

Prepared Jointly by Boston University's African Studies Center and Africa Access Review,

**Teaching About Nelson Mandela,
Apartheid and the Struggle for Freedom**
For Elementary, Middle and High School students and beyond



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A Note on Accessing These Resources:

For those not in the Boston area, visit your favorite library or online book company. To find an even broader selection than the list above of highly recommended K-12 books and DVDs go to:

<http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/outreach-library/> OR www.AfricaAccessReview.org

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.

Part I. 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.

Several days after Mandela's passing, the Soweto Gospel Choir performs a joyful flash mob tribute to him: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHHjP7XrBq0>

This site lets us hear Mandela giving his greatest speech, at his treason trial. He describes the aspirations of Black South Africans, concluding: "I have cherished the ideal of a free society . . . and it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." As he speaks, powerful photos illuminating apartheid are shown.

<http://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/content.php?pid=546503&sid=4497335>

Film: *Mandela: the Long Walk to Freedom*"

DVD "*Amandla!*" Perhaps the best DVD on the freedom struggle. Winner of several Emmy's and awards at the Sundance Film Festival. Through music and powerful film clips, the film follows the development of the struggle "in 4-part harmony." Available to borrow through the mail from BU's Teaching Africa Library (africa@bu.edu)

CD "*Amandla!*" A CD created from the movie above. Includes songs that rock with power, sorrow, jubilation, and more. Several songs are specifically about Mandela. Find it on sale on the Internet or pick it 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 unexpected victory.

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

Lesson plan: South African Movers and Movements

<http://civilrightsteaching.org/resource/teaching-south-african-freedom-struggle/>

Putting the Movement Back into Civil Rights Teaching. While including Mandela, it introduces students to other courageous leaders, both women and men, black as well as white and Asian. It is critical to teach that Nelson Mandela did not have the key to unlock his prison cell; it was a popular mass movement that freed him and that he in turn led to full democracy.

Overcoming Apartheid: 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 receive 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, expressing their hopes, fears and pride. 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. Follow the links from this page: <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.

Floyd Cooper, *Mandela: From the Life of the South African Statesman*. This picture book describes and depicts many of the turning points of Mandela's life.

Part II. 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. The section is divided 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. This play is 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 Siphso, who lives on the street and learns whom to trust as he makes his way forward, in a 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. As they travel, readers come to understand apartheid through the eyes of South African children.

Beverly Naidoo, *Out Of Bounds: Stories of Conflict and Hope* (Winner of the Children's Africana Book Award for Older Readers). Seven stories spanning the period 1948- 2000 chronicle the experiences of young people of different races as they cope with the restrictions of apartheid and, later, the challenges of integration.

Madam and Eve a Doonesbury-ish daily comic strip, about a white "madam" and her black servant, Eve. Especially recommended is the collection, *Madam and Eve Free at Last*, which covers the period of euphoria and adjustments following the '94 freedom elections. Find it online or pick it up at BU's Teaching Africa Library (africa@bu.edu)

For Middle and High School: Non-Fiction:

Curriculum on apartheid and resistance: <http://zinnedproject.org/materials/strangers-in-their-own-country-a-curriculum-guide-on-south-africa/> by William Bigelow, justly well-

known *Rethinking Schools* teacher. This powerful interactive curriculum focuses on core aspects of apartheid through 1982. The introductory lesson, an *M&M* simulation is priceless.

Curriculum: on apartheid and freedom <http://www.apartheidmuseum.org/resources> From South Africa's Apartheid Museum comes a detailed curriculum which also covers the struggle for freedom. Each chapter contains very short documents, photos, graphics and text, along with questions for students. While more detailed than the above curriculum, it is less interactive.

N.B.: The songs and music of resistance reflect the spirit of South Africa and are a wonderful resource. South Africa's former President Mbeki states, "At no time has the liberation struggle not been singing."

Songs of defiance and songs of joy: <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.

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

1. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTtINHRja4k>
2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhUMsqei7kM>

DVD: "**Amandla!**" See description above. Available to purchase at your favorite online retailer or to borrow/mail from the BU's 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)

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

The US Responds to Apartheid: <http://www.bu.edu/africa/files/2013/10/The-US-Responds-to-Apartheid.pdf> 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. Here is the story of the successful Polaroid divestment campaign; the documents ask students to understand corporate power and to reflect on corporate and individual ethics. A shorter version will appear in the forthcoming teaching book on apartheid, created by *Facing History and Ourselves* with Boston University's African Studies Center. For a 20-min introduction to the Polaroid campaign: http://www.democracynow.org/2013/12/13/polaroid_apartheid_inside_the_beginnings_of

DVD: "**Girls Apart**" visits two teens at home, one black and the other white, to see and hear of their enormously different homes, lives and viewpoints. Available to borrow/mail 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 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 voted 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.

Please contact us with questions or comments:

Barbara B. Brown, Ph.D.
Director of the Outreach Program
African Studies Center, Boston University
<http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach>
africa@bu.edu

Brenda Randolph
President of Africa Access
Chair of Children's Africana Book Awards
www.AfricaAccessReview.org
ask@africaaccessreview.org

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