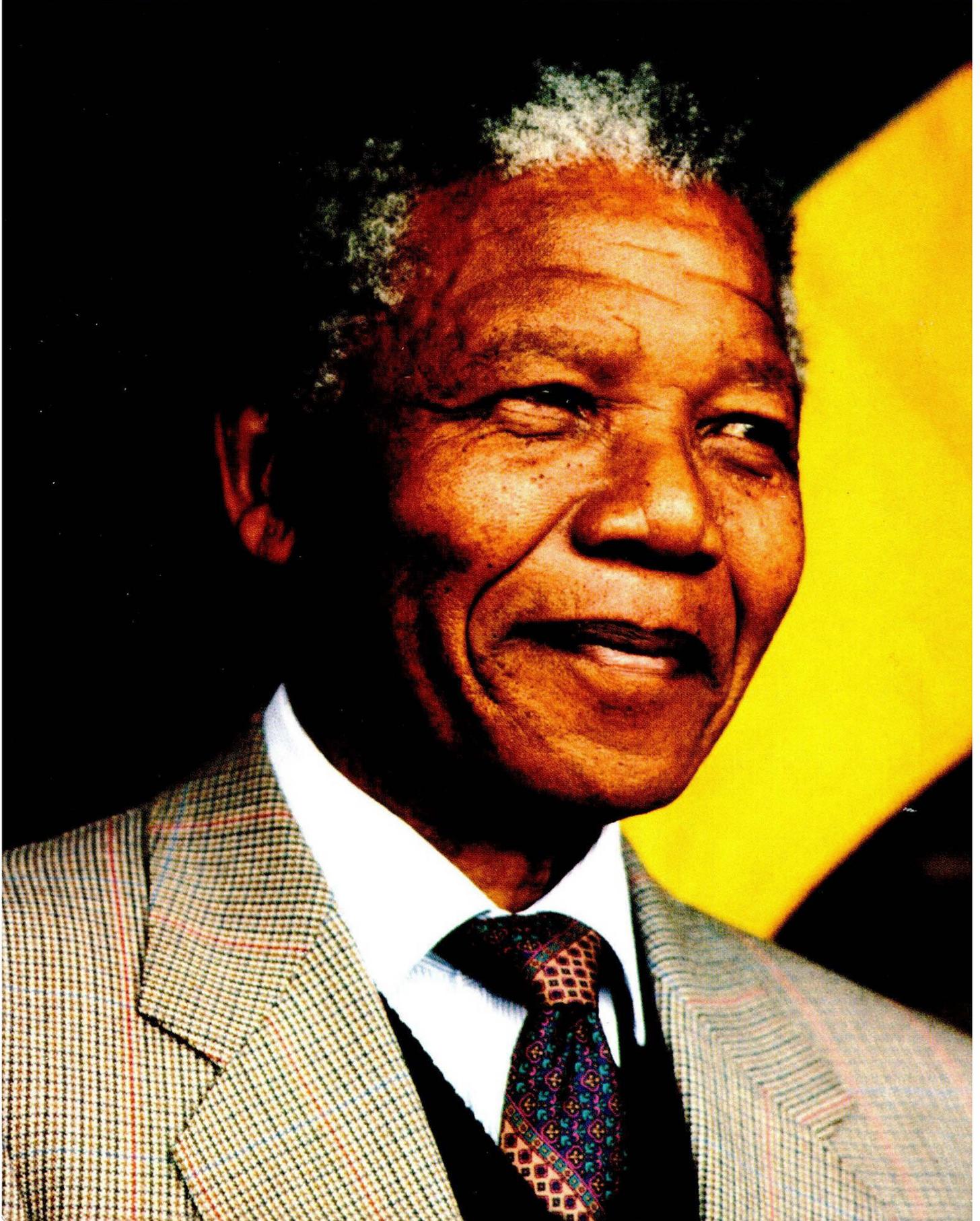
LEVEL

Nelson Mandela

Coleen Degnan-Veness

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Level 2

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1.1 What's the book about?

What do you know about Nelson Mandela? Talk to other students and make notes here.

Notes

1.2 What happens first?

Read the sentences in the box. Then answer the questions and talk about your answers.

In the second half of the 1900s, 'apartheid' was central to the South African way of life. The ANC* fought apartheid and they won.

1 What do you understand by 'apartheid'?

.....

2 What did apartheid do for or to:

- black people?

.....

- white people?

.....

3 Why did the government want apartheid, do you think?

.....

4 Was apartheid important in Nelson Mandela's early life? How?

.....

5 When did the ANC win their fight?

.....

* ANC (African National Congress): a political organization of black people; it started in 1912.

South Africa 1652-1994

Whites had good jobs and blacks had bad jobs.

They lived by different laws.

In 1652, white Dutch people (Boers) went to the Cape in South Africa, and they took **land** from the Africans. They took the men from the African **tribes** because they wanted workers. In 1795, the British arrived. From 1803–1815 there was fighting in Europe. When it ended, the British got the Cape. There were problems between the British and the Boers (or 'Afrikaners'), and from 1899–1902 they fought. The British won, but in 1910 they wanted to work with the Afrikaners. So the Cape, Natal, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal had one **government** with an Afrikaner **president**.

At this time in South Africa, there were 4,020,000 Africans, 1,280,000 whites, 150,000 Indians and 530,000 coloureds (half white). White people made the **laws**. One law was the **Pass** Law.

Africans had to carry a pass book and could not go from one town to another town without it. They had to show it to policemen when they asked for it. Years later, when blacks did not carry their pass books, the police **arrested** them.



Africans had to live in places for 'Blacks Only', but they worked for white people. Whites had good jobs and blacks had bad jobs. They lived by different laws. The only schools for black children were church schools. Other children went to government schools.

From 1948, 'apartheid' was the word for these laws and this way of life. The ANC fought apartheid and they won this fight in 1994.

land /lænd/ (n) People build houses on *land*.

tribe /traib/ (n) The people in an African *tribe* speak the same *tribal* language.

government /'gʌvənmənt/ (n) The *government* makes the rules for a country.

president /'prezədənt/ (n) The *president* of a country has the highest government job.

law /lɔ:/ (n) A *law* is a rule for the people in a country. A *lawyer* can tell you about *laws*.

pass /pɑ:s/ (n) You show a *pass*, usually with your photo in it, when you want to go to other places.

arrest /ə'rest/ (v) Police *arrest* people when they do something wrong.



when it came, he waited a very short time. Then he shouted the important words, ‘I am a man!’ Mandela remembers this day and says, ‘I was not as strong as the other boys.’

Then Chief Meligqili spoke. He said to the young men and their fathers, ‘Our sons sit there, flowers of the Xhosa tribe. But they are not men ...’ He spoke about the white men’s laws for black men in South Africa. The men listened to him and were angry. Nobody wanted to hear these words. Nelson liked the white men because they built schools for his people. At that time, he did not understand the chief’s words. Some years later, he understood very well.

Nelson’s next school, Healdtown, was in Fort Beaufort. In the 1800s, the British took this place from the Xhosa people and killed many great Xhosa fighters. Two of them died in the **prison** at Robben Island near Cape Town. Later, Robben Island was very important in Nelson’s life, too.

● Important changes

At Healdtown, Nelson met a teacher from the Sotho tribe, and his wife was a Xhosa. At that time in South Africa, Africans did not marry people from different tribes. But Nelson’s ideas started changing after he met that teacher. And for the first time, he started being an African, not only a Xhosa.

prison /'prɪzən/ (n) You go to *prison* when you do something very wrong.



not like this idea. The other ANC leaders liked it, so Mandela changed his ideas. The ANC organized a protest. They told the government, ‘Change six apartheid laws or we’ll protest again.’ The government did not listen.

Mandela organized protesters. ‘This will be dangerous,’ he told them, ‘but you can’t use violence. Perhaps the police will use violence, but you can’t.’ Mandela went to Durban and spoke to 10,000 people. He told them, ‘The world will see us and listen.’



● The Day of Protest

The Day of Protest was the ANC's first protest across the country. 'Use white people's toilets, trains, waiting rooms and post offices,' they told blacks. The government was angry and the police arrested Mandela, his Indian friend, Yusuf Cachalia, and many other protesters. They were in prison for two days. Eight thousand people went to prison in the next five months. There was no violence and Mandela was happy with the protests.

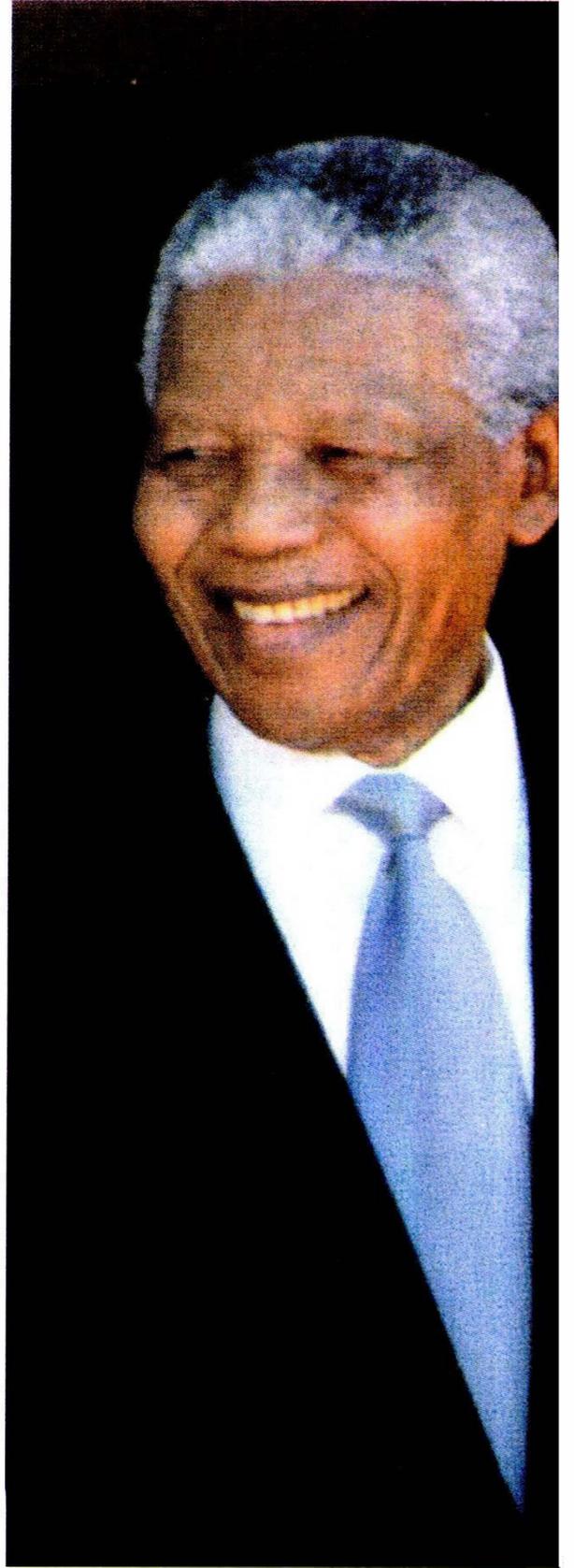
In 1952, Mandela started a new law office in the centre of Johannesburg with his friend, Oliver Tambo. It was the only office of black lawyers in South Africa. Every day, they listened to the thousands of problems of black people.

The government wanted to stop Mandela and the ANC, so sometimes the government **banned** Mandela and other important ANC people from meetings. Sometimes they could not leave Johannesburg for nine months, or for two years, or for five years, for meetings with other ANC people.

The president of the ANC at that time was Chief Luthuli, a Zulu. In 1954, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Chief Luthuli and other important ANC people started a new organization for blacks, Indians

ban /bæn/ (v/n) When you *ban* somebody from a place, they can't go there.





Project *Protests and the Family*

- 1 Think about Mandela's first and second wives and his five children. How did his fight for freedom make their lives difficult? Talk to other students.
- 2 Walter Sisulu (1912–2003) went to prison with Nelson Mandela. Read about his wife, Albertina Sisulu. She was not interested in politics when she married Walter. But politics changed her life. Talk to another student and answer the questions below.

Albertina Sisulu was born in 1918. In 1941 she began working in a Johannesburg hospital. She met Walter that year and she married him in 1944. She and Walter had five children. After Walter's sister died, they were parents to her three children too.



Mrs Sisulu started working with a black women's organization and in 1956 she was one of the people in the Treason Trial. She was in prison for a year. Then the government said, 'The pass laws are for women too.' The women in

her organization thought, 'We are not going to carry passes!' They organized other black women and protested. Mrs Sisulu did not want to lose her hospital job because the ANC could not pay her husband. She had to work so they could eat. But when she was the leader of a second protest in 1958, the police arrested her with two thousand women. They were in prison for three weeks before their trial started. Nelson Mandela was their lawyer. After almost a month, they were free. Later, the government banned Mrs Sisulu from meetings, but they could not stop her protests.

Family life was very difficult. Mrs Sisulu went to prison again in 1963, and this time her seventeen-year-old son went too. After that, her son left the country. In 1986 her third child went to prison for five years. In 2003 Albertina said, 'Politics gave me a difficult life but it made me a strong woman.'

- a Why was it important for Albertina to keep her job at the hospital?
- b How many people in Albertina's family went to prison. Who were they?
- c How did Nelson Mandela help her in 1958?
- d Do you think Albertina was 'a strong woman'? Why (not)?

- 5 **Somebody in your family is in prison after a protest. You think they were right. But now there are problems at home. Write a letter to that person. Tell them about the problems. Do you want the person to stop protesting? Or have you got more ideas for protests?**

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Nelson Mandela

Coleen Degan-Veness

British English

Original

Nelson Mandela's life is the story of a country boy and his fight for the black people of South Africa. The extraordinary story of a great man, a freedom fighter and one of the world's most important leaders.

PENGUIN
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Level 2
600 headwords
Elementary

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