

Learning Pack

June 2012

Cape Town





Cape Town Opera

'When we come to theatre we create our own world where you totally forget your colour, you totally forget one's language'.

Nanhlanga Yende,
Cape Town Opera



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This Learning Pack is for anyone to access and looks into Cape Town Opera, Nelson Mandela and the Apartheid era. It contains information aimed at children in Primary schools, young people in Secondary school and also has a Life Long Learning section. We have included school activity suggestions from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4 to help teachers bring these topics to life but most can easily be adapted to use at home as well. This pack links to our Cape Town Learning week which has been inspired by the return of Cape Town Opera to Wales Millennium Centre.

In those years when black South Africans were held back from success, few young black singers were able to make a living from their art. After the ending of Apartheid, the directors of Cape Town Opera committed themselves to training young singers and giving them opportunities to perform.

Cape Town Opera members are part of a successful and creative group of multi-ethnic South Africans. The company returns to Wales Millennium Centre, bringing with them a revival of George and Ira Gershwin's '*Porgy and Bess*' plus the European première of '*Mandela Trilogy*' – an original work that commemorates the struggle of Nelson Mandela, the man who led the fight against the Apartheid regime.

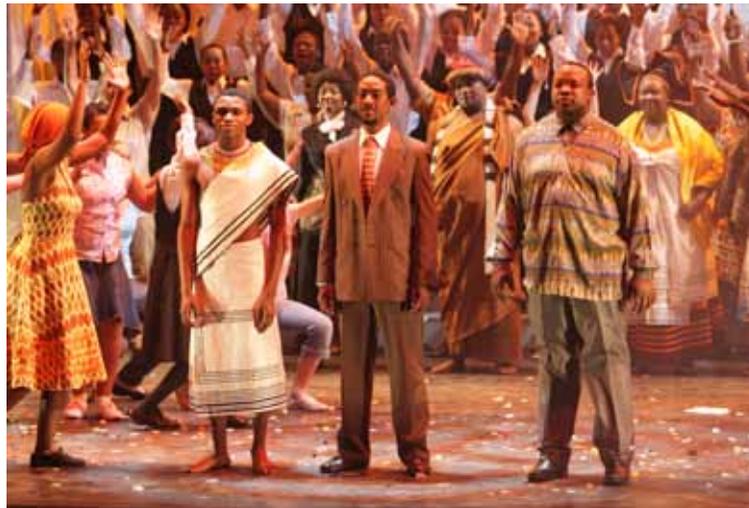
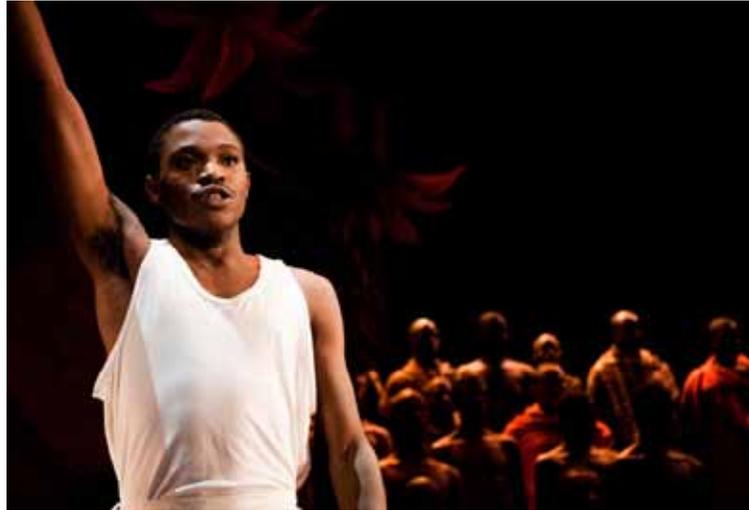
'*Mandela Trilogy*' is a musical tribute to one of the world's most iconic figures, dramatising scenes from Mandela's childhood, his awakening as a campaigner against repression, and his years in prison.

"...a musical and visual journey through the cultural landscape of South Africa's recent past, from the choral music of the Transkei, to the jive dance in the dance halls of the 1950s, to the Struggle songs of the 1980s and finally, the liberation music of the 1990s..."

Cape Times June 2010



Introducing Apartheid to Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2



At Wales Millennium Centre the Cape Town Opera company from South Africa is performing a new opera about Nelson Mandela called '*Mandela Trilogy*'. He is a man of courage and determination. When he was growing up in South Africa, the government forced people who were not white to live apart from white people. This was called Apartheid or "racial segregation". This made the non-white children and their parents feel that they were second class citizens.

Schoolchildren in the Apartheid regime were segregated. White pupils had space, lots of books and small class sizes. However, if you were non-white then your school would not be as well maintained. Schools for black South Africans were often a tin shack building with few chairs or tables. Resources were poor and there were not many pencils or exercise books. There was little sports equipment, no clean and tidy playground and there might have been 40 or even 50 children in one classroom with just one teacher.

Nelson Mandela knew it was wrong to treat people in this way and spoke out against it. The opera tells the story of his life, about the struggle to make all South Africans equal and to allow people to live together whatever their skin colour and racial background.

As a young person living today in Wales, if something bad happens, you can go to your teacher and say that somebody was misbehaving. Your teacher will help you solve the problem. In South Africa where Nelson Mandela was living, black school children could not do that and their parents could not speak up against those who treated them badly.

Classroom Activities

Activity 1

Foundation Phase (Curriculum focus: PSE)

Look at the importance of sharing, playing together and being aware of others' feelings

Create a separate 'fun area' in the classroom or maybe in your playground where only those certain chosen children are allowed to play. Please use whatever "segregation method" is more appropriate for your students – eye colour, the letter 't' in their names or their hair colour, for example. Give these children toys and engage them in fun activities to the exclusion of the children outside the 'fun area'. These children outside the 'fun area' are left to pursue their own activities with limited choice of games and activities.

After playing for a short while –

- Ask the children left out about their feelings.
Do they feel happy or sad?
- Ask the children in the 'fun area' if they thought about the others.
- Conclude by all children joining together to share their feelings about their experience when separated.
- Finally, ask the children if they can think why people are sometimes split up like this.

Please consider bringing all the children together at the end for a special fun activity, maybe singing songs or a whole class games activity, to remind the children how valuable and enjoyable it can be to share and play together.

Activity 2

Foundation Phase (Curriculum focus: Creative Development)

Create a picture in any medium to explore the child's feelings about inclusion

Talk about sharing and working together and share different experiences children might have had with other cultures than their own, in Wales or elsewhere.

Move to a creative picture making activity – any medium can be used – to allow the children to visualise their own ideas of what makes a good environment for people to live, work and play in together. Encourage the children to think about people from different cultures that they have met and to include them in their picture.

Those children who have created pictures illustrating people of other races or cultures might be encouraged to talk to others in the class about what they know about the world and its diversity.





Activity 3

Lower KS2 (Curriculum focus: History/Chronology)

Learn about Nelson Mandela's life and sequence the events

Nelson Mandela was South Africa's first democratically elected President.

Before his election, he protested against Apartheid, the system of government that oppressed black and other non-white people who formed the majority of the population in South Africa.

He was jailed for 27 years for fighting against the Apartheid regime. He helped end Apartheid.

Facts about Mandela -

- 1918 – Nelson Mandela is born in the village of Mveso in the Eastern Cape.
- 1942 – Mandela joins the African National Congress (ANC).
- 1948 – The Apartheid begins in South Africa.
- 1952 – Mandela opens South Africa's first black law firm.
- 1959 – New laws create separate homelands for black people.
- 1960 – The ANC is banned by white South African government.
- 1962 – Mandela is arrested, imprisoned and sentenced to 5 years in prison but goes on the run.
- 1964 – Mandela is recaptured and later sentenced to life imprisonment. He is 46 years old and goes to Robben Island prison.
- 1990 – Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.
- 1991 – The first ANC conference is held in South Africa since it was banned in 1960.

.....
 INVICTUS was a
 2009 movie about
 Nelson Mandela and
 the South African
 rugby team.

- 1993 – Mandela is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with F. W. de Klerk.
- 1994 – Mandela is elected as President of South Africa.
- 1999 – Mandela steps down as President.
- 2004 – Mandela announces that he will be stepping down from public life.
- 2008 – Mandela turns 90 years old.
- 2009 – The United Nations General Assembly declares July 18th 'Mandela Day' as a tribute to his contribution to world freedom.

Further research could be undertaken from a variety of sources. Pupils should be aware of how the past is represented and interpreted when undertaking historical enquiry. Look at the different ways books or the internet present information.

Ask pupils to create a timeline with historical events cut out from Worksheet 1. This gives pupils a chronological awareness of the events in Mandela's life. You may encourage further independent research to extend individuals' timelines.

Nelson Mandela

Occupation:

President of
South Africa and
Political Activist

Born:

July 18th, 1918
in Mvezo,
South Africa

Best known for:

Serving 27 years in
prison as a protest
against Apartheid

He had six children
and twenty
grandchildren.

Activity 4

Upper KS2 (Curriculum focus: Literacy)

Biography and Autobiography – Retrieve and collate information

All read the biographical information and then complete Worksheet 2 with the details they have retrieved and thought most relevant. This activity develops pupils' reading skills through experiencing and responding to text.

Who was Nelson Mandela?

Nelson Mandela is a civil rights leader in a country called South Africa. He fought against the racial oppression imposed by a government controlled by white people, a system known as Apartheid. Under Apartheid, black people had few rights and were denied access to parts of their own country. Mandela served a large part of his life in prison for his protests, but became a symbol for his people. Later he would become President of South Africa.

Where did Nelson Mandela grow up?

Nelson Mandela was born on July 18th, 1918 in Mvezo, South Africa. His birth name is Rolihlahla (meaning 'trouble maker') Mandela. His father was chief of the city of Mvezo. He got the nickname Nelson from a teacher in school. Mandela and his three sisters grew up living in the family kraal. A kraal is a small group of huts used by native Africans. These huts were very simple, with earthen floors. People had no mattresses as we think of them. Instead, they slept on the floor on simple mats. Nelson Mandela's family was of high status – his father was a royal chief of the tribe known as 'Thembu.' But being royal did not mean that Mandela rode around in a big car, he had to help look after the animals and work in the fields. He attended the University of Witwatersrand. There Mandela got his law degree in 1942 and met some other people who disagreed with Apartheid.

What did Nelson Mandela do to fight Apartheid?

Nelson Mandela became a leader of a political party called the African National Congress (ANC). At first he pushed hard for the ANC and the protesters to follow a non-violent approach to achieve political reform. However, after the ANC was banned by the South African government in 1960, he started to doubt that this peaceful approach would work.

He started up an armed branch of the ANC - Umkhonto we Sizwe or "Spear of the Nation". He planned to bomb certain buildings, but he wanted to make sure that no person would be hurt. He was called a terrorist by the South African government and they wanted him arrested.

Mandela's prison years

Mandela was arrested by the South African government in 1962 for campaigning to overthrow the government. He was sentenced to five years hard labour but went on the run. He was recaptured two years later in 1964 and then, whilst still a prisoner, he was put on trial for plotting other ways to overthrow the white-only government. He was found guilty of treason and sabotage and sentenced to life in prison. From 1964 to 1982 he was imprisoned at Robben Island, an island prison 7km off the coast near Cape Town. From 1984 to his release he was at Pollsmoor Prison on the mainland. Mandela spent 27 years in prison. He refused to give up on his principals even though this meant staying in prison. He wanted all people of all races to have equal rights and said that he would die for his beliefs.

After his release

Nelson Mandela was finally released on February 11th 1990 because people around the world demonstrated against his imprisonment. He then became the leader of a legal and powerful campaign against Apartheid. This was something he had begun as a young man, which had cost him many years in jail. Now he could call openly on black South Africans to join him in seizing power through peaceful means. In 1991, Mandela became President of the African National Congress, the ANC, at its first free conference on South African soil after being illegal for forty years. Mandela's political party grew from determined struggle, and the party took control and ran South Africa's government after the first free election in 1994. Nelson Mandela became his country's President – from prisoner to President in four years.

Introducing Apartheid in South Africa to Key Stage 3 and 4

Apartheid is the word used to describe the system of government that gave white South Africans complete control over the country, giving most citizens second or third class status because they were black. The word 'Apartheid' means 'apartness' in the language of the white minority whose ancestors were Dutch settlers in South Africa. Their language is called Afrikaans. The whites tried to force black schoolchildren to learn Afrikaans, but many refused and were punished for it.

Black South Africans were obliged to carry a pass book to prove they had permission to be in 'white' areas of the country. Signs reading 'These Public Premises and the Amenities Thereof Have Been Reserved for the Exclusive Use of White Persons' made black South Africans aware of their 'inferior status' every day.

From 1910-48 the vote was given only to whites and Cape Coloureds, a term used in South Africa to describe people of mixed race. The Cape Coloureds were removed from the register after the Afrikaner National Party came to power in 1948. This form of repression was based purely on skin colour, it didn't matter how clever or hard working someone was in South Africa under white rule; if they weren't white they were denied access to good schools, good homes and good jobs and even refused permission to move to the big cities.

The original idea behind Apartheid was to give white people political control because it was believed black South Africans could not govern themselves. However, from the 1960s, the system became harsher. Police driving in large armoured cars, called 'hippos' because of their lumbering shape, would sometimes shoot at crowds protesting against the unfairness of Apartheid.

The South African Apartheid regime brought suffering, physically, economically and emotionally, to the majority black South Africans. Many South Africans alive today can remember this inhumane system. It was ended through the internal struggles of South African people and a huge international outcry against the regime.

Cape Town Opera has thrived in the new freedoms for non-white South Africans and we are fortunate in Wales to be hosting the company in June 2012. Their new opera, '*Mandela Trilogy*', is a musical tribute to one of the world's most iconic figures, dramatising scenes from Mandela's childhood, his awakening as a campaigner against repression, and his years in prison.



Classroom Activities

Activity 1

KS 3/4 (Curriculum focus: Literacy – Oracy)

Discussion and Debate – Communicating for a range of purposes

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was born on July 18th, 1918. He became the first South African president to be elected in fully democratic elections. His law training helped him create the Youth League of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1944. In the early 1960s he became more disillusioned with the restrictive Apartheid regime and so led the new military wing of the ANC. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964; the campaign for his release united people around the world. He was named head of the ANC after his release in 1990. He negotiated a peaceful transition to multiracial democracy with F.W. de Klerk, for which they received the Nobel Peace Prize. As President after 1994 elections, he sought investment from abroad and harmony between races at home

After introducing Apartheid and the life of Nelson Mandela, ask students in groups to discuss what they think the quote from Mandela means. What experiences do they have that might support this idea? Why do students think the South African regime acted as they did, forcing students like themselves to have poor educational facilities and limited access to education and opportunity?



Nelson Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.



Nanhlanhla Yende



Gloria Bosman



Mthunzi Mbombela

Activity 2

KS 3/4 (Curriculum focus: Literacy – Writing)

Writing for a range of purposes – Persuasive letter

Nanhlanhla Yende – plays Bess in *Porgy and Bess*..

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7KqHQp9CAg&feature=relmfu>

What was your experience of school like?

‘You always had to sneak to go to school from the Township because everyone knew the kids are not going to school, if they were to find out that you are going to school they would actually make sure that they burnt the transport that you travel with, or they will do something just that they make it impossible for you to get to school because the rest of the kids in the Township were not going to school’.

Do young people in South Africa understand what happened?

‘There is a lot we still need to do based on youth, people my age. I don’t think we understand a lot about Apartheid, I think the only thing we know is colour and language; we don’t really know the reason why it happened’.

Gloria Bosman – plays Dolly Radebe in *Mandela Trilogy*.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMpYz_dFQII&feature=relmfu

Were there barriers to getting involved in the arts as you were growing up?

‘From the stigma that comes with colour, people would know that if you want to be in a theatre, that is in town, there is a whole lot of challenges that go with it. There were also time restrictions, until what time you could be in town, so that actually made it hard for a whole lot of people to be part of any plays or anything like that because you were too worried about transport, you were too worried about being able to engage, to fit in to that environment.’

Mthunzi Mbombela – plays Journalist in *Mandela Trilogy*.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSV-OsdSwho&feature=relmfu

Did you have white friends when you were growing up?

‘It’s only 1994 that I had friends of white people. I’m from the Township where you’ll find only the black people are staying here, they are all speaking the same language...you only meet white people when you take the bus to town.’

You have listened to some memories from three members of Cape Town Opera who experienced growing up in South Africa under the Apartheid regime. Apartheid was not just a system; it was a daily struggle for young South Africans like them.

Around the world, people from all backgrounds learned about the inequality under Apartheid and came out to protest. There were demonstrations. South African goods were boycotted, including Outspan Oranges and Cape Fruits, just two of the white-owned South African companies whose products many refused to buy. Anti-Apartheid activists mounted a permanent vigil outside the South African embassy in London’s Trafalgar Square to raise awareness of Nelson Mandela’s long imprisonment.

To give students further insight into how people lived under Apartheid, you might use these links to video material:

The Legacy of Apartheid 5’:45”

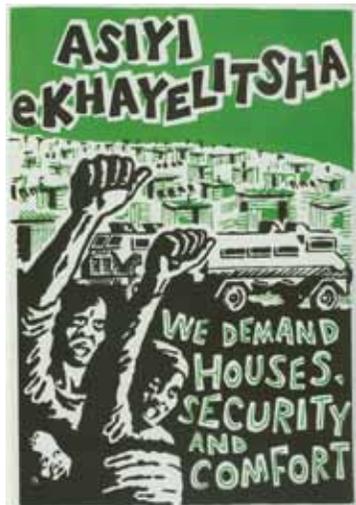
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9WB5nOnHIY>

Growing Up In Apartheid South Africa 4’:13”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BzpKr4kvIM&feature=related>

After reading the experiences of members of Cape Town Opera and viewing the videos, set students the task of writing a persuasive letter against Apartheid to politicians in Britain and South Africa as if Apartheid was still in force.

These letters will encourage students to think about effective use of persuasive language and their response to a range of written and audio/visual stimuli.

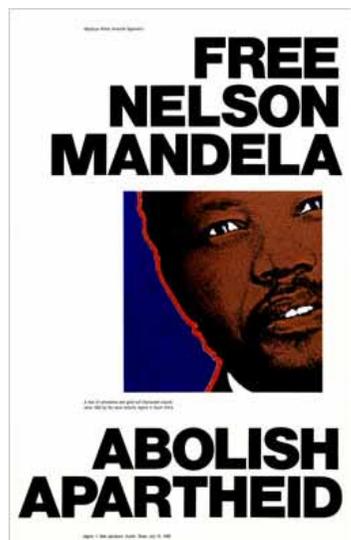


Activity 3

KS 3 (Curriculum focus: Art & Design/ICT)

Design and produce an Anti-Apartheid Poster

Using this learning pack and any further research you want to conduct, inform students about slogans and other recognisable Anti-Apartheid visual resources. Encourage original ideas to produce a thoughtful, persuasive poster that sends out their message.



Demonstrates people's faith in Mandela.



Designed by artist Keith Haring.



Campaigns were mounted to persuade people around the world not to buy goods produced by white – controlled companies who were employing black workers at very low wages.

Activity 4

KS 3/4 (Curriculum focus: PSE\Literacy)

Develop thinking and communication through words by writing lyrics

The role of Music in South Africa's Anti-Apartheid Movement

The campaign against Nelson Mandela's imprisonment became a global anti-racism campaign in the 1980s. A non-stop vigil began outside the South African embassy in London, and in 1984 Jerry Dammers wrote a song that became an anthem around the world. It was performed by his Coventry-based band The Special AKA, with lead vocal by Stan Campbell, and was released on the single Nelson Mandela / Break Down The Door. Songs of protest often have a sombre tone. This song stands out as it has a more appealing and energetic tempo and its style, ska, draws on elements of traditional African music. '*Free Nelson Mandela*' was hugely popular in Africa and reached No.9 in the UK charts.

Link to song – <http://bit.ly/apcx4I>"<http://bit.ly/apcx4I>

Read through the lyrics and ask students to explain the meaning of lines such as 'Only one man in a large army'. Think about the use of the adjectives 'blind', 'deaf' and 'dumb'. These are simple, everyday words but when thoughtfully put together the song lyrics tell a story and plead with the listener to be motivated into action to help Mandela.

This song played a part in bringing a wider awareness in the UK of the incarceration of Nelson Mandela and the fight against Apartheid.

Students will be aware of the influence of song lyrics on an audience. Set them a task of writing their own lyrics, using the words in their own song to talk about things they are motivated by, passionate about, engaged in, agree or disagree about.

Extend the activity by thinking about the style of music they might use to match their lyrics. The Mandela song uses upbeat and celebratory music, influenced by the rhythm and beat heard in native South African music. Discuss other political songs, like Tracy Chapman's 'Talkin' 'bout A Revolution' or Billie Holiday's 'Strange Fruit'.

Free Nelson Mandela

Free, Free, Free, Nelson Mandela
Free Nelson Mandela
Twenty-one years in captivity
His shoes too small to fit his feet
His body abused but his mind is still free
Are you so blind that you cannot see

I say Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you
Free Nelson Mandela

He pleaded the causes of the ANC
Only one man in a large army
Are you so blind that you cannot see
Are you so deaf that you cannot hear his plea

Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you Free Nelson Mandela

Twenty-one years in captivity
Are you so blind that you cannot see
Are you so deaf that you cannot hear
Are you so dumb that you cannot speak

I say Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you
Oh free Nelson Mandela

Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you, begging you
Please free Nelson Mandela

Free Nelson Mandela
I'm telling you, you've got to free Nelson Mandela

'*Free Nelson Mandela*' song lyrics, written by Jerry Dammers

.....
July 18th is Nelson
Mandela day.
.....

Life Long Learning

Apartheid is well documented and the effects on the lives of people living under it are known across the world. Most of the Cape Town Opera company members experienced first-hand these constraints and issues and for many it was not until after the Apartheid began to be dismantled that they could even think of working within the arts.

'I only reached the stage where I can sing opera in 1994, you understand in South Africa in 1994 that was when we started voting. That's when I came to understand that I can be one of the opera singers of South Africa, it was hard before' –
Mthunzi Mbombela, Cape Town Opera

Wales Millennium Centre is proud to be hosting the European première of an original work commemorating the struggle of the man who led the fight against the racist Apartheid regime, Nelson Mandela.

'Mandela Trilogy' is a musical tribute to one of the world's most iconic figures, dramatising scenes from Mandela's childhood, his awakening as a campaigner against repression and his years in prison. The work has received the blessing of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and support from Wales Millennium Centre and the Gordon Institute of Performing Arts at the University of Cape Town.





The Trilogy's writer and director, Michael Williams, explains that "in preparing to take on Mr. Mandela as an operatic figure, (he) studied biographies and delved into the official archives at the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The set is decorated with reproductions of calendars and photographs Mr. Mandela had in prison and that now are housed at his foundation... Sets use archival footage of anti-apartheid protests and a photograph of Mr. Mandela's Robben Island prison cell is projected on screens." Washington Times, August 14, 2011

Michael Williams also read histories of Johannesburg's townships, and discovered that urban South African criminals developed an obsession in the 1950s for the 1948 Hollywood gangster movie "The Street with No Name." Scenes from the movie play silently in the background during the jazz segments.

'Mandela Trilogy' ends in triumph with his release and victory over a regime that incarcerated him for 27 years. His story is seen across the world as one of determined struggle. Mandela, who through all the years of turmoil and hardship, on his release, embraced his freedom with grace and dignity.

Synopsis

Prologue Conversation I

1976. The Whiteman visits Mandela in his cell on Robben Island and offers him freedom if he will retire to the Transkei and accept citizenship of the recently formed Bantustan. Mandela refuses the offer and remembers how he left his village when he was a young man.

Part 1 Qunu Oratorio

1934 – 1941. Nelson Mandela and Justice, his cousin and childhood friend, journey to the banks of the Mbashe River to undergo the rites of initiation. The Praise Singer sings a praisesong about Nelson Mandela, while Mandela's mother remembers how she took her nine-year-old son to Mqhekwzweni and left him in the care of Jongintaba Dalindyebo, the regent of the Thembu people. Mandela is circumcised and given the name of Dalibungha. Upon his return a ceremony is held to welcome the initiates back as men. The regent tells the young men that the gifts they have received are nothing as they do not have independence or freedom. Mandela is made aware that he is not a free man. The regent introduces Mandela and Justice to the brides he has arranged for them to marry. Mandela refuses to be married in the traditional fashion. His mother arrives to convince him to follow Thembu custom, but he tells her that his future lies beyond the hills of the Transkei. He and Justice leave the village for Johannesburg.

Interlude

Conversation II

1986. The Whiteman requests that Mandela is brought from Pollsmoor prison for a meeting with him in his Constantia home. He questions Mandela about the violence in the country and offers him his freedom if he will renounce violence. Mandela refuses and suggests they find a way of talking with each other officially. He reminds the Whiteman about his stance on non-violence that began in the 1950s.



Part 2 Sophiatown Jazz

1955. Mandela and Father Huddleston are stopped by the police en route to the Odin Cinema. Father Huddleston intervenes and the police allow them to proceed. Once inside the cinema, Mandela gives a speech about how the increasingly draconian laws of the National Party government will affect black people and is questioned by the Journalist. The police disrupt the meeting and arrest an activist. The Jig Club in Sophiatown is in full swing. Dolly confides in Mandela about the second notice she has received about their imminent forced removal from Sophiatown. Dolly asks Mandela what she should do about their eviction notices. Many in the shebeen want to fight the government forces but Mandela insists that they continue with peaceful protest. Their conversation is interrupted by Evelyn, his wife, who berates Mandela for his absence from the home. The scene ends with the eviction from Sophiatown.

Mandela calls for written submissions for the Freedom Charter. The public gather to hear the ratification of the Freedom Charter at Kliptown. The police move in to disrupt the proceedings and arrest those gathered on charges of High Treason. Evelyn describes the final moments of her marriage; Dolly insists that the “new woman” in Mandela’s life won’t last; Winnie describes her first date with Mandela.

The Treason Trial fundraiser is in fully swing when Mandela arrives and sweeps Winnie off her feet. They kiss passionately and remind one another that they will have to make sacrifices before freedom is achieved.

Part 3 Prison Years

1960 – 1994. Mandela delivers his speech at the Rivonia treason trial and is sentenced to lifetime imprisonment. Winnie Mandela visits him at the prison on Robben Island, telling him that she is being watched by the Security branch. Mandela receives news that his mother and his first-born son have died. The government will not allow him to attend their funerals. Mandela is moved to Pollsmoor prison. Six fellow prisoners question him about his desire to talk to the government. They tell him about Winnie’s growing popularity and her calls for a violent insurrection. He demands to see his wife. Winnie visits Mandela and they argue about her methods of resistance. Mandela is taken on a tour of the Cape. He is left alone in the car and contemplates escaping. The Whiteman welcomes him to Victor Verster – halfway between prison and freedom – and reminds him of the journey he has undertaken. Mandela is released and makes his first speech as a free man on the Grand Parade.

Ntobeko Rwanqa, Cape Town Opera Baritone, on the role of Mandela

“The best part is when I confront F. W. de Klerk on level ground, facing the enemy after years of abuse, and the surprise of unexpected harmony. I was politically active at school and trained as a lawyer. My passion now is all for singing.”

Apartheid today

Mandela's freedom gave birth to the Rainbow Nation, founded on the Seven Pillars of the South African Constitution which are displayed outside the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg.



With the narrative of *'Mandela Trilogy'* in mind and reflecting on the changes in South Africa since Mandela's release – changes symbolised by the success of Cape Town Opera – consider the following ideas:

- The struggle for reconciliation;
- Apartheid-style discrimination elsewhere in the world today.

Reconciliation was achieved in South Africa through the unprecedented Truth And Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that brought together victims and perpetrators. Here is just one of many tragic recollections from the Commission's report:

'In 1969, seven people across the country died in detention. One of them was South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) unionist and ANC activist Caleb Mayekiso [EC0644/96PLZ], who died in Port Elizabeth on 1 June 1969, reportedly of "natural causes", after being held for eighteen days under the Terrorism Act.8. His daughter, Ms Nomakhosazana Queenie Mayekiso, told the Commission that her father had been jailed for two

and a half years in 1964 on charges of terrorism, re-tried while in jail and sentenced to an additional three years. He was released in August 1968 and detained again in May 1969. Two weeks later his family was told he had died of chronic bronchitis. However, "I learnt from another detainee that he was killed with an electric shock". Mr Mayekiso had taken a leading role in the Defiance Campaign of the 1950s and worked as an underground member of the ANC after it was banned.' TRC report Vol.3 p.41

Not all of the victims were black. For example, the Saint James Church massacre was an attack on St. James Church in Cape Town on 25th July 1993. Four gunmen from the breakaway Azanian People's Liberation Army killed 11 members of the congregation and 58 were wounded. In 1998 the attackers were granted amnesty by the TRC.

One of the most notorious incidents during the repression of protests against Apartheid is known as 'The Sharpeville Massacre.' In March 1960, a crowd gathered to protest against the laws that forced black people to carry a Pass Book to identify where they were supposed to live and work. The laws were meant to preserve most of the country and most of the wealth for white South Africans. 69 people died when police opened fire on the demonstration. The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to mark the anniversary of those killings.

Reconciliation has been painful for many but is part of the healing. South Africa today is a country that now plays its part in the world and can be called a welcome member of that global community.

Today the world looks back at the dismantling of Apartheid in South Africa a few decades ago with a sense of achievement. South Africa is a developing, multi-ethnic society learning to move on. Can we say Apartheid has been totally globally dismantled? In the 21st Century, allegations of Apartheid-style discrimination are still made in some parts of the world.



The United Nations still believes there is a need to hold an annual event called to highlight racial discrimination, observed annually on 21st March.

Worksheet 1:

Nelson Mandela Timeline

Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.	Mandela joins the African National Congress (ANC).	Mandela steps down as President.	Mandela is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
Nelson Mandela is born.	Mandela turns 90 years old.	The United Nations makes July 18th 'Mandela Day'.	Separate homelands are created for black people.
Mandela opens South Africa's first black law firm.	The first ANC conference is held in South Africa since the 1960 ban.	Mandela steps down from public life.	The ANC is banned by white South African government.
Mandela is recaptured, sentenced to life imprisonment and sent to Robben Island prison.	The Apartheid begins in South Africa.	Mandela is arrested and sentenced to 5 years in prison but goes on the run.	Mandela is elected as President of South Africa.

Worksheet 2:

Nelson Mandela Information

Family Life and Education

What he did in the ANC

His time in prison

What he did in the ANC

What he is best known for

Is Nelson Mandela a good role model?