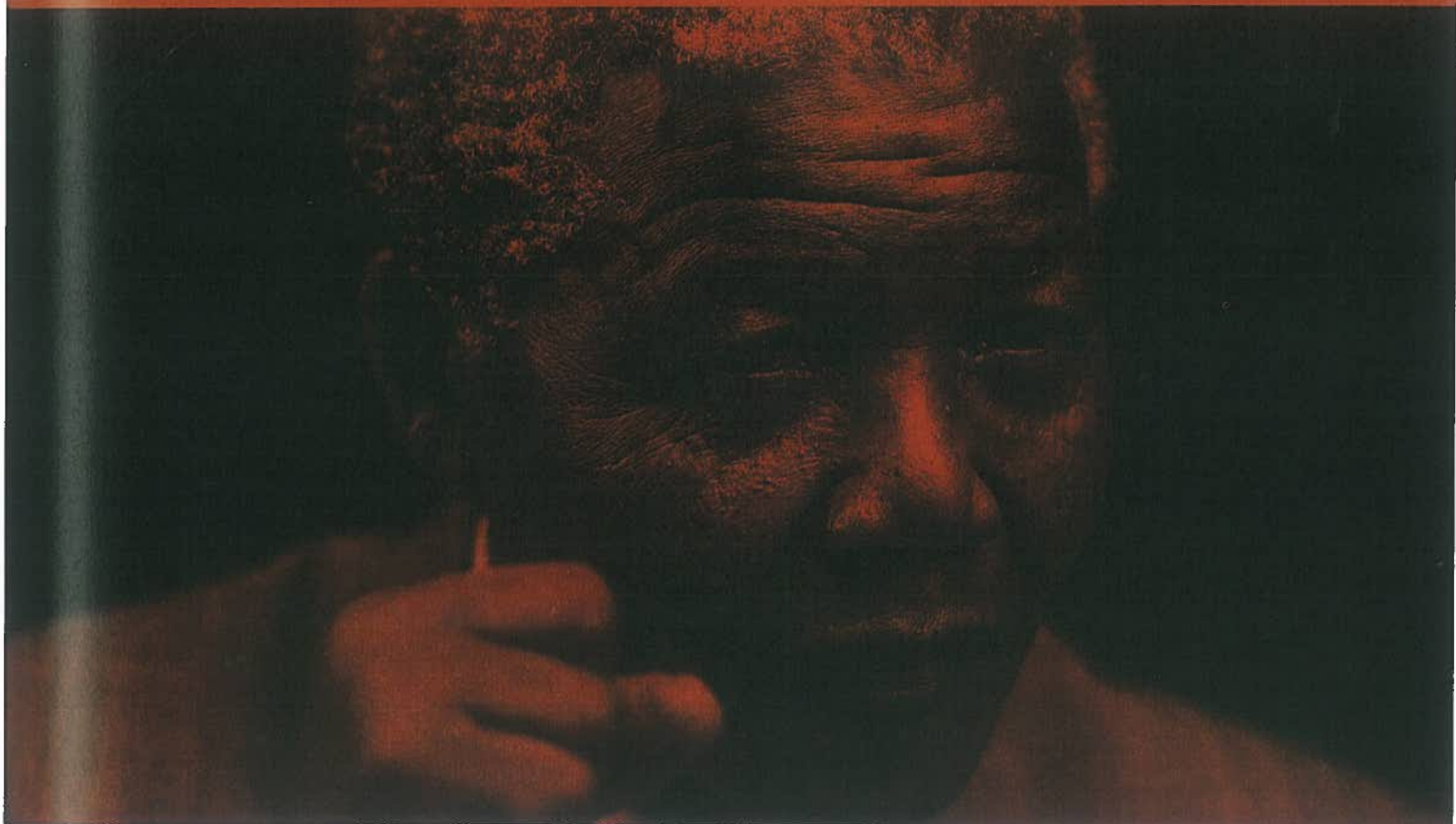


2

Nelson Mandela





## TIMELINE

**MAKE** a timeline of the most important events in Nelson Mandela's life. (Remember to include his political activities before, during and after his imprisonment, a few events from his private life, the Treason Trial and the Rivonia Trial).

## Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and apartheid

To most people Nelson Mandela (July 18, 1918 – December 5, 2013) is the embodiment of South Africa. His whole life was dedicated to the struggle against apartheid, and in later years his name also became associated with the fight against illiteracy and poverty and helping the growing number of people being infected by the HIV/AIDS virus.

In the introduction to the book *Mandela* Archbishop Desmond Tutu writes: "The world marvels at South Africa for three things especially: our peaceful transition in 1994, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Nelson Mandela, who is by far the most admired statesperson in the world and one of the greatest human beings to walk on this earth."

Mandela was born in Qunu, a remote poor area in the Transkei (the east of South Africa). It was not written in the stars that he was to become one of the main leaders of the anti-apartheid movement and consequently become one of the main enemies of the South African government.

In 1964 Mandela was arrested together with other leaders of the ANC political movement, convicted of sabotage and sentenced to life imprisonment in what was later to become known as the Rivonia Trial. Mandela continued to support the anti-apartheid movement from prison. However, he was more of a martyr for the anti-apartheid movement than a politician since his activities were restrained during the first 20 years of his imprisonment.

The black South Africans continued to fight oppression, which often resulted in riots, imprisonment, kidnappings and deaths. Over the course of time and especially in the 1980s the protests were heard and the apartheid regime was much debated and criticized by the international community. South Africa was expelled from the United Nations in 1974 and from the Olympic Games in 1976.

The outside pressure from the rest of the world made South African President F.W. de Klerk consider a revision of the apartheid laws. As part of this process Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990. From 1990 till 1994 an extraordinary partnership came into existence between Mandela and President de Klerk. They worked together in an interim government which eventually led to the creation of a new constitution in 1996 and thereby the end of the



*Nelson Mandela before he was imprisoned in 1964 to serve a life time imprisonment*





*Nelson Mandela visits Hlengiwe School to encourage students to learn, 1993*

apartheid system. Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk received the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in 1993, and the following year the first democratic election was held in South Africa. It was the first election in which all residents of South Africa who met the election requirements could cast their votes. In May 1994, Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the first black president of South Africa.

Despite spending more than 27 years in prison Nelson Mandela always kept the basic principle of the Freedom Charter in mind: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white", and despite the fears of some parts of the white population, he never sought revenge after being released in 1990. He negotiated with anyone who was willing to sit down and talk about the future of South Africa – and he manoeuvred very cleverly through a lot of potential crises.



Nelson Mandela became the first black president in 1994 in the first democratic election in South Africa after the end of apartheid. However, despite Mandela representing the majority, the country was not entirely unified.

This excerpt from the book "Playing the Enemy" is about Nelson Mandela's first meeting with the captain of the national rugby team, Francois Pienaar. This was one year before South Africa hosted the Rugby World Cup in 1995. "Playing the Enemy" (which later became the screenplay "Invictus") by John Carlin is primarily about Nelson Mandela using rugby to unite the peoples of South Africa. Historically, rugby has always been a white man's sport, and in his autobiography Nelson Mandela explained that if the prisoners on Robben Island were allowed to listen to a rugby game on the radio when the national team, the Springboks, were playing another team, the prisoners would cheer for the opponents.

## Excerpt from Playing the Enemy

BY JOHN CARLIN (2008)

dealing omgang, handle-  
måde  
fellow fyr  
progressive progressiv,  
fremskridtsvenlig  
chap fyr (daglig tale)  
BA bachelor-grad (3-årig  
uddannelse på universitetet)  
prospect udsigt  
daunting skræmmende  
green-tinted grøn-tonet  
engage indlede en snak  
animatedly livligt  
anomaly afvigelse (den be-  
skrevne indretning er meget  
præget af Afrikaner-stil og  
-historiefortælling)  
watercolour akvarel  
the Great Trek hollandske  
nybyggere vandrede 1835-  
37 nord- og østpå fra Kap-  
kolonien for at bosætte sig  
ox-wagon oksekærre  
veldt slette  
bare tomt  
save for bortset fra  
imposing imponerende,  
respektindgydende

**YET IF THERE WAS ONE THING MANDELA HAD LEARNED** in his dealings with the Afrikaners it was to see past appearances. "He did not seem to me at all to be the typical product of an apartheid society," Mandela said. "I found him quite a charming fellow and I sensed that he was progressive. And, 5 you know, he was an educated chap. He had a BA in law. It was a pleasure to sit down with him."

Pleasure was the last thing on Pienaar's mind as he stood on the stone steps of the giant Union Buildings on June 17, 1994, preparing to go inside for a meeting to which President Mandela had invited him. Pienaar, 10 now twenty-seven years old but suddenly feeling an awful lot younger, confessed to waiting reporters that he had never been more nervous in all his life; that the prospect of meeting the president was more daunting than any rugby game.

Dressed in dark suit and tie, Pienaar entered through a small door 15 at the buildings' west wing, ducked through a metal detector, and presented himself before two policemen waiting for him at a desk behind a green-tinted window of thick bulletproof glass. Both being Afrikaners, they immediately started engaging him animatedly on rugby. One of them led him out into a courtyard and down a corridor lined, though he 20 barely noticed the anomaly, with watercolours of scenes from the Great Trek, ox-wagons and men on horses against a background of brown, yellowy veldt. The policeman dropped him off at a small waiting room, bare save for a table and some leather chairs, into which stepped Mandela's personal assistant, a tall, imposing black lady called Mary Mxadana, who 25 asked him to take a seat and wait a moment. He sat in the room alone for

five minutes, his palms sweating. "I was incredibly tense as the moment arrived when I would meet him," he recalled. "I was really in awe of him. I kept thinking. 'What do I say? What do I ask him?'"

Then Mxadana reappeared, asked him if he would like tea or coffee – he said coffee – and bade him follow her. She stepped out of the waiting room into the corridor with the pictures of the ox-wagons, stopped at a tall, dark brown door, knocked sharply, and, in one move, stepped in. She held open the door for Pienaar, whose stage fright only worsened at the sight of the vast room before him, oceanically empty, as at first it seemed, till he crossed the threshold and spotted to his right a tall grey-haired man jumping out of his chair. Mandela was seventy-six but he headed toward Pienaar with the alacrity of a rugby opponent charging in for a tackle – except that he stood erect, had a big smile on his face and his hand outstretched. "Ah, Francois, how very good of you to come!" Pienaar muttered, "No, Mr. President, thank you so much for inviting me." Mandela shook his hand warmly, Pienaar registering with surprise that Mandela was almost as tall as he was. "So, how are you, Francois?" "Oh, very well, Mr. President, and you?" "Ah, very well. Ve-ry well!"

Mandela, smiling all the time, clearly happy to have this big young Boer in his new office, gestured to him to sit down on a sofa at right angles to his own, as he congratulated him on a Springbok victory over England, a convincing 27-9, in a game down in Cape Town six days earlier.

There was a knock at the door and a lady came in carrying a tray of coffee and tea. She was a white woman, middle-aged, wearing a floral dress with shoulder pads. Mandela saw her appear at the door at the other end of the room – a distance six times greater than the length of the cell that had been his home for eighteen years of his life – and immediately stood up, remaining standing as she placed the tray on a low table before the two men. "Ah, thank you very much. Thank you ve-ry much," smiled Mandela, still standing. "And, ah, this is Francois Pienaar ... Lenoy Coetzee." Pienaar reached out and shook hands with her, and before she turned to go away, Mandela thanked her again and did not sit down again until the Afrikaner lady had exited the room.

Pienaar looked around the large wood-panelled office, vaguely registering a blend of decor, old South African and new; ox-wagon watercolours side by side with shields of leather hide and wooden African sculptures. Mandela broke in. "Do you take milk, Francois?"

In less than five minutes Pienaar's mood had been transformed. "It's more than just being comfortable in his presence," Pienaar recalled. "You have a feeling when you are with him that you are safe." So safe that Pienaar had the audacity half-jokingly to ask him whether he would accompany the Springboks on a tour to New Zealand the following month. "Nothing would please me more, Francois!" he smiled. "But most unfortunately I have these people here in this building who

palm håndflade  
to be in awe have dyb respekt for  
bid (præt. bade) byde  
stage fright scenskækrækt  
vast enorm  
oceanically ocean-agtig  
threshold dørtærskel  
alacrity hurtighed  
charge in angribe  
erect opretstående  
mutter mumle  
Boer det hollandske ord for bonde. I dag henviser det til en person der har hollandske rødder  
gesture gøre tegn til  
at right angles vinkelret  
Springbok sydafrikansk gazelle (springbuk) og navnet på landsholdet i rugby  
floral blomstermønstreret  
wood-panelled beklædt med træpaneler  
vaguely vagt  
decor indretning  
shield skjold  
leather hide læderskind  
mood humør  
transform forvandle  
presence (her) selskab, nærvær  
audacity frækhed



launch begynde, indlede  
 reminiscence erindring  
 theft tyveri  
 the Transkei et område i den  
 syd-østlige del af Sydafrika  
 dispense udføre  
 ancient ældgammel  
 chiefly som høvding. Mande-  
 la var søn af en høvding  
 summon hidkalde  
 bargain forhandle  
 chuckle smågrine, klukle  
 forge skabe  
 inconsequential betyd-  
 ningsløs  
 solemnity højtidelighed  
 diabolical djævelsk  
 hatch udklække  
 complicit medskyldig  
 confidence fortrolighed  
 overawed fyldt med overdre-  
 ven respekt  
 enlist sikre sig  
 objective mål  
 reckon regne ud  
 unification forening  
 overt åbenlys  
 edge closer kante sig tæt-  
 tere på  
 reverberate give genlyd  
 seed frø  
 encounter møde  
 subtext underliggende  
 betydning

drive me very, very hard and I know they will give me orders to remain here and work!"

To Pienaar's relief Mandela simply took charge from there, launching into a sequence of reminiscences and stories that made Pienaar feel, as he put it, like a little boy sitting at the feet of a wise old man. One of the stories concerned the theft of a chicken in Qunu, the village in the Transkei where Mandela had been raised and to which he still returned to dispense his ancient chiefly duties. One day when Mandela was visiting, a lady came around to his home to tell him that a neighbour had stolen her chicken. Pienaar picked up the story: "Mandela summoned the neighbour, who confessed he had done it, but only because his family was hungry. Then Mandela called both of them to his house and he ruled that the man had to pay the lady back two chickens. But she argued, she bargained, she wanted more, and they settled on more. But it was a lot for this guy, so Mandela helped him out with the repayment."

Mandela chuckled throughout as he told the story, a peculiar one for him to choose to tell the Springbok captain at a meeting he had called with the clear purpose of forging a relationship with him in preparation for the following year's Rugby World Cup. It was peculiarly light and inconsequential, too, given the solemnity of the surroundings, a room where, as Mandela had put it during an interview here a few days earlier, "the most diabolical plans were hatched". Yet the story of the stolen chicken worked, in that it helped forge precisely the sort of complicit intimacy Mandela wished to establish with the young man. In sharing with him what had been something of a private confidence, a story Pienaar would not have read about in the newspapers, Mandela had found a way to the heart of the overawed rugby captain, making him feel as if he were in the company of a favourite great-uncle. Pienaar would not have guessed it at the time, but winning him over – and through him, enlisting the rest of the Springbok team – was an important objective for Mandela. For what Mandela had reckoned, in that half-instinctive, half-calculating way of his, was that the World Cup might prove helpful in the great challenge of national unification that still lay ahead.

Mandela never made his purpose overt in that first meeting with Pienaar, but he did edge closer to the main theme when he switched the conversation to his memories of the Barcelona Olympic Games, which he had attended in 1992 and recalled with great enthusiasm. "He talked about the power that sport had to move people and how he had seen this not long after his release in the Barcelona Olympics, which he especially remembered for one particular moment when he said he stood up and he felt the whole stadium reverberating," said Pienaar, in whose mind Mandela was seeking to plant the first seeds of a political idea. Pienaar did not register it as such, but in Mandela's version of the encounter, warm as it had been, the subtext was crystal clear.

"Francois Pienaar was the captain of rugby and if I wanted to use rugby, I had to work with him," Mandela said. "I concentrated in our meeting on complimenting him for the role which he was playing and which he could play. And I briefed him on what I was doing about sports and why I was doing so. And I found him a highly intelligent person." The time had come, as Mandela explained to his guest, to abandon the old perception of the Springbok rugby team as "enemies" and see them as compatriots and friends. His message was, "Let us use sport for the purpose of nation-building and promoting all the ideas which we think will lead to peace and stability in our country."

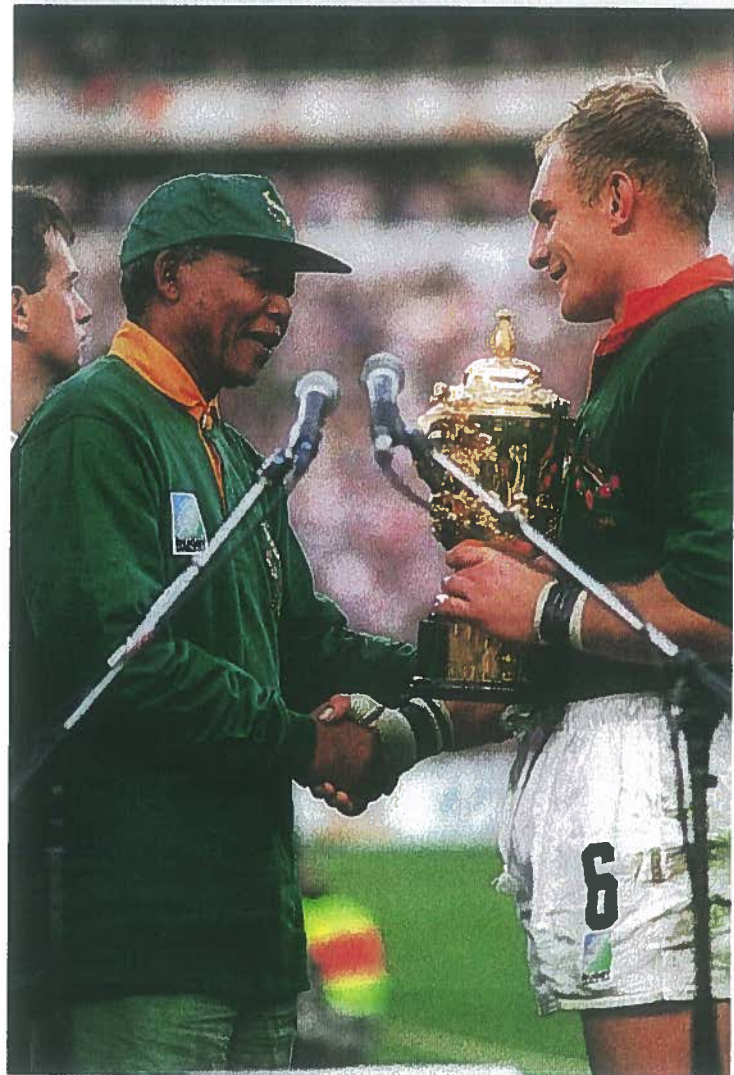
Pienaar had become the latest Afrikaner to be "enveloped", as he himself put it, in Mandela's aura; but he did not become an overnight evangelizer. He was a straightforward rugby man for whom big words like "nation-building" carried little meaning. The message he took from that meeting was a straightforward one: Get out there and win, wear that shirt with pride, certain of my support. Mandela bade Pienaar good-bye as if they were already the best of friends.

brief someone on forhånds-  
orientere én om noget  
abandon opgive  
perception opfattelse  
compatriot landsmand  
envelope indhylle  
evangelizer prædikant

*Nelson Mandela presents  
the William Webb Ellis  
Cup to Springbok captain  
Francois Pienaar after  
South Africa defeated  
New Zealand in the Rugby  
World Cup final June 24,  
1995*

## QUESTIONS

1. What genre is the text?
- ej 2. In pairs: Imagine you are Francois Pienaar and give a summary of the meeting.
- ej 3. In pairs: Imagine you are Nelson Mandela and give a summary of the meeting.
4. List the words which capture the atmosphere of the meeting between Francois Pienaar and Nelson Mandela.
5. Describe in detail Francois Pienaar's meeting with the two women working with Nelson Mandela. Focus on their appearance, their functions and the treatment they receive.
6. Explain in your own words why Nelson Mandela chooses to tell Pienaar the story about the two stolen chickens.
7. Explain the use of the word "enveloped" (p. 29, l. 11).
8. What archetypes do Nelson Mandela and Pienaar represent, respectively?
9. In groups, give examples of sport being used as a political instrument around the world.

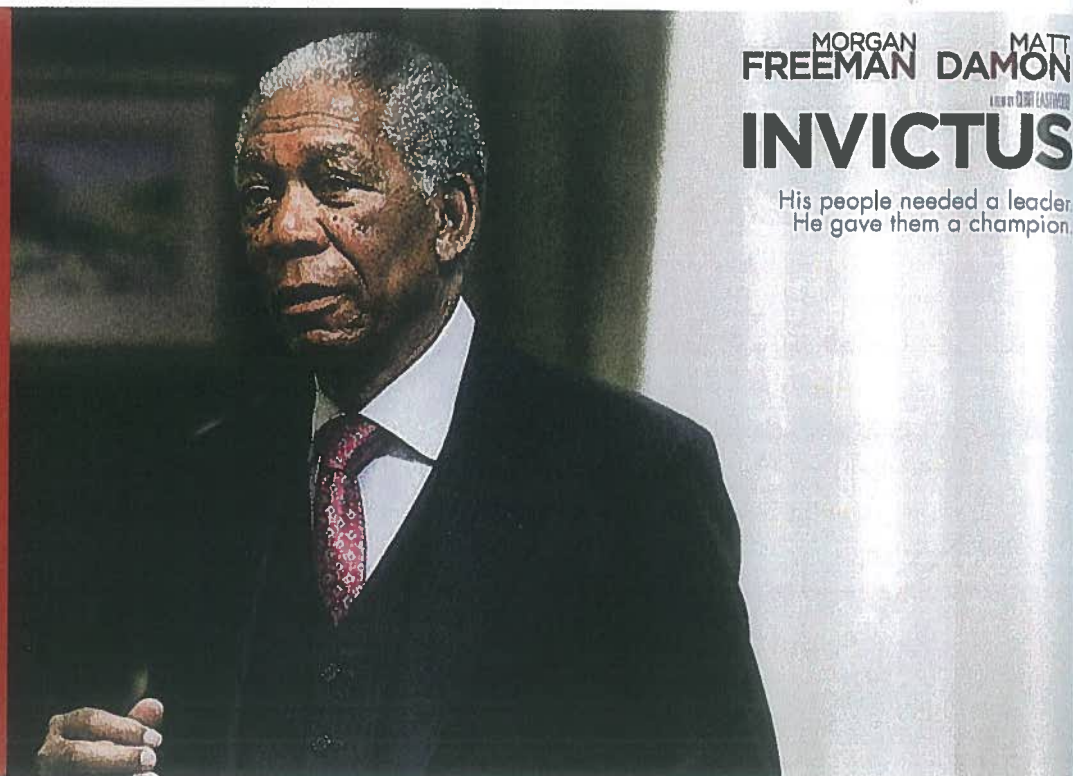




# INVICTUS

## Invictus

"Invictus" is a film from 2009 based on John Carlin's book "Playing the enemy" from 2008. The film was directed by Clint Eastwood and stars Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman.



*Morgan Freeman played Nelson Mandela in Invictus, 2009*

These questions will cover the first four minutes of the film.

## QUESTIONS

1. What atmosphere is created at the opening of the film before the first image appears?
2. Describe the place and setting in detail.
3. What is the date and year?
4. Sum up the similarities and differences between the two sports scenes.
5. On the basis of your observations of the environment described above, sum up your impression of South Africa as a nation.
6. What is the background music when "watching the news"?
7. Why did the director choose this type of music?
8. Based on the first four minutes, what do you think the conflicts/themes of the film are?
9. Who is the most important character in the film?
10. What is the genre?
11. Discuss what you expect from the rest of the film.
12. In pairs, discuss the possible effects of sport as a political instrument.



# Invictus

BY W.E. HENLEY (1875)

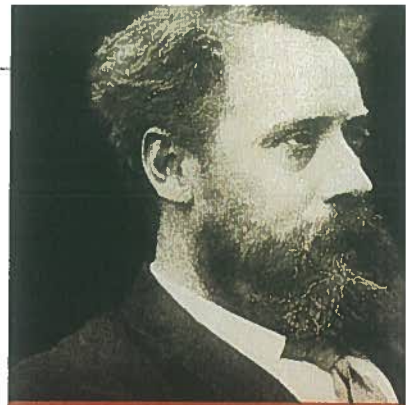
**OUT OF THE NIGHT** that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

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

10 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.

15 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.

pit grube, mine  
pole pæl, stolpe  
unconquerable ikke til at  
besejre  
fell grusom  
clutch greb  
winced krympe sig  
bludgeonings (her) prygl  
chance tilfældighed  
beyond på den anden side af  
wrath vrede  
loom tone frem  
menace trussel  
strait smal, snæver  
how charged with punishments the scroll hvor hård  
en straf jeg står til at få



## W. E. Henley (1849-1903)

William Ernest Henley was a Victorian writer and best remembered for the poem *Invictus*, which comes from Latin meaning "unconquered". Nelson Mandela recited the poem to other prisoners while he was imprisoned, and U.S. President Obama finished his speech at Mandela's Memorial Ceremony on December 10, 2013, by quoting the last stanza.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is the setting of the poem?
2. Who is speaking and to whom?
3. What is the poem about?
4. The title is not the original one. However, explain what is implied by the title *Invictus*.
5. Find words that describe the atmosphere of the poem.
6. Find words that describe the speaker's state of mind.
7. What is the form of the poem?
8. Describe the rhyme scheme of the poem.
9. Point out examples of personification used in the poem and explain why they are used.
10. Find words that describe what great challenges the speaker faces.
11. In pairs, what is your overall impression of the situation in which the speaker finds himself?
12. Explain the last two lines of the poem.
13. Try to imagine the effect of the poem on Nelson Mandela when he was imprisoned.