**My Hero**

This is the story of a black African man who defied all odds and became one of the most profound figures in history. He is the man who inspired me to become who I am today. His story is of humble beginnings but a grand ending.

Nelson "Madiba" Mandela was born in the early 20th century in a small village called Mvezo. His birth coincided with a period where European nations colonized the African countries. It was inevitable for him to be brought up in a racial society. Nelson received an excellent education and wasted no time in joining the civil rights movement. He also joined a political party that advocated for peaceful demonstrations against the government.

The major iniquity faced by the citizens was apartheid. Apartheid was a government phenomenon to ill-treat society's blacks and give privilege to the whites. What a wicked way of living! Racism stirred up the anger of most people and eventually led to the fight against the racial system. Mandela was at the forefront of this fight and, in doing so, found himself in prison. He was there for 27 years. Put this into perspective. It is almost three entire decades!

This was beneficial. People gained a sense of togetherness and rallied behind him. He was the light of a nation. The millions of South Africans looked up to him as the one who would bring salvation. Later on, civil unrest led to his release from prison. He was then elected as the president of the republic. At last, the fight was won by Mandela!

Why is he, my hero? Nelson's story shows me the benefit of having a resilient attitude. It shows me how a determined mind and dedicated soul can achieve anything. My imagination is my only limitation. Through his work, we young Africans can step out into the world without fear of discrimination. He has immensely influenced my career path. I can envision a bright future for myself as well as my children because of him. Indeed he is my hero!