



Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

Chris van Wyk (Adaptation) , Nelson Mandela , Paddy Bouma (Illustrator)

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Nelson Mandela's autobiography, LONG WALK TO FREEDOM, offers a glimpse into the mind of a great leader, admired across the globe for his dedication to the struggles against apartheid in South Africa. Now the youngest readers can discover the remarkable story of Mandela's long walk from ordinary village boy, to his dynamic leadership of the African National Congress, to his many long years in prison-and, at last, his freedom and astonishing rise to become the leader of his country.

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom Details

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Author : Chris van Wyk (Adaptation) , Nelson Mandela , Paddy Bouma (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom for online ebook

Jonathan Ryal says

This biography on Nelson Mandela provided a great amount of information about the entire upbringing and struggles of his life. The author starts with Nelson as a young boy growing up in a small and remote tribal community. He takes us through the gifts of his life and schooling along with the down times of losing his father and divorce. We then get to the political aspects of his life that ends with Nelson Mandela being freed and becoming president of South Africa. This book does a great job of mixing in large detailed illustrations that really help to explain the words and meaning the author wants to get across. There is a lot of deep context in the story for a child. This could be a bit overwhelming and hard for them to connect or sympathize with. These pictures really tie the story together and bring you into his life.

Kjsmit11 says

I loved this book! Personally, I typically do not read non-fiction stories but I truly enjoyed this. Nelson Mandela recently passed away so it was interesting to read about all the wonderful things he accomplished in his life in South Africa. This complex picture book is a biography but it is written as if Nelson Mandela is speaking to the reader. For children, I think this book may be a little too long to read in one setting. I would recommend reading it as a read aloud and splitting it up between a couple days. At the end of the book, there is a timeline that outlines Nelson Mandela's life so it is easy to put the dates and events together. There is also a glossary of words that may seem confusing to young readers. I would recommend this book to children who enjoy biographies and also to teachers who like to teach about others.

I would love to use this book as a read aloud in my classroom. If biographies are in the curriculum, I would include it as a lesson with many other types of stories about people. Another way I could use this book in my classroom would be during Black History Month. Students can be educated on someone who made a big impact in his country and around the world. I think students will enjoy learning and researching more about Nelson Mandela.

Haley Walker says

This book was published in 2009 and I would classify it as a biography. This book tells the story of Nelson Mandela's life through a picture book. I would use this in grades K-8th because it uses simple words and address an important time in history.

Cassandra Ball says

I very much enjoyed this book! This was one of the biography books that I chose to do. The pictures were beautiful and really made me feel like I was in the scene and in South Africa. I loved the colors that were used because I really feel like they depicted South Africa and represented the culture of that part of the

world. The way that the story/biography was presented was awesome! Even though it was a true story the way that it was presented it seemed as though it could have been fiction due to the creative language that was used. I loved the way that it was organized on the inside with the pictures and text. I think that this was a very creative and wonderful way to present a true story to children. I feel as though children would enjoy reading this story just as much as I did.

Cameron says

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom is a biography by Chris Van Wyk. Nelson Mandela was the first African president of South Africa to be freely elected by the people, as well as a life-long crusader for African rights. The book follows his life from his birth in a rural African village to his presidential appointment while highlighting key moments and trials he experienced that shaped who he was. The author writes in the first person so readers get the feeling that Mandela himself is telling them his life story. I found this perspective extremely engaging and made the book seem personal.

One aspect of this book that stood out to me was how the author explained Mandela's imprisonment and discrimination. These are serious and adult topics, and the author presents them in a way that children will understand while not being overwhelmed. The author also does a great job of connecting what Mandela experienced as a child and in school to his later professional life. Each page has illustrations that help narrate what is going on, which would be beneficial during class read-alouds.

I think that this book would be extremely useful in a 3rd grade classroom, because of the complexity and length of the text. While the vocabulary isn't extremely daunting, some of the concepts would be harder for younger children to grasp. It would definitely be a great read-aloud book if a class was doing a unit on freedom, equality or black history month.

Elaine Mercado says

Autobiography of Nelson Mandela up to when he was released from prison. One man can make a huge difference.

Taneka says

One of the most prominent figures in South African history, Nelson Mandela rose from being a small boy working his tribal land to the president of South Africa. This book takes the reader through the life of Mandela. After losing his father, he is taken in by an uncle and educated at a boarding school. He runs away from home after being told he would marry and arrives in Johannesburg. Mandela fights for freedom for all South Africans and joins the African National Congress (ANC). He is jailed for attempting to overthrow the government. While in jail the fight for freedom carried on and he was freed in 1990 and became president in 1994. The book includes a timeline in the rear for Mandela's life and a glossary for definitions of words and organizations.

Mitch says

This is an important book. The drawings really enhanced my understanding of the circumstances and feelings of these events and this man. I really appreciated this book.

Nicole Marzan says

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom is the abridged, picture book version of Mandela's autobiography of the same title. The picture book biography by Chris van Wyk is told from a first person perspective with Nelson Mandela being the narrator. The book begins with some background information about how the Europeans came to South Africa and fought over the land and tribes (the Xhosas, the Zulus, and the Tswanas). Nelson was born into the Thembu tribe on July 18, 1918. Nelson talks about his father and his life as a young boy; he refers to these memories as the "happy days." The book then goes deep into the life Nelson Mandela, describing his move to a different village, his schooling, and finally his fight against apartheid.

I really enjoyed this book because of all the details. I was given a lot of in depth information in this book, even though it is set up as a picture book for kids. I thought it was nice how on the endpapers at the beginning and end of the book there is a quote by Nelson Mandela. This gives the reader a good preview at what Mandela's beliefs and ideas were. I also enjoyed the illustrations by Paddy Bouma. Bouma uses a technique that does not focus too much on the details in the character's faces but more so on the cohesiveness of the page as a whole. The last page shows Nelson standing with a group of children holding the South African flag and it clear that the children are all of different ethnicity even though their faces do not have a lot of detail. I also liked how there was a glossary and timeline in the back of the book. Overall, I think this book would be very beneficial for a child who has to do a report on Mandela because of all the details that the book contains as well as the interesting and eye-catching illustrations.

Kathryn says

I admit that, while I've always held an admiration for Nelson Mandela and what he accomplished, it wasn't until I watched "Invictus" that I began to become more curious about the man himself. Loving picture books as I do, and often finding picture book biographies more compelling than longer "grown-up" books, I was eager to read this picture book abridgment of Mandela's autobiography "Long Walk to Freedom" Alas, I was not as interested in it, or moved by it, as I had hoped to be.

The book covers most of the milestones in Mandela's life, starting from his childhood and ending with his election as president. It fails to delve into some of the nuances of Mandela's character and choices, such as his estrangement from his family--issues I find deeply fascinating regarding Mandela as both a human and as a servant of the people. I'm willing to forgive this given the intended audience for the book. And, there is no doubt that Mandela's story is inspiring. It can't help but be amazing. And, yet, for me, the story failed to really capture the spirit of the man or the excitement or pathos of the times. Some of the word choices could have been stronger, more creative. At times, the illustrations were warm and touching. In a few instances, though, I found them a bit lacking.

I do appreciate that the author and illustrator are both from South Africa. I appreciate the intention of the

book and think it is important for young people to know about Mandela, about all those who fought to end apartheid. But I ended the book feeling I could have learned just as much from some online searches for "Mandela Biography" and I remain thirsty for more insight into his personality.

Gen says

This is the first time I have read an autobiography in the form of a children's picture book. Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, tells the story about a life of a long-time activist who herded sheep when he was young to fighting for democracy in South Africa. Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo in 1918, went to school there, began a career as a lawyer, was a member of the African National Congress, his 27 years years in prison, his release, and finally his election as South Africa's first black president. The pacing is very impressive for it traces through Mandela's life while keeping young readers engaged. The text in this book is as descriptive as the illustrations themselves. The language was creative and the pictures were eye-catching. Overall, the way this story was presented was stunning and brilliant. I definitely recommend this book for young readers.

Janice says

Inspiring story of an inspiring man.

Leonie Atherton says

This is a very good book. It tells the story of Nelson Mandela's life beautifully, tastefully and suitably for children. The book successfully sums up, a very detailed life story yet still manages to capture the emotions of the people involved. I have to admit, I am much more clued up on the life of Nelson Mandela after reading this. This book would be excellent as a source during Black History Month and there are lots of activities which can be done linked to this topic. Further research into South Africa would also be a great thing for older children to do. This book is easy to read and would be suited to comfortable readers of around 10 years old. The illustrations are authentic and informative and sensitive subjects are handled well. The only criticism I have, is the story could have been written to be a little more engaging. Some parts were a little dull.

Nashay says

This is an autobiography offer a glimpse into the mind of the great leader. The book talks about the struggles he faced against fighting the apartheid in South Africa. The book takes you from Nelson's childhood as an ordinary village boy, to his leadership of the African National Congress, to his long years in prison, and finally his rise to become the leader of South Africa. This is a great introductory book for children in the early elementary grades, when teaching a lesson on South Africa, civil rights, and Nelson Mandela. With the passing of Nelson Mandela it's a good time to teach about this hero and used during a heroes unit or during a social studies lesson when teaching about South Africa.

Seripa M says

This is a great book and has enlightened me about the history of my country. Mandela was a hero to all South Africans during the time of apartheid and has brought me to where I am today. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't of has such a good country.
