

## Obama praises Mandela as an "inspiration"

1<sup>st</sup> July, 2013



U.S. President Barack Obama has hailed Nelson Mandela as a personal inspiration while on a visit to South Africa. Mr Obama declined to visit Mr Mandela due to the former South African president's poor health. A White House statement explained: "Out of deference to Nelson Mandela's peace and comfort and the family's wishes, [the Obamas] will not be visiting the hospital." Obama made it clear to reporters on Air Force One that he had no intention of putting Mr Mandela's health any further at risk, saying: "I don't need a photo op....The last thing I want to do is to be in any way obtrusive at a time when the family is concerned about Nelson Mandela's condition."

President Obama called Mandela a "personal hero" and that Mandela's sacrifices to achieve equal rights helped inspire his own political career. While flying to South Africa, Obama told reporters: "The main message we'll want to deliver...is simply a profound gratitude for his leadership all these years, and that the thoughts and prayers of the American people are with him and his family and his country." Obama later told university students in Pretoria to learn lessons from Mandela's strength while he was in prison for 27 years. He said: "Think about the hardships and the struggles and being away from family and friends. There were dark moments that tested his faith in humanity, but he refused to give up."

Sources: Mail & Gazette / iol.co.za / BBC

### Writing

Nelson Mandela is the greatest inspiration of the past century. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*inspiration / South Africa / poor health / at risk / photo op / obtrusive / condition / sacrifices / equal rights / political career / main message / gratitude / hardships*

### True / False

- Barack Obama visited Nelson Mandela to tell him he was an inspiration. T / F
- The White House wished Mandela peace and comfort. T / F
- Obama said he didn't want to do anything that would make Mandela ill. T / F
- Obama said it was not the time to be photographed with Mandela. T / F
- Mandela's sacrifices for equality helped shape Obama's career. T / F
- Obama's main message to Mandela was for winning a Nobel Peace. T / F
- Obama spoke to students from a Johannesburg university. T / F
- Obama asked students to learn from Mandela's time in prison. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. hailed    | a. in danger   |
| 2. deference | b. mankind     |
| 3. intention | c. belief      |
| 4. at risk   | d. praised     |
| 5. condition | e. plan        |
| 6. achieve   | f. suffering   |
| 7. profound  | g. state       |
| 8. hardships | h. heartfelt   |
| 9. faith     | i. respect     |
| 10. humanity | j. bring about |

### Discussion – Student A

- What message would you like to give Nelson Mandela?
- What is your earliest memory of Mandela?
- Where would South Africa be today if Mandela hadn't come along?
- What other former world leaders are loved as much as Nelson Mandela?
- What do you think of Mandela's 27-year imprisonment?
- What lessons can we learn from Nelson Mandela?
- How would you feel if you met Nelson Mandela?
- What questions would you like to ask Nelson Mandela?

## Phrase Match

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. hailed Nelson Mandela         | a. op                        |
| 2. poor                          | b. and the struggles         |
| 3. putting Mr Mandela's health   | c. I want to do              |
| 4. I don't need a photo          | d. rights                    |
| 5. The last thing                | e. faith in humanity         |
| 6. achieve equal                 | f. any further at risk       |
| 7. helped inspire his            | g. gratitude                 |
| 8. profound                      | h. as a personal inspiration |
| 9. the hardships                 | i. own political career      |
| 10. dark moments that tested his | j. health                    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Nelson Mandela?
- Who is the most inspirational person you know?
- What might others think is inspirational about you?
- What are Nelson Mandela's greatest strengths?
- Should the U.N. create an International Nelson Mandela Day?
- What are your feelings for Nelson Mandela?
- What are the similarities and differences between Obama and Mandela?
- How great is Nelson Mandela?

## Spelling

- Obama has hidea Nelson Mandela
- Obama eniceldd to visit Mr Mandela
- Out of ceerdfeen to Nelson Mandela's peace
- he had no iitonennt of...
- be in any way trivebsou
- the family is nncecrode
- Mandela's ifsearscci to achieve equal rights
- profound ttedigura
- thoughts and arpyres
- Mandela's gsnhtetr
- the hardships and the sgeutrgsl
- he defuser to give up

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. i	3. e	4. a	5. g
6. j	7. h	8. f	9. c	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Business leader

You think a business leader is the most inspirational person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that not inspiring about themselves. Also, tell the others which is the least inspiring of these (and why): a soldier, an IT inventor or a charity worker.

### Role B – A soldier

You think a soldier is the most inspirational person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that not inspiring about themselves. Also, tell the others which is the least inspiring of these (and why): a business leader, an IT inventor or a charity worker.

### Role C – An IT inventor

You think an IT inventor is the most inspirational person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that not inspiring about themselves. Also, tell the others which is the least inspiring of these (and why): a soldier, a business leader or a charity worker.

### Role D – A charity worker

You think a charity worker is the most inspirational person. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that not inspiring about themselves. Also, tell the others which is the least inspiring of these (and why): a soldier, an IT inventor or a business leader.

## Speaking - Hero

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| • Nelson Mandela | • Hillary Clinton       |
| • Gandhi         | • Queen Rania of Jordan |
| • Beyonce        | • Steve Jobs            |
| • Lionel Messi   | • Florence Nightingale  |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.