

Mandela – A Long Walk To Freedom

- 1) In the film we get to know **two sides of Nelson Mandela** – the freedom fighter and politician but also the "everyday man" (for example the boyfriend/husband and father). Do you think the film paints a credible picture of who Nelson Mandela was? Do you think showing both sides of him makes him more or less of a man/person?
- 2) What are your opinions on how **the young Nelson Mandela** treated women and his first born son?
- 3) In what ways did **Nelson and Winnie Mandela** differ in their opinions of how to achieve freedom? How did they see the future South Africa when Nelson finally came out of prison?
- 4) At one point in the film Mandela says to one of his grandchildren that he musn't treat people differently because of the colour of their skin. The grand child says "But that is what white people have done". Mandela answers: "**We must be better than that**". What do you think he means by that?
- 5) During his life, Nelson Mandela experienced humiliation, degradation, violence, imprisonment and other forms of injustice based on the colour of his skin. How was he able to resist the feelings and the urge to revenge all the wrong-doings? How did he survive the long years in prison on Robben Island, being locked up in a 6 square meter room most of the time? How did he become such a **forgiving man** and politician, seeking reconciliation instead of pay-back?
- 6) Mahatma Gandhi's idea of non-violence and the Christian philosophy of forgiveness are what the ANC based their ideas on. Leaders of the ANC often said: "We should not seek revenge for all the evil things that have been done to us because then we will be just as bad as them". Are there any **other conflicts** in the world where you think they could learn from ANC's way of thinking? Explain where and how.