

NELSON MANDELA

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by Kadir Nelson

Ages: 4-8; Grades: PreK - 3

Themes: History, Tolerance and Respect, Problem-Solving, Biography

Running Time: 10 minutes

SUMMARY

This movie, with straightforward language and glowing illustrations, tells Nelson Mandela's story of fighting for the rights of South Africans. From his father's death at age nine, through his education, political organizing, imprisonment, and election to president, students will follow the extraordinary path of Mandela's life. They will learn about the discriminatory system of apartheid, and the man who worked and sacrificed to overthrow it. This movie serves as an excellent addition to any Civil Rights curriculum. It will gently but powerfully help students explore the checkered history of South Africa, as well as provide the opportunity to compare and contrast the Africans' struggle with that of Blacks in the U.S. Most importantly, it celebrates the life of one of our living heroes

OBJECTIVES

- Students will discuss character values exemplified by Nelson Mandela.
- Students will compare and contrast Mandela with other Civil Rights leaders.
- Students will develop their vocabulary.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Preview some of the vocabulary from the movie: **apartheid, protest, rallies, discrimination, justice**. Each student should write the new word on the front of an index card. On the back of the index card, students should write the definition of the word and a picture that represents the meaning of the word. Encourage students to listen for the words in the movie and to write down any context clues from the movie that would also help them to remember the meaning of the word.

Lead a discussion on character values. Choose values such as *perseverance*, *leadership*, and *integrity* to define and discuss in relation to Nelson Mandela. One way to introduce character values

is to act out a short skit in which a character models the value in a situation that is easy relatable to the students. For example, to model perseverance, act out a student working their way through a difficult assignment or test. After introducing the words, facilitate a discussion around people who exemplify the value or values that you showed. Guiding questions:

- What kinds of actions does a person who shows (*perseverance/leadership/integrity*) do?
- How does a person who exemplifies this value treat others?
- What other words could be used to describe this kind of person?
- Why is showing this value important?

Tell students that they are going to watch a movie about a man who showed the value of (*perseverance/leadership/integrity*) throughout his entire life. Encourage them to watch and listen for ways that he modeled this value. Revisit the discussion after viewing the movie to discuss specific examples.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Revisit the character values discussion from the Before Viewing Activities. Discuss students' answers to the guiding questions. Ask:

- What character values did Nelson show when he was a child? What makes you think that?
- Did Nelson change as he grew up? Why or why not?
- How did Nelson's character values shape the way that people saw him?
- How did Nelson's character values help him in his life?

Then, have students fill out a character trait graphic organizer to summarize the discussion.

Character Values Graphic Organizer: Nelson Mandela

Character Trait	Evidence from the Movie
Example: Leadership	- He organized people to fight against apartheid. - He sent a message from jail to encourage people to continue to try to change the laws.

Guide students through an internet based research project. Students can explore the following websites for information:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/nelson_mandela/
<http://www.10-facts-about.com/Nelson-Mandela/id/13>
<http://biographies.knoji.com/70-interesting-facts-about-nelson-mandela/>
http://www.ducksters.com/biography/nelson_mandela.php

Using their research, students can create a project that extends their learning about Nelson Mandela. Project ideas are:

- Biographical poster including a short written biography, pictures, timeline of his life, acrostic poem using Nelson Mandela's name
- 5-paragraph biographical essay
- Annotated timeline including illustrations and 1-3 sentence descriptions of the major events in Mandela's life
- A mobile with pictures and informational cards about Mandela

Elicit students' background knowledge about other Civil Rights leaders, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, and Cesar Chavez. Scribe what students know about one or more of these figures and read aloud to increase their depth of knowledge. Then, have students use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the life and work of Nelson Mandela with the lives and work of other Civil Rights leaders.

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