



Nelson Mandela

• Reading Comprehension •

Activity **1** Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.
Stop and think as you read.

Good readers are active readers.

Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.

In prison, Nelson's fame grows. People feel that it is not right to keep Nelson behind bars. People around the world want South Africa to free Nelson.

Stop and think: Why do you think Nelson's fame grows while he is in prison?

The white rulers know they must free Nelson.

Stop and think: Imagine you are one of the white rulers. How do you feel about freeing Mandela?

It is February 11, 1990. Nelson is 71 years old. He is freed from prison. He has been in jail for 27 years.

Stop and think: Nelson was in a physical prison for 27 years. What other kinds of "prison" do people experience?



Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Good readers can find the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea. The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand and remember the main idea.

Check the details that support each main idea.

The first one is an example.

Main idea	Details
Nelson has a good life as a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nelson is never hungry. Nelson plows fields. ✓ Nelson has time to play after his chores.
1. Nelson devotes his life to helping black people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a)___ Nelson opens the first law firm for black people. (b)___ Nelson joins the ANC. (c)___ Nelson starts the Spear of the Nation.
2. Nelson suffers for his beliefs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a)___ Nelson speaks out against apartheid. (b)___ Nelson spends 27 years in prison. (c)___ Nelson thinks boycotts will bring change.

Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read between the lines. Writers expect readers to figure out the invisible messages.

Read the writer's words.

Figure out the invisible message.

The writer's words	The invisible message
The government bans Nelson in 1953.	<i>The government is afraid of Nelson's power. The government wants to silence Nelson.</i>
1. Robben Island becomes known as "Mandela University."	
2. Nelson loses 50 pounds in prison.	

Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.
Facts can be proven.
Opinions are personal beliefs.

- Nelson is a great lawyer. ____
Nelson becomes a lawyer in 1952. ____
- Nelson tries to bring change with peaceful protests. ____
Peaceful protests never work. ____
- The Spear of the Nation wants white people to listen. ____
The Spear of the Nation should not use violence. ____

Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.
The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

Question	Chapter	Answer
When is Nelson born?	Early Years	July 18, 1918
1. What is apartheid?		
2. What does Nelson fight for?		
3. When does Nelson get out of jail?		

Activity 6 Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.
Make a connection to your life.

Idea

Nelson's father is a chief. Nelson's father talks with the elders. Nelson listens to their stories. They tell stories of life before the white people came. They tell stories of how the white people stole their land. These stories teach Nelson about the past.



Your Life

Who are the "storytellers" in today's society?
What stories do they tell?

Who are the storytellers in your family?
What are their stories about?

What stories do you know about your parents' lives?
your grandparents' lives?

Is it important to know your family's stories?
Why or why not?

Reading is more than understanding the ideas on a page.

Good readers connect the ideas to their lives.



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graffiti



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• Writing •

Activity 1 Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about storytelling.
Use your ideas from page 8.

Your instructor will help you with spelling.

Paragraph 1

Society has many storytellers. _____
tell stories. They tell stories about _____
and _____. _____
also tell stories. They tell stories about _____
_____.

Paragraph 2

The main storyteller in my family is _____.
He/She tells stories about _____
and _____. I think his/her
stories are _____ because
_____.

Read each paragraph out loud.
Which paragraph do you like better?
Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

Good writers know that writing is a process.

Good writers think of ideas before they write.

Good writers check their writing.



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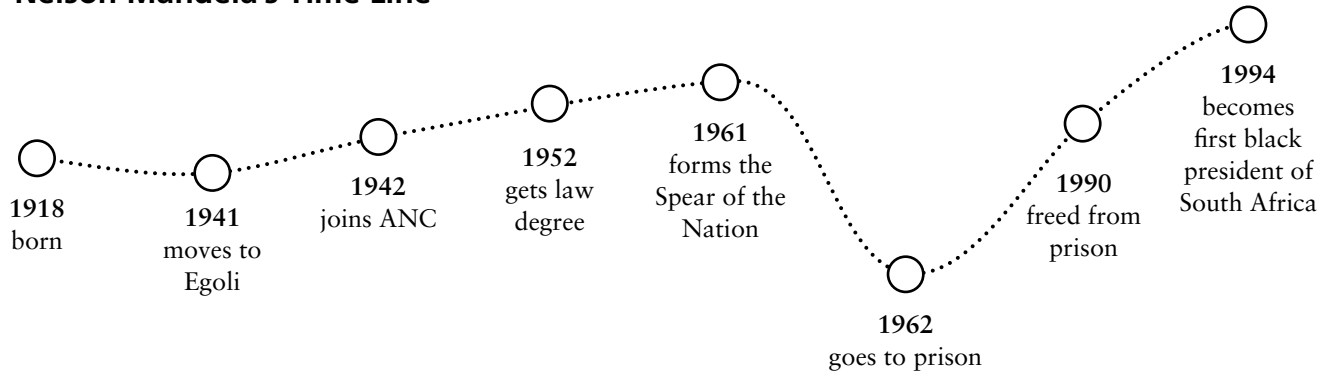
Activity 2 Organize Ideas



Look at the time line.

1. What is the topic of the time line?
2. How many events are on the time line?
3. Why does the time line go up and down?

Nelson Mandela's Time Line



Good writers know that writing is a process.

Good writers organize their ideas before they write.

One way to organize ideas is to use time lines.

Use Nelson Mandela's time line to complete the paragraph.

Nelson Mandela: Activist

Nelson moves to Egoli in 1941. A year later, Nelson _____, Nelson gets his law degree. _____, he forms the Spear of the Nation.

The next year, Nelson _____.

Nelson is _____ in 1990.

Four years later, he becomes _____ of South Africa.

Think of your life or the life of somebody you know.

Draw a time line.

• Word Attack Skills •

Activity 1 Predict the Word



Complete each paragraph.
Use the pictures to predict the word.

Readers see new words all the time.
They need to decode the new words.

Good readers decode words
in different ways.

They use pictures to predict words.
They use meaning clues to predict words.

These are two ways to decode words.



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Paragraph 1

The ANC hold a _____. There is a _____ on the back wall. It shows two _____ with a broken _____ around them.



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Paragraph 2

These _____ have to leave Sophiatown.
They have to move all their _____.
They have to move _____,
tables, chairs, and _____.

Complete each sentence.
Use meaning clues to predict the word.

1. The white _____ of South Africa makes apartheid laws.
2. Nelson's army uses _____ to blow up a power line.
3. In 1994, black people vote in an _____ for the first time.

Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.

Each word has a common pattern.

Group the words under the correct pattern.

<i>law</i> ✓	<i>saw</i>	<i>title</i>	<i>awful</i>
<i>cattle</i>	<i>jaw</i>	<i>fool</i>	<i>battle</i>
<i>school</i>	<i>pool</i>	<i>little</i>	<i>tool</i>

Good readers look for common patterns in words.

This is another way to decode words.

aw

tle

ool

law

Read the sentences in the box.

Circle the words that have one of these patterns:

aw tle ool

Many words have common patterns.

The patterns look and sound the same.

Find the Common Patterns



1. The laws are not fair.
2. Life can be awful for black people.
3. Nelson has a good life when he is little.
4. He looks after cattle and sheep.
5. Black people cannot go to white schools.
6. Protesting is a tool that brings change.

Activity 3 Divide and Conquer



Read these words.

Look for common endings.

Write the base word on the line.

bans ban

called call

1. years _____

2. speeches _____

3. makes _____

4. wanting _____

5. teaches _____

6. fights _____

7. older _____

8. leaves _____

9. leaders _____

10. greatest _____

11. inmates _____

12. marches _____

13. meeting _____

14. forms _____

Many words have a base word with a common ending.
Good readers look for base words and common endings
This is another way to decode words.

Read each sentence out loud.

Circle the words with common endings.

15. Nelson fights against apartheid.

16. He marches and makes speeches.

17. The government bans Nelson.

18. Nelson forms the Spear of the Nation.

19. Nelson teaches inmates in prison.

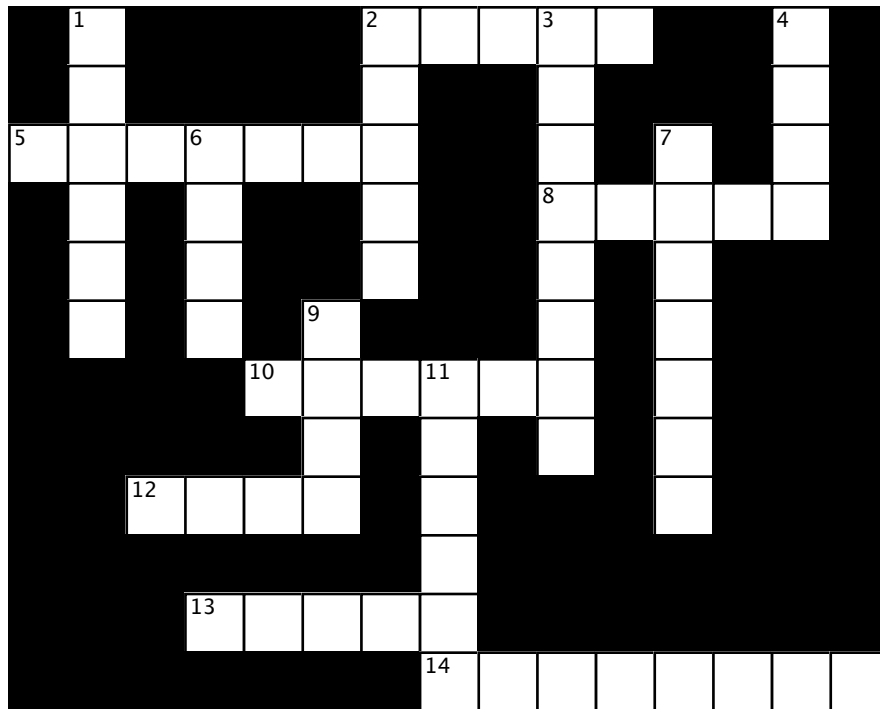
20. The prison is called the “Mandela University.”

21. Nelson is 27 years older when he leaves prison.

22. Nelson is one of the greatest leaders in the world.

• Crossword •

Nelson Mandela



Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Nelson Mandela's biography.

ACROSS

2. opposite of better
5. refuse to use a service or buy a product
8. have the same opinion
10. face hard times (rhymes with buffer)
12. opposite of the future
13. older person who is respected
14. these people go to school

DOWN

1. washing the dishes, taking out the garbage, paying bills (rhymes with sores)
2. this comes out of a tap; it can be hot or cold
3. people who make speeches
4. opposite of dangerous
6. a room in a prison
7. marching in the street with a sign is one peaceful way to do this
9. if people really hate their job, they do this sometimes
11. we put rugs and carpets on these

• ANSWER KEY •



Nelson Mandela

- Main Idea and Details:** (1) a, b, c (2) b
- Invisible Messages*:** (1) The inmates learn a lot because of Nelson Mandela. The prison becomes a place of learning for the inmates. Mandela teaches a lot of inmates while he is in prison. (2) Life is hard in prison. There is not enough food in prison. Nelson has to do hard physical work in prison. Nelson gets sick in prison.
- Fact and Opinion:** (1) O/F (2) F/O (3) F/O
- Table of Contents:** (1) Apartheid / laws that keep black and white people apart; a system of racist laws in South Africa (2) Freedom Fighter / freedom from apartheid; equal rights (3) Nelson is freed / February 11, 1990; when he is 71 years old; after serving 27 years
- Organize Ideas:** (1) Nelson Mandela's life (2) 8 (3) positive events go up and negative events go down
Paragraph joins the ANC / In 1952 / In 1961 / goes to prison / freed from prison / the first black president
- Predict the Word*:** Paragraph 1: meeting / drawing; picture; sketch / wrists; arms; hands / chain
Paragraph 2: people / furniture; belongings; things; stuff / furniture; cushions; mattresses; boxes; sewing machine (1) government (2) bombs / explosives / dynamite (3) election
- Find Common Patterns:** (1) laws (2) awful (3) little (4) cattle (5) schools (6) tool
- Divide and Conquer:** (1) year (2) speech (3) make (4) want (5) teach (6) fight (7) old (8) leave (9) lead; leader (10) great (11) inmate (12) march (13) meet (14) form (15) fights (16) marches / makes / speeches (17) bans (18) forms (19) teaches / inmates (20) called (21) years / older / leaves (22) greatest / leaders

*Accept any answer that makes sense.

Crossword Solution

