



INVICTUS

- A 2009 film directed by Clint Eastwood, starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon. The film is a look at the life of Nelson Mandela after the fall of apartheid in South Africa, during his term as president, when he campaigned to host the 1995 Rugby World Cup event as an opportunity to unite his countrymen.
- The title comes from the fact that Mandela had the poem written on a scrap of paper on his prison cell while he was incarcerated. In the movie, Mandela gives the "Invictus" poem to his national rugby team's captain Francois Pienaar before the start of the Rugby World Cup. In reality, Mandela provided Pienaar with an extract from Theodore Roosevelt's "The Man in the Arena" speech from 1910.

Preliminary Research:

Divide the class in teams each researching the following:

. Find out about Nelson Mandela



. Find out about apartheid



. Find out about South Africa

. Find out about the 1995 Rugby World Cup and the National team at the time (led by Francois Pienaar)



←The real people: Mandela and Pienaar

. Find out about Theodore Roosevelt

Themes in the movie:

Forgiveness, inspiration, social prejudice, racism, statesmanship (not just politics: an example of black leadership)

This inspiring movie gives us a glimpse of what a great leader Mr. Mandela was, about forgiving as a initial step for building a new spirit or relation, about how one man could inspire another, that then inspired a team, and the team inspired a nation to take a first step into feeling like one...it's the power of ONE, that we all have in our hands, if we just have the courage to bring down our mental structures and social prejudicesit's about challenging the odds, it's about believing in a cause that is bigger than us...and...oh, yes, and a bit of rugby...

This is a film about **a talented politician** dealing with a particular difficult moment in his country. It is always rewarding to understand that there are good politicians, those that make the difference between statesmanship and common public servants.

Background

"**Invictus**" is a short poem by the English poet William Ernest Henley (1849–1903). It was written in 1875 and first published in 1888 in Henley's *Book of Verses*, where it was the fourth in a series of poems entitled *Life and Death (Echoes)*

"Invictus" Latin for "unconquered"

At the age of 12, Henley became a victim of tuberculosis of the bone. {pott's disease} A few years later the disease progressed to his foot, and physicians announced that the only way to save his life was to amputate directly below the knee. In 1867 he successfully passed the Oxford local examination as a senior student. In 1875 he wrote the "Invictus" poem from a hospital bed. Despite his disability, he survived with one foot intact and led an active life until his death at the age of 53.

Text

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

Roosevelt 's Speech:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Worksheet

The **African National Congress (ANC)** has been South Africa's governing party, supported by its tripartite alliance with the Congress of South African Trade Unions(COSATU) and the South African Communist Party (SACP), since the establishment of non-racial democracy in April 1994. It defines itself as a "disciplined force of the left" It has been the ruling party of post-apartheid South Africa on the national level since 1994. It gained support in the 1999 elections, and further increased its majority in 2004, with 69.7% of the votes. In 2009 its share of the vote reduced slightly, but it remained the dominant party with 65.9% of the votes.

Before students watch the excerpt, discuss the



meaning of:

ANC	African National Congress
Terrorist	person who takes part in terrorism
"go to the dogs"	go to hell
Release	free
Trigger	start
Power struggle	fight for power
On the verge of	about to, in the point of
Cast a vote	vote
Go to the polls	go to vote
"The talk of the world"	what everybody talks about (neg)



Find below activities based on film fragments

The fragments chosen belong to 1.-the beginning of the film

2.-the meeting between Mandela and Francois Pienaar.

The minutes are shown in the boxes for teachers to locate the excerpts easily.



Activities on Excerpt 1 :

00.01.40 to 00.05.00

Activity 1: Watch the fragment and then answer these questions

- 1.- What year does the action take place?
- 2.- What are they young black men playing? Where?
- 3.- And the white ones across the street? What is this field like? Is it a club?
- 4.- Who is in the car parade passing?
- 5.- How do the black guys react?
- 6.- What is the attitude of the blond high school rugbiers?
- 7.- What does the coach say? What is his attitude? What are his expectations regarding Mandela?
- 8.- What does the scene represent?

Activity two: Fill in the blanks. Try to remember the exact words or fill in with words that make sense. (Maybe you should watch the excerpt a second time)

Coach and rugbier

Boy: Who is he?

Coach: It's the terrorist Mandela.
Remember thisboys. This is the our
country went to the

Announcer at press conference:

"I am now in a position to announce that Mr Nelson Mandela will be

..... at Prison on Sunday the 11th of February at about 3 pm."

TV announcer:

"There's Mr Nelson Mandela! Mr Mandela a free man, taking his first into a new South Africa.

This is the moment the has been waiting for and the top news of the

day in South Africa and around the world.”

Describing-commenting on riots that are being shown:

“The recent release of Nelson Mandela from prison has triggered a power struggle between the ANC and their black rivals.

There are reports that the government has secretly been providing arms to these groups contributing to the that has erupted throughout the country.

South Africa appears to be on the verge of a civil war.

Mr Mandela has travelled to Durban in an effort to persuade 100.000 angry young ANC supporters on the front line to make

Mandela’s speech to the crowd:

“Take your knives and your guns and your and your anger and throw them into the sea.”

TV announcer commenting on the elections:

“... After four years of talks the day black South Africans have been fighting for has finally For the first time they are free to cast their votes alongside whites. An estimated 23 million people went to the polls today.”



Having been elected, Mandela swears in as president in front of the crowd:

“I Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, do hereby swear to be faithful to the Republic of South Africa. Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience theof one by another and suffer the indignity of being the talk of the world”

DVD Excerpt 2: 00.27.50 to 00.28.45

Watch the scene and answer these few questions:

- 1.- Where are the black boys running to?
- 2.- Who are offering gifts inside?
- 3.- What do you think are the women giving out?
- 4.- What is the white woman's attitude when she gives the last boy the shirt?
- 5.- What does the boy do instead of taking the Springbox shirt?
- 6.- What explanation does the black woman offer about the boy's reaction?

DVD Excerpt 3 00.48.10 to



00.51.33

Activity 1: Match Mandela's with Francois' words

Mandela

- 1.- You have a very difficult job
- 2.- How do you inspire your team?
- 3.- I found inspiration in a poem.
- 4.- You don't want to hear me speak about things that make no sense

Francois

- a.- A poem?
- b.- It makes complete sense to me
- c.- But not compared to yours
- d.- By example. I've always thought to lead by example.

Activity 2: Match the expressions used in the fragment

- | | |
|---------|-------------|
| Tear | sense |
| Compare | by example |
| Lead | my head off |
| Makes | to yours |



Activity 3: Answer the fundamental questions

- 1.- In what way was Mandella's job similar to Pienaar's?

- 2.- What was the atmosphere during the conversation?
- 3.- What did Mandela have in mind, if you have seen the complete movie, you should know?
- 4.- What was Mandela trying to make Pienaar see with his memories of his prison days?
- 5.- Does Pienaar agree with Mandela on the subject of inspiration?
- 6.- Winning the matches, the championship is important because.....
- 7.- Winning in Little Miss Sunshine was not relevant, why is winning relevant in this movie?

Activity 4 : Ask students to dramatize the script provided below, they may read it or speak the words as they remember them

Mandela: You have a very difficult job

Francois: I do. I

Mandela: Captain of the Springbox... A very difficult job.

Francois: But not compared to yours Mr President

Mandela: Well, nobody's trying to tear my head off while I'm doing mine

Francois: Yes sir.

Mandela: Tell me Francois. What is your philosophy on leadership? How do you inspire your team to do their best?

Francois: By example. I've always thought to lead by example.

Mandela: That's right. That's exactly right. But how to get them to be better than they think they can be?

That is very difficult, I find. Inspiration, perhaps. How do we inspire ourselves to greatness when nothing else will do? How do we inspire everyone around us? I sometimes think it is by using the work of others.

On Robben Island when things got very bad I found inspiration in a poem.

Francois: A poem?

Mandela: A Victorian poem. Just words. But they helped me to stand when all I wanted to do was to lie down.

But you didn't come all this way to hear an old man speak about things that make no sense

Francois: No,no,no. Please Mr President, it makes complete sense to me. The day of a big match. Say, a test, in the bus on the way to the stadium nobody talks

Mandela: Ah yes...they are all preparing....

But when I think we're ready I ask the bus driver to put on a song, something of Jessen(?) One we all know.

And we listen to the words together, and it helps.

Mandela: I remember when I was invited to the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona Everybody in the stadium greeted me with a song. At the time the future, our future seemed very bleak but to hear that song in the voices of people from all over our planet made me proud to be South African. It inspired me to come home and do better. It allowed me to expect more of myself.

Francois: What was that song sir?

Mandela: Well, it was an osisikellele (?) African. A very inspiring song...

We need inspiration, Francois. Because in order to build our nation we must all exceed our own expectations.

Activity 5 Now may be a good time for the class to read *INVICTUS*, the poem, aloud

Further Resources

Find below a number of videos. Click ctrl and enter!!

→ Related Videos



Click & Listen to this review

[Invictus-Movie Review *No Spoilers*](#)



Click & Watch this video with Freeman and Eastwood

[Eastwood, Freeman Reunite for 'Invictus'](#)



Click and watch the interview

[Morgan Freeman on Invictus, CBS](#)



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TEAM

ONLY FOR TEACHERS

Answers

Excerpt 1

Activity 1:

1.- 1990 2.- Soccer in a dilapidated field 3.- the white high school rugbiers are playing in a wonderful field across the street which appears to be part of a sports club seen at a distance 4.- Mandela 5.- They are extremely enthusiastic and celebrate his passing 6.- They are surprised, curious and quite ignorant of who this man is 7.- He says Mandela is a terrorist and that the kids should remember the day as the day their country went to the dogs 8.- It clearly represents the friction between the two races co existing in South Africa at that point and the attitude of the older people towards the black population.
An example of black aspiration and white fears, perhaps.

Activity 2:

Day - day - dogs - released - steps - world - violence - peace arrived - oppression

Excerpt 2

Activity 1

1.- They are running into a church in a poor black neighbourhood
2.- Two church women, a white one and a black one
3.- They are most probably distributing clothes
4.- She is glad to give him a "real Springbox t-shirt"
5.- He refuses to take it and rushes out of the church
6.- He refuses to take it not because of the team's bad performance as the white lady suggests but because for the black population the Springbox team, its shirt and colours represent apartheid.

Excerpt 3

Activity 1: 1.- c 2.- d 3.- a 4.- b

Activity 2: tear my head off - compared to yours lead by example makes sense

Activity 3:

1.- they both lead groups, they both must inspire : Mandela the nation, Pienaar the team.
2.- Very friendly but with a clear intention on Mandela's part.
3.- To find a way to make the Springbox win and thus unite the white and black population behind the teams' colours
4.- That inspiration is necessary to lead group to success
5.- He does, actually he uses a song to bring the team together
6.- It will bring the racial groups together behind a common goal.



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TEAM



There are three CDROMs using movies as a teaching resource:

Teach with Films 1

General Ideas, Techniques, Activities on films like: Shrek, Notting Hill, The Emperor's Club, Batman Begins, The Aviator, Hudson Hawk, Peter Pan, Star Wars II, Million Dollar Baby, etc.

Teach with Films 2

General Ideas, Techniques, Activities & How to write a review + activities & worksheets on 15 super cool films such as: Erin Bronckovich, The Day After tomorrow, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, High School Musical, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Simpsons, SpiderMan 3, An Inconvenient Truth, All the President's Men, Titanic, Raiders



NEW! Teach with Films 3 with Gift DVD with film fragments!

General Ideas, Techniques, a helpful INDEX Activities on films like: Twilight, Mamma Mia, The Reader, A Beautiful Mind, Invictus, Something's Gotta Give, Almost Famous, Little Miss Sunshine, Duplicity teachingonline@ciudad.com.ar

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