



SUBJECT : ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

CLASS - X

FIRST FLIGHT : LITERATURE (PROSE LESSON)

Topic: NELSON MANDELA--Long Walk to Freedom



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first **black head of state** and the first one to be elected in a fully representative democratic election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by tackling institutionalised racism and fostering racial reconciliation. Ideologically an African nationalist and socialist, he served as the president of the African National Congress (ANC) party from 1991 to 1997.

Introduction

Long Walk to Freedom is an autobiography written by South African President Nelson Mandela, and first published in 1994. The book profiles his early life, coming of age, education and 27 years in prison. Under the apartheid government, Mandela was regarded as a terrorist and jailed on the infamous **Robben Island** for his role as a leader of the then-outlawed ANC. He later achieved international recognition for his leadership as president in

rebuilding the country's once segregated society. The last chapters of the book describe his political ascension, and his belief that the struggle still continued against apartheid in South Africa.

Mandela dedicated his book to -"my six children, Madiba and Makaziwe (my first daughter) who are now deceased, and to Makgatho, Makaziwe, Zenani and Zindzi, whose support and love I treasure; to my twenty-one grandchildren and three great-grandchildren who give me great pleasure; and to all my comrades, friends and fellow South Africans whom I serve and whose courage, determination and patriotism remain my source of inspiration."

In the first part of the autobiography, Mandela describes his upbringing as a child and adolescent in South Africa, and being connected to the royal Thembu dynasty. His childhood name was Rolihlahla, which is loosely translated as "pulling the branch of a tree", or a euphemism for "troublemaker"...

Links for reference to Nelson Mandela's Biography :

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Walk_to_Freedom

<https://www.biographyonline.net/politicians/nelson->

SUMMARY

This chapter is an extract from the autobiography of Nelson Mandela (born- 18 July, 1918), the first Black President of South Africa. It begins with the description of their inaugural ceremony which took place on the 10th May 1994 where the entire nation along with many international leaders embraced the victory of a newly and fairly elected government. It involved speeches by the President and the two Deputy Presidents followed by an impressive air show of fighter jets and helicopters. Long ago, in the first decade of the twentieth century, white supremacy introduced the system of apartheid and made life a living hell for the dark-skinned population. It gave rise to one of the most inhumane societies of the world. Many people struggled and sacrificed their lives for basic human rights. The author expressed his desire to thank all those freedom fighters who couldn't live to see this autumn day. He referred to the citizens as the greatest asset of the country. It is these people he gathered his courage from. Mandela believed that **courageous is not the man who is fearless, but the**

man who has overcome fear. He also mentioned the two responsibilities every human has and how in order to fulfil his obligation towards the society, his obligation towards his family was neglected. He became a man of people when he realised that the idea of freedom was an illusion for him and people like him. It was then he joined the African National Congress and fought for his rights till he became the first black President of the nation. According to him, the oppressor is as much a prisoner as the oppressed. As soon as the former robs the oppressed of their freedom he, himself gets robbed of his humanity. Thus, the oppressor too, is not free.

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

Guidelines for the students : All the assignment questions are to be done in the fair English notebook. Maintain a proper index with date for all the assignments.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS :

1. Where did the ceremonies take place?
2. In what way is 10th May an 'autumn day' in South Africa?
3. What does the singing of two national anthems signify?
4. What did Mandela thank the international leaders for?
5. Explain how did Mandela's '***hunger for freedom***' change his life?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS :

1. Bring out the contrast in the meaning of freedom for Mandela as a boy i.e. 'transitory freedom' with "the basic and honourable freedom" as he perceived it on being an adult.
2. Do you agree that the 'depths of oppression' create 'heights of character'? Elucidate your answer with reference to the biography of Nelson Mandela.

VOCABULARY EXERCISES :

- I. Give the verb form of the following nouns:

NOUN	VERB
Rebellion	Rebel
Constitution	
Glory	
Transformation	
Oppression	
Freedom	
Liberty	
Confinement	
Imagination	
Discrimination	
Formation	

II. Match the italicised phrases in Column A with the phrase nearest in meaning in Column B. (Hint: First look for the sentence in the text in which the phrase in Column A occurs.)

Column A	Column B
1. I was not <i>unmindful</i> of the fact	(i) had not forgotten; was aware of the fact (ii) was not careful about the fact (iii) forgot or was not aware of the fact
2. when my comrades and I <i>were pushed to our limits</i>	(i) pushed by the guards to the wall (ii) took more than our share of beatings (iii) felt that we could not endure the suffering any longer

3. to reassure me and <i>keep me going</i>	(i) make me go on walking (ii) help me continue to live in hope in this very difficult situation (iii) make me remain without complaining
4. the basic and honourable freedoms of... <i>earning my keep</i> ,...	(i) earning enough money to live on (ii) keeping what I earned (iii) getting a good salary

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