

padhai | Class X

English

Notes



**Full
Explanations**



**Character
Sketch**



**Word
Meanings**



**Tone, Central
idea, devices....**

First Flight

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

- NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA

Explanation:

The chapter Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, taken from the autobiography of Nelson Mandela, describe the historic day 10 May 1994, when Mandela was sworn in as the first Black President of South Africa after decades of **apartheid**, a system of racial discrimination that separated people based on race. The ceremony took place in the **sandstone amphitheatre of the Union Buildings in Pretoria**, which had long been “the seat of white supremacy.” This phrase act as symbolic imagery, highlighting how a place once associated with racial oppression now witness the birth of democracy.

Mandela describe the inauguration as a “**rainbow gathering of different colours and nations**,” a metaphor comparing the diversity of people present to the many colours of a rainbow. This metaphor symbolise unity and harmony among races that had long been divided.

During the ceremony, **leaders from over 140 countries** attended, recognising the global importance of South Africa’s transition to democracy. Mandela pledge to obey the Constitution and dedicate himself to the well-being of the nation. In his speech, he refer to apartheid as “**an extraordinary human disaster**,” a phrase that emphasize the immense suffering caused by decades of racial oppression. However, he also celebrate the victory of democracy as “a glorious human achievement.”

The military aircraft flying over the ceremony symbolise the **loyalty** of the armed forces to the new democratic government along with their military strength. Mandela note the irony that these same generals who saluted him on that day might have arrested him years earlier when he was a freedom fighter. This moment reflect the transformation of South Africa from an oppressive regime to a democratic state.

Another powerful symbol of unity was the singing of two national anthems: **Nkosi Sikelel-iAfrika and Die Stem** associated with the Black population.

Mandela reflect deeply on the past. He explain that the oppressive system was created in the early twentieth century when white rulers established a government that denied basic rights to the Black majority after the Anglo-Boer war. The struggle against apartheid involved countless sacrifices by courageous leaders such as **Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, and others**. Mandela humbly state that he is “**the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before**” him, meaning that his success is the result of their sacrifices.

The chapter also present Mandela's philosophy of courage. He explain that **courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over it**, meaning that brave people feel fear but overcome it. He learn this from his fellow freedom fighters who endured imprisonment, torture, and suffering without losing hope.

Mandela also explains about the **twin obligations** that everyone possesses, one towards the family and other towards his country. In fair and just society, everyone has enough opportunities to fulfill both, but as a non-white person in South Africa ruled by Apartheid system, certainly one of the obligations was needed to be sacrificed. Mandela found himself being separated from his family as he began to work for the freedom of all the oppressed. It turned **a law abiding attorney and Life loving person** into **a criminal and homeless ascetic**.

Mandela further reflect on human nature. He argue that people are not born hating others because of race or religion; hatred is learned. Therefore, love can also be taught because it come more naturally to the human heart. Even during his years in prison, he occasionally saw **"a glimmer of humanity" in prison guards**, which give him hope.

Towards the end of the chapter, Mandela discuss the idea of freedom. As a child, freedom meant simple pleasures such as running in fields and swimming in streams. As a young man, it meant personal independence—choosing where to go and what to do. Later he realised that true freedom is collective, meaning that no one can be free while others remain oppressed.

This understanding led him to dedicate his life to the struggle for the freedom of all South Africans. He explain that the oppressor is also not truly free because **hatred and prejudice imprison him/her**. Thus, both the oppressed and the oppressor must be liberated to restore humanity.

Reference Information

- 1.Date of inauguration: Nelson Mandela became President on 10 May 1994, marking the end of apartheid and the beginning of democratic rule in South Africa.
- 2.Location of ceremony: The inauguration took place at the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria, historically the administrative centre of white minority rule.
- 3.International presence: Leaders and dignitaries from more than 140 countries attended the ceremony, showing global support for South Africa's democratic transition.
- 4.Deputy Presidents: F. W. de Klerk was sworn in as second deputy president and Thabo Mbeki as first deputy president.
- 5.Air force display: Military jets flew over the ceremony in formation, symbolising the military's loyalty to the new democratic government.

6. Two national anthems: The ceremony included both the old anthem Die Stem and Nkosi Sikelel-iAfrika, symbolising national unity between previously divided racial groups.
7. Historical background: Apartheid created one of the most inhumane racial systems, where Black South Africans were denied basic political and civil rights.
8. Influence of freedom fighters: Mandela acknowledge leaders such as Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Chief Luthuli, Yusuf Dadoo, Bram Fischer, and Robert Sobukwe for their role in the struggle.
9. The struggle for freedom transform him from a law-abiding attorney into a revolutionary activist.
10. Conflict in the chapter: Human vs System: The fight against apartheid.. Human vs Human: Racial discrimination and oppression.
11. Symbolism of the rainbow: The phrase "rainbow gathering" symbolise a multicultural and unified South Africa.

Detailed Character Sketches

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela appear as a courageous, visionary, and deeply humble leader. He dedicate his entire life to the struggle against apartheid and the establishment of democracy in South Africa. Mandela demonstrate extraordinary resilience, having spent decades in prison yet emerging without bitterness. He believe that "courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over it," showing that true bravery lies in overcoming fear for a greater cause. Mandela is also compassionate and philosophical, arguing that hatred is learned and love is natural to the human heart. His leadership is marked by humility, as he acknowledge that he is merely "the sum of all those African patriots" who fought before him.

Central Message

The chapter convey that freedom, equality, and human dignity are fundamental rights for all people. Mandela emphasise that oppression harms both the oppressed and the oppressor. True freedom exist only when all individuals are free from discrimination, poverty, and injustice. The chapter also highlight the importance of courage, unity, and perseverance in achieving social justice.

Narrator's Tone

The narrator's tone is reflective, inspirational, and hopeful. Mandela reflect on the painful past of apartheid with seriousness but express optimism about the future of a democratic and united South Africa. His tone balance historical reflection with moral wisdom and a sense of triumph.

Word Meanings

1. Apartheid – a political system that separated people based on race
2. Amphitheatre – an open circular building with rising seats around a central space
3. Besieged – surrounded closely by many people
4. Emancipation – freedom from restriction or oppression
5. Deprivation – lack of basic necessities or rights
6. Discrimination – unfair treatment based on race, gender, religion, etc.
7. Resilience – the ability to recover quickly from hardship
8. Oppression – prolonged cruel or unjust treatment
9. Prejudice – an unfair opinion formed without proper knowledge
10. Curtailed – reduced or restricted
11. Transitory – temporary; not lasting
12. Illusion – something that appears real but is not
13. Obligations – duties or responsibilities
14. Glorious – worthy of great admiration
15. Humanity – kindness and compassion toward others

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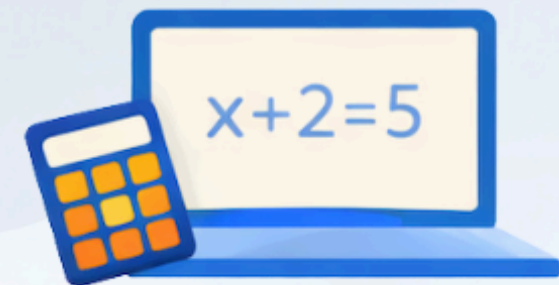
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