

MANDELA, Nelson Rolihlahla ^{in 1918}

One. Mandela was born in Umtata, Transkei, into the Royal Tembu House. He went to Fort Hare where he was a commanding personality, being tall and handsome. He was suspended after a student protest, but completed his B.A. through UNISA, and gained a law degree at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Cartoon: Mandela himself, of tall and commanding bearing.

Two. He was destined for politics. In 1950 he became National President of the African National Congress Youth League. In 1952 he was Volunteer-in-Chief in the Defiance Campaign, and this earned him banning for six months. The next year he became Deputy National President of the A.N.C. under Lutuli, but further banning forced him to resign. Yet his leadership was never questioned, though it had to be exercised in secret.

Cartoon: An act of defiance.

Three. He was one of the 156 charged with high treason in 1956. All were eventually discharged in 1961. He and Duma Nokwe (who died recently) were two of the lawyers for the defence. In that year he called for a national stay-at-home strike to underscore the demand for a National Convention to plan a new constitution for South Africa. To evade arrest he went underground, and was given the name of the Black Pimpernel. In 1962 in Addis Ababa he presented arguments for the use of violent revolution. This must be regarded as a grave event in the history of South Africa.

Cartoon: Mandela at Addis Ababa, making his grave pronouncement.

Four. Mandela returned to South Africa in 1962 but he was eventually captured. He was charged with incitement and illegally leaving the country. For this he was given a five-year sentence. But much graver charges were to be preferred against him. He was again brought to trial as a member of the High Command of Umkonto we Sizwe, the Spear of the Nation, the militant successor of the banned A.N.C.

Cartoon: Something to do with a spear? Do you know the famous portrait of Shaka, in Ritter's book SHAKA ZULU? But you probably want to use this for Shaka.

Five. On 9 October 1963 eleven men appeared in court in Pretoria, all alleged leaders of Umkonto we Sizwe. They included Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and Govan Mbeki. This was known as the Rivonia trial, for it was in a Rivonia house that the arrests were made. Finally eight were sentenced to life imprisonment for plotting violence against the State. Mandela was one. They were all sent to Robben Island.

Cartoon: Robben Island

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Six. Mandela's legend lives on. Some hope for a miracle, that they will one day see him in a position of authority. But he will soon be sixty years old. He belongs to the select company of Lutuli, Matthews, and others, men of wisdom, authority and high principle, whose country would not use their gifts.

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Six. Before he was sentenced Mandela claimed to be an African socialist, who was not a Communist but would use Communist help. He reminds one of a famous parable, that when two men are racing to the fire, one does not ask the other "Where did you get your bucket."

Cartoon 2 men racing to the fire with buckets