

**Reading Autobiography**

**Title: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela**

Nelson Mandela was an eminent personality whose life story continues to inspire people around the world. Born in 1918 in a small village in South Africa, Mandela's journey from a young boy in a rural area to becoming the President of his country is a remarkable tale of resilience, determination, and the fight for justice.

**Nelson Mandela's Early Life**

Nelson Mandela was born into the Thembu royal family, but his early years were far from luxurious. His father, Gadla Henry Mphakanyiswa, was a chief, and his mother, Nosekeni Fanny, was a homemaker. Young Mandela, whose birth name was Rolihlahla, grew up herding cattle and playing with his friends in the fields.

**Education and the Path to Activism**

Mandela's life took a significant turn when he attended a missionary school, where he was given the name "Nelson." This education opened up new possibilities for him. He later attended the University of Fort Hare, where he studied law. Mandela's thirst for knowledge and passion for justice grew during his university years. He was exposed to the harsh realities of apartheid, a system of racial segregation that discriminated against non-white South Africans.

**The Fight Against Apartheid**

Mandela's dedication to the fight against apartheid led him to become involved in the African National Congress (ANC), a political organization that aimed to dismantle apartheid. He played a crucial role in organizing protests, strikes, and acts of civil disobedience against the oppressive regime.

**Imprisonment and the Long Road to Freedom**

In 1961, the ANC adopted more radical strategies, and Mandela co-founded the armed wing of the organization. This led to his arrest and imprisonment in 1962. Mandela spent 27 years behind bars, during which time he became a symbol of resistance against apartheid. His release in 1990 marked the beginning of a new era in South Africa's history.

**Becoming President and the Legacy of Reconciliation**

In 1994, South Africa held its first democratic elections, and Nelson Mandela was elected as the country's first black president. He focused on reconciliation and healing the wounds of apartheid, advocating forgiveness and unity among all South Africans.

### Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Where was Nelson Mandela born?

- a) Johannesburg
- b) Cape Town
- c) A small village in South Africa
- d) Pretoria

2. What was Nelson Mandela's birth name?

- a) Nelson
- b) Rolihlahla
- c) Henry
- d) Fanny

3. What was the system of racial segregation in South Africa called?

- a) Democracy
- b) Apartheid
- c) Reconciliation
- d) Integration

4. Why was Nelson Mandela imprisoned for 27 years?

- a) He committed a violent crime
- b) He organized protests against apartheid
- c) He founded a university
- d) He won a Nobel Prize

5.What was Nelson Mandela's focus as President of South Africa?

- a) Promoting racial segregation
- b) Advocating for forgiveness and unity
- c) Continuing apartheid policies
- d) Starting a war against other nations

### Answers and Explanations:

1. c A small village in South Africa

Nelson Mandela was born in a small village in South Africa.

2. b Rolihlahla

Nelson Mandela's birth name was Rolihlahla.

3. b Apartheid

The system of racial segregation in South Africa was called apartheid.

4. b He organized protests against apartheid

Mandela was imprisoned for organizing protests against apartheid.

5. b Advocating for forgiveness and unity

Nelson Mandela focused on advocating for forgiveness and unity as President of South Africa.