Madiba and Children

Bridget Kahts and Eric Atmore
























MANDELA
NOT
CROOKED
MANDELA
NELSON MANDELA
Name: Sakhe

Madiba and Children

Bridget Kahts and Eric Atmore

CENTRE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
Putting Young Children First

CAPE TOWN Museum of Childhood

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This book is dedicated to all children in South Africa
and to the Mandela dream that one day all children will prosper.



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all who took the time to share their childhood memories of Madiba with us.

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Rosmead Primary School
Intshinga Primary School
Westerford High School
Ukhanyo Primary School
Athlone Church of Christ Educare Centre

We extend sincere thanks to Benny Gool for his willingness to share his unique collection
of photographs of Madiba with us. Photographs from this collection appear on the
Dedication page and pages 3, 5, 13, 19, 33, 37, 45, 47 and 49.
Childhood memories with photographs by Benny Gool appear on pages 6, 7,8,10, 14, 18, 48, and 54.

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Right (top-down): Awonke Dyaw (Grade 1) - Rosmead Primary; Isabella Goodwin (Grade 8) - Westerford High; Hanna Gildenhys (Grade 8) - Westerford High; Kayla Jepthas (14 years) - Livingstone High



Above: Bangolwethu Ramba (Grade 2) - Rosmead Primary

Right: Stephanie Camps (Grade 8) - Westerford High

Preface

For 67 years Mr Nelson Mandela gave his energy, time and commitment to the struggle for freedom and liberation in South Africa. Many individuals from a range of political groupings and movements fought Apartheid, and Madiba stood out in this. His leadership, strategies and actions directly led to the first democratic government in South Africa in 1994.

On his release from imprisonment he made the poignant comment that what he missed most whilst on Robben Island was the sound of children's voices. This is profound from a man who could have commented on many other things that he was deprived of whilst incarcerated, yet what he said he missed most was the voices of children.

Following his release on 11 February 1990, he always made time to meet with children, to talk with them, to have a photograph taken with them, and perhaps the part that he enjoyed most – to sing with them. Remember Twinkle, Twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are?" *(To hear Madiba sing this, go to https://goo.gl/oLhY9Z)*.

One of my children, Sarah, then aged 8 years, was part of the guard of honour when Madiba and the Queen of England walked down Government Avenue towards Parliament in 1995. Needless to say, on his way down the avenue, he stopped to shake hands with each child there and to speak with some of them (the Queen followed Madiba's lead and did the same), to the dismay of his security detail.

In celebration of what would have been his 100th birthday on 18 July 2018, we have put together stories written by individuals who met Madiba whilst they were a child. We are also fortunate to have photographs that capture the memory, mostly taken by proud parents on these occasions. Some of the stories are humorous, others are written in awe of Madiba. All these stories reflect how Madiba was drawn to children and how he expressed love and affection towards them. Each of these children, most who are today adults, tell of the deep respect that he showed them. For Madiba, a photograph could not be taken without children nearby being invited to be in the photograph. In conversation, Madiba would usually ask each child a number of questions, with the standard question being: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" On saying goodbye to children, Madiba usually left an instruction to them to "study hard."

This book records 25 of these stories. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Eric Atmore

18 July 2018

Madiba's Childhood

Madiba was born on the 18th of July 1918, one hundred years ago. He was named Rolihlahla, meaning 'troublemaker', by his father who unbeknown to Madiba, must have foreseen his journey ahead. A troublemaker, in our interpretation, refers to a person who effects change by standing up for what is right and inciting others to stand up to authority with them; this was precisely what Madiba successfully accomplished through his life.

As a young boy, Madiba lived in a village called Mvezo in the region known as Transkei, before moving to Qunu, a village close by. Madiba's father, Gadla Henry Mphakanyiswa, was the chief of Mvezo.

During these formative years, Madiba enjoyed doing childhood things – like swimming in rivers and playing a traditional Xhosa stick-fighting game. In Long Walk to Freedom, he described these times as happy times.

Madiba was the first person in his family to go to school. In 1925, he went to a Christian mission school at the age of seven. It was at this school that Madiba was given the name Nelson, named after Lord Nelson, by one of the teachers.

Madiba admired his mother and father and wanted to be just like his father when he grew up.





Two years after starting school, at nine years old, Madiba's father died and Madiba moved to Mqhekezweni village to live with Chief Jongintaba, a friend of Madiba's father. This move led to a very different lifestyle for young Madiba, who then lived in a large house with the acting king of the Thembus. Chief Jongintaba's son, Justice, became a close friend of Madiba during this time.

Chief Jongintaba knew of the importance of education and ensured that Madiba attended school until Matric. Madiba went to Clarkebury Boarding Institute when he was 16, in 1934, and then to Healdtown, the Wesleyan College at Fort Beaufort, in 1937 which was considered the largest school for black African children in South Africa.

Madiba's education journey did not end there. In 1939, he decided to study further at University College of Fort Hare, in the Eastern Cape. It was during Madiba's university career that he met Oliver Tambo and began his formidable journey into politics.



While at university, Madiba enjoyed various sports including athletics, ballroom dancing and of course, boxing.

Madiba ended his university career after refusing to serve on the Student Council, as he felt the election process was improper, having only 25 students voting. Madiba wanted the full body of students' support in order to accept the position. After threats of being expelled as a result, Madiba decided to leave university behind him.

He returned to Chief Jongintaba's place in 1940 but only for a short while before moving to Johannesburg – the Place of Gold - with Justice, to avoid being married. In Johannesburg, Madiba lived in Alexandra township, where, in the midst of the apartheid laws, he partnered with his college friend, Oliver Tambo to start the 'first black law firm in South Africa' in 1952. Two years later, in 1954, Madiba started the ANC Youth League together with Oliver Tambo and Walter Sisulu.

These were the early days of Madiba's life; the beginning of the many trials and tribulations Madiba faced, resulting in the start of a new South Africa and earning the affection of South Africans and people around the world.

Sources
Mandela, N. 1994. Long Walk to Freedom. Abacus, London.
Mandela, N. 1994. Long Walk to Freedom. Abr. ed. van Wyk, C., 2014. Macmillan Children's Books, London.

From left: Thabo Mahlatsane (12 years) - Rosmead Primary; Indiphile Segu (Grade 6) - Intshinga Primary; Shaun Nqopiso (9 years) - Rosmead Primary

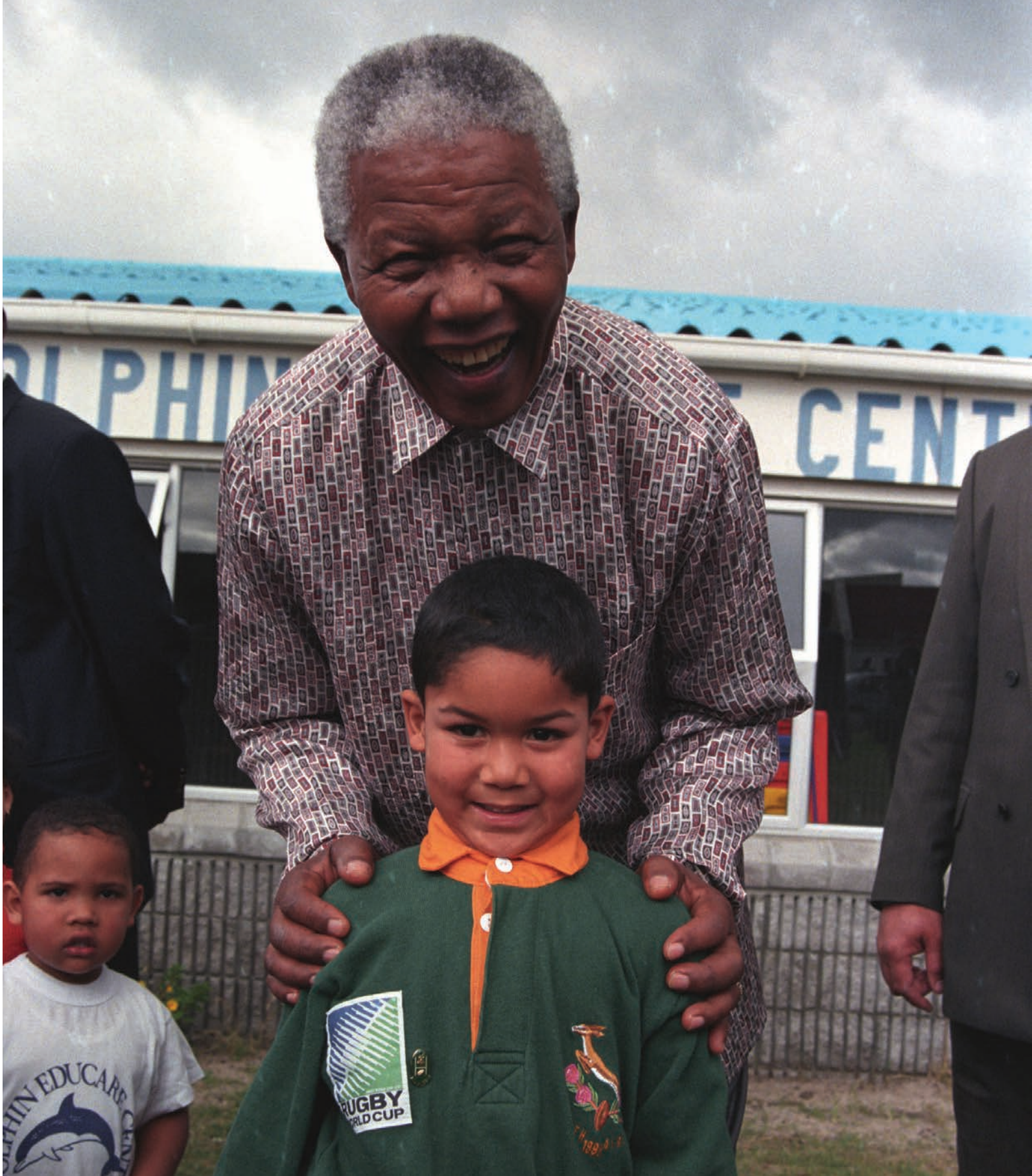


Madiba and Children
– Memories with Madiba

Stories told by people who met Madiba as children
and the profound impact this experience had on them

"Children are so honest, uncomplicated – full of love.
We often say that children are our future,
but they are also our present and our past."

– Nelson Mandela, 2008


RUGBY
WORLD CUP

Madiba and Nandi Yengeni

"The day I met Nelson Mandela was a highly anticipated day. As a family we were going to meet the president of South Africa and a stalwart of the African National Congress. So trust me when I say, we were all excited for this moment. I was very young, so most of the day was a blur, until it was time for pictures with Tata Mandela.

My first impression was that he was tall and that he reminded me of my grandfather. A happy and friendly man lit up the room with his laughter and energy. We all got warm hugs and personal greetings. He asked my siblings and me our ages, grades and which schools we went to. We were all star struck.

I went first to take a picture with Tata Mandela. It didn't go so well. Everyone, from Tata Mandela cracking jokes, to my entire family making funny faces behind the camera man, was trying to make me laugh. My parents seemed a bit embarrassed at the fact that it was taking this long to get me to smile. It's not that I didn't want to smile, but I think I got a bit of stage fright. They eventually got a smile out of me or an awkward smile rather. Thereafter we took family pictures and enjoyed a delicious three course meal with Tata Mandela and my family.

When I look back at that moment, I always feel so blessed and honoured even though at the time I did not understand the significance of it all."

Nandi Yengeni



Above: Nandi Yengeni, aged 6, sitting with Madiba.
Place: Presidential House, Cape Town
Date: 1996
Source: Benny Gool



Left: Saskia Losper (Grade 1) - Rosmead Primary

Madiba and Emily Booth

"My mom is a nursing sister at the Red Cross Children's Hospital and every year Madiba would have a birthday party for children. In 1997 he invited patients from my mom's tracheostomy ward, and my mom volunteered to help in the first aid medical centre at the party! I was very lucky that my mom allowed me to join that day. It was amazing - I met the Harlem Globetrotters and there was so much excitement going on for all the kids.

When it was time for Madiba to come to visit the medical tent, my mom told me that I must sit in the corner and not make a sound! This was a very important man! So I sat very quietly and watched as he came in and everyone gathered for a photo with him. He immediately saw me in the corner and called me over, put me on his lap, and we had the photo taken. It was a true testament to his inclusivity of everyone. It was one of the most special and memorable moments of my whole life!





Above: Madiba reaching for Emily Booth to join the photo.

Left: Emily Booth sitting on Madiba's lap with staff at the Red Cross Children's Hospital.
From left: (Back) Foreign visiting doctor, Sr Duminiet, Sr Pretorius, Sr Starke, Andrew Westwood (child) and his father Prof Anthony Westwood, Prof Jo Ireland, Mr Rasool, (Front) Emily Booth, Madiba, Geraldine Fraser Moleketi and behind her the medical superintendent of Red Cross Children's Hospital at the time Dr Hassan, and Jane Booth.
Place: Foreshore, Cape Town
Date: 1997
Source: Benny Gool



In the first photo you can see him reaching his arm out to call me into the photo!

Madiba had birthdays every year for children with varying disabilities and disadvantages - for his birthday. At the last minute, they said my mom could bring one of her children to the party - lucky lucky me!

There were some sick children at the medical centre at the party, and they were lying in the hospital beds/stretchers. When Madiba went to see them, he knelt down on his knees to see them face to face and spoke to them and their parents directly. He really was a truly amazing man!"

Emily Booth

Above: Scene of the party showing the number of people and children present and the festive atmosphere.
Source: Benny Gool



Left: Lonwabo Witbooi (Grade 6) - Ukhanyo Primary



Above: Sasha-Lee Sarels (4-5 years)
- Athlone Church of Christ Educare Centre
Right: Seth Ravat (Grade 8) - Westerford High

Madiba and Jaimé Manuel

"Having an opportunity to meet and engage with Tata Madiba was an unforgettable privilege. Being asked to reflect on those experiences required that I take a step back and attempt to recall what those interactions have meant for me and my personal development. As a child, meeting a man of such stature is as intimidating an experience as one will ever go through. Tata was a large man with an equally large public persona – there was always a hive of activity around him. Despite his stature, his demeanour was less 'large'. His presence in any room brought with it a great deal of warmth; you could feel the humanity in his smile.

As a child, it was difficult to comprehend all that he stood for and the manner in which his sacrifices would later enable me to lead my life in South Africa. Sure, you are told about the role that he has played and how important he is, but you never truly grasp what that means at that age. Being able to reflect many years later, one comes to some stark realisations. Despite all of the challenges that he faced in life, Tata remained true to his core. He inspired a nation to overcome the injustices of the past by standing up for what he believed in. He showed us the power of forgiveness and peace. He reminded us about the value of respect, and to never forget to smile.

Through these qualities, and many others, Tata set the bar to be an inspiring leader. If we as the future generation at least attempt to emulate some of his qualities, South Africa will be better off. We owe it him to be better each day.

It was an honour and a privilege to meet you, Tata. You are sorely missed."

Jaimé Manuel



Above: Madiba standing with the Manuel family; Jaimé Manuel, aged 5, in the front. From left: Philma Manuel, Pallo Manuel, Madiba, Jaimé Manuel, Lynette Matthews, and Govan Manuel.
Place: De Tuynhuys, the Cape Town Office of the Presidency
Date: February 1997
Source: Benny Gool

Madiba and Danny K

"I really wanted to meet Madiba as he was such a hero to me. My father very sheepishly asked Madiba's niece, whom he knew, if he could bring me around one day. Madiba was just so kind. I was absolutely no one, I wasn't deserving of that meeting but I guess Madiba just loved people and he gave me the opportunity to meet him. I was nobody special and I think even that in itself is quite something – that he would take the time to meet just an ordinary teenager.

It was my first time meeting Madiba. I remember being very, very nervous. He was still president at the time and I had never met a president before, let alone someone as powerful as Nelson Mandela. I remember waiting in his dining room in his home in Houghton, his first home before he moved, and I was told that we were going to meet him in ten minutes. I remember my heart was beating just about out of my chest, before I was ushered in to see him. I had prepared a bunch of questions in my head that I thought I was going to ask him because I didn't want to go in unprepared. I walked in to the room and instantly Madiba disarmed me with his down-to-earth, friendly, charismatic personality. I didn't know how he was going to be, I'd only seen him on TV, but he was even better in real life. He was just so charming and so endearing. I remember reflecting on it afterwards, on how he made me feel; it was almost like he was honoured to meet me. That's what he did; he totally flipped it on you. During all of my interactions with him, for years and years afterwards, that was the one consistent feeling – that Madiba made you feel like you were the star, when obviously you were everything but in relation to him.



Above: Danny K, aged 18, meeting Madiba for the first time.
Place: Madiba's home in Houghton, Johannesburg
Date: 1996
Source: Gavin Koppel

I asked him what music he liked, that day we first met. I wanted to know because I had dreams of being a musician. I wasn't famous; I had no music out yet but music consumed my childhood, so I wanted to know. He gave me the strangest answer. He said he really liked all types of music, jazz etc. but he has an appreciation for Indian music. He seemed to be very cultural in his music orientation. We took this photo and I remember feeling so privileged to be able to meet him. He asked me if I wanted some tea and the meeting lasted about

30 minutes. That was the first time I met him. Little did we know that I would eventually become one of the first 46664 ambassadors. I worked very closely with the Nelson Mandela Foundation. I would sing at his Christmas parties in the Transkei every year.

Years later Madiba asked me a question about what I was doing to give back to South Africa? That question pushed me to create the SHOUT Foundation ('SHOUT for a Safer South Africa'), which is now ten years old, where we build libraries for children, to help educate children. It was Madiba's question that encouraged me to do something to give back. He made a lasting impression on so many people's lives.

His presence is certainly still felt and will continue, long after his passing."

Danny K



Above: Anda Mbundu (13 years) - Intshinga Primary
Below: Ntlahla Tatangu (13 years) - Ukhanyo Primary





Madiba and Kami Naidoo-Pagé

"I did not know the meaning of impossible, I was 3, I felt the love of a crowd, united in love, the rhythm of friendship and trust. I wanted to dance, I wanted to sing, I wanted to belong, and he kept me believing that I could, that I was beautiful. He touched me and since I have felt I would never lose myself, I would always believe it is possible to be loved.

I still hear him say "the destiny of our people is to move together as one, I hope all people of the world will come to know us by this, I hope this is what we will defend, and I hope that it will become the only law we as a people need".
I feel it is important to love myself, to be proud of where I come from, and that in this story of bringing out the divinity in me I will find my time, my rhythm, my heartbeat, where the world reminds me of myself. I feel in this story we will become one with the whole world, she is ready, for us to collect her heartbeat, and share oneness with all her people; Africans, Asians, Native Americans, Europeans, and all mixed lineages. I hear him say all these things that balance my being, put me at the centre of a united spirit, mind, body and heart, words like "I respect all that have come before me", and "a good leader is one with a clear head, loving heart and forgiving spirit". I remember him calling upon the spirits of all people to find courage, so that we could embrace all, forgive all and move forward as one.

I sometimes feel that the rain is Mandela's tears; that in fact he cries a thousand times to make every storm. Power is being able to heal violence, Amandla! Viva the spirit of forgiveness, Viva the unity of all people.



Above: Kami Naidoo-Pagé, aged 3, reading Madiba's speech with Madiba.
Place: Cape Town
Date: 1994
Source: Benny Gool

Let us not forget our teachings, our roots, our respect, our destiny, our hopes, our values. This is our indigenous knowledge, and the truth of all indigenous knowledge that has been crushed and oppressed. Let us re-connect to ourselves as we were in every moment connected to nature, our ancestors, our spirit, our medicine, our humanity."

Kami Naidoo-Pagé





Above: Jarmaine Nherera (Grade 8) - Westerford High
Left: Juliet Greyling (Grade 8) - Westerford High

Madiba and Michael Appel

"My father was a career diplomat and was chosen to be the South African Ambassador to open the first embassy in the Middle East in a post-apartheid South Africa in 1994. On 12 April 1995, then President Nelson Mandela arrived on the tiny but strategic island of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf on a state visit. All the South African embassy staff and their families went to the Emir's Royal Palace to meet President Mandela. I remember a lot of fuss was made by my mother to make sure we were dressed appropriately. We even had to quickly rush out to the only Woolworths in Manana, Bahrain, to get shirts and ties fit for the occasion. I remember knowing it was a big deal at the time but how much can a 10-year-old really appreciate the magnitude of a moment? My father walked alongside the President and introduced everyone to him one by one with us all standing in line hands outstretched. He asked everyone individual questions. When he got to me he asked what I'd like to be when I grow up. I told him I want to be a soldier. He smiled and answered how important it is for a country to have brave and committed soldiers. I didn't go on to become a soldier, but that little interaction I had with him stayed with me for the rest of my life. It's something I remember fondly. The father of the nation took a minute out of his schedule to talk to me…10-year-old me. His ability to pay attention and show appreciation to those who least expected it, defined the man we all remember him as."

Michael Appel



Above: Michael Appel, aged 10, meeting Madiba for the first time. From left: Madiba, Christopher Appel, Michael Appel, and Marie Appel
Place: Emir's Royal Palace, Bahrain
Date: 12 April 1995
Source: Unknown



Left: Wandile Jim (13 years) - Intshinga Primary



Madiba and Tassin Albertyn

"Today I sit, barely 31, reflecting on my life and an experience that took place 20 plus years ago and all I keep asking myself is how could a child possibly know the magnitude of such an event? Well, I have learnt over the years that when you are that young your mind perceives such influential people with pure emotion. I have realised that the art of an influencer is subtle; they speak a language that science cannot speak. My story begins with such a person, so let me tell you the story of my encounters with greatness.

There was a group of individuals who knew greatness before we could even comprehend what was really in motion and I was fortunate enough to be related to one of them. My aunt, the late, Virginia Engel was Nelson Mandela's personal secretary. I remember the call like it was yesterday, she knew I was a borderline fanatic of Michael Jackson and at the time he was scheduled to visit one of his heroes all the way from America, which happened to be our then president Nelson Mandela. It was strange that she was telling my mom this and calling unexpectedly, and then she asked the question that every fan dreams of… Would you mind if Tassin accompanies Michael Jackson on a tour around parliament? The flood of emotion filled every iota of my body.

The day arrived and evidently I wore my best interpretation of Michael Jackson attire which, at the time, was all my parents could afford. My parents who were both working had asked my grandfather to escort me to parliament and make sure that I didn't make a total fool of myself on the tour. I was extremely close to my grandfather; he was a legend to many and was the perfect person to share this with. We parked outside parliament and approached security. I remember feeling the most surreal



Left: Tassin Albertyn, aged 9, sitting on Madiba's lap, next to Michael Jackson, Michael Jackson's parents and presidential staff members. From left: (front row) Unknown, Catherine Jackson, Tassin Albertyn, Madiba, Michael Jackson, unknown, and Joseph Jackson.
Place: Parliament, Cape Town
Date: 1996/1997
Source: Parliament Press Office



Left: Signed photograph of Tassin with Madiba.
Source: Benny Gool

emotions; we were transported from the public gates by a dark vehicle that would take us to the door of the prestigious parliament building.

My aunt stood at the entrance waiting and said in the most professional tone, "Tassin, I'd like you to meet President Nelson Mandela". I looked up at this figure that I can only describe as infinitely boundless. His mere existence filled the room and he embraced me with the sense of protection that only a sincere soul could translate without words. Up to that point I was consumed with the idea of meeting my idol, the man who sang the truth. What I did not expect was meeting the man who was responsible for influencing the mindset of millions. Nelson Mandela was effortless in his thought process; he spoke with such purpose that even witnessing small talk between him and Michael Jackson seemed significant. I remember sitting in his office, just the five of us, Madiba, Michael, Michael's parents and little old me and although I could not comprehend the conversation, I knew that day that I was in the company of the world's greatest influencers.

The rest of the afternoon I expected to be asked to leave but instead I walked the hallways of parliament in between Michael Jackson and Nelson Mandela while he explained the history and visions he had for our country. I was in total awe the entire time and even though I was an insignificant child, in the presence of greatness they constantly made sure I was included. It was an intimate experience that shaped who I am in so many ways that cannot be articulated.

I recollect the smells and the history that I saw walking through the corridors of parliament with immense pride in our people. I can undoubtedly say that the art of influencers will stay with me throughout my life. These people have shaped us on every level and are responsible for what we are today. To the influencers which are the parents, the aunts, the presidents, the idols, the husbands, the children and the fellow citizens of South Africa… we were blessed to live in a time of legends. They have built the foundation that we need to enhance every day and they will be a part of our legacy for eternity!"

Tassin Albertyn



Above: Amy Vollenhoven (Age 4-5 years) - Athlone Church of Christ Educare Centre


NEW

Madiba and Candice Dean

"My name is Candice Dean. I am 26 years old and currently living in London.

When I was 7 years old (in 1999) I had the incredible opportunity and honour to meet Nelson Mandela at his 'farewell bash' with his VIP protection unit in Pretoria – as my Father is a Colonel in the South African Police (and has been for over 30 years now) and I was lucky enough to be able to attend.

I was the only child there and I remember running and then someone gently grabbing my arm, I turned around and it was Nelson Mandela himself - the news crew rushed over and filmed our conversation. One question I remember him asking me – was what I wanted to be when I grew up – and I replied saying that I wanted to be a horse rider with a white horse. I have the newspaper clipping, from the Sunday Times City Metro (18 July 1999) where a photo of the two of us was printed and I have the video clip from the news channel our 'meeting' was broadcast on. It is such an amazing memory that I will treasure for the rest of my life."

Candice Dean



Above: Candice Dean, aged 7, shaking Madiba's hand.
From left: Unknown man, Candice Dean, Madiba and Gary Kruser
Place: Mandela Foundation, Cape Town
Date: 1999
Source: Aaron Dean





Left: Indiphile Segu
(Grade 6) - Intshinga Primary

Madiba and Takara Lubner

"I was born into a sensitive time in South Africa in 1991; Nelson Mandela had just been released after 27 years imprisoned on Robben Island, and the future of South African politics remained a little shaky but the breeze of hope and freedom for those so oppressed for so many years overcame the lingering odour of a past shadowed by darkness.

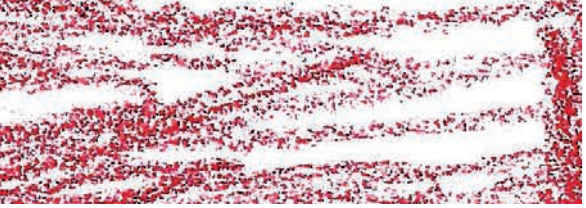
I went to a multiracial, multicultural school. My parents made a conscious decision for me to take isiZulu over Afrikaans and I had friends of different races, shapes, sizes, backgrounds and faces. To me, this was the world I knew. My family had done well for themselves with my great-grandfather having started PG Autoglass and I soon became more and more aware of the privileged life I was lucky enough to live. In 1995, my late grandfather Bertie Lubner, along with the late Chief Rabbi Harris started an organisation called at the time 'MaAfrika Tikkun' doing what they could to empower the Jewish community in South Africa to 'give back' to those who had previously been institutionally disadvantaged. Nine years on from that, Nelson Mandela became the patron-in-chief of what today is now known as Afrika Tikkun, helping close to 20 000 beneficiaries in some of South Africa's most poverty stricken townships. Later on Madiba would call upon my father to create another organisation in 2000 called The Smile Foundation, helping young disadvantaged children receive much needed surgery and medical care for a variety of facial deformities and abnormalities.

The funny part about it is, at such a young age I did not understand the extent of the impact "this friend of my family" had made, who he was and how he was moulding South Africa into a country that other nations could only look up to in awe of what the values of truth and reconciliation could bring with them - a sense of healing.



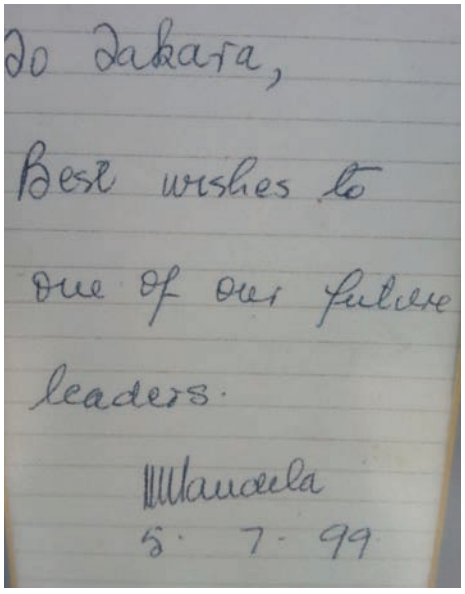
Above: Takara Lubner, aged 7, sitting with Madiba.
Place: Johannesburg
Date: 1998
Source: Unknown

There are two sides to my story. On and off I met Madiba at family functions, when he came to see my grandfather in hospital after having a quadruple bypass surgery and on occasion I went over to sit in on my father and his chats at his home to listen to all the inspiring stories of all the children and young people they were helping.

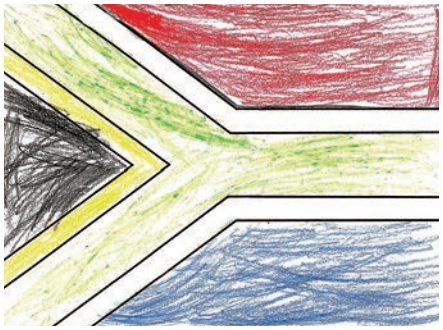


On the other hand, still as a little girl, my mom, my brother and I would drive past Madiba's home every day on the way back from school. I do not remember a school day that we did not drive past with our heads out of the car windows, our hands waving and shouting out "Hello Madiba". It was almost a game of sorts, but with me never quite connecting the dots.

It was not until I grew to an age where I began being taught in school and at home about South Africa's dark past. When my father would take me to Afrika Tikkun's community centres in Alexandra, Diepsloot and Orange Farm townships at the time and started feeling a sense of a deep pit in my stomach as I looked around me and realised what was actually going on… That this country had gone through so much and now all these beautiful human beings I was interacting with didn't quite have



Left: A note for Takara from Madiba.



Left: Saalihah (Age 4-5) - Athlone Church of Christ Educare Centre

the same house as me, weren't playing in their swimming pools, weren't lucky to have a safe place to call home or know for sure that dinner would be on the table at 7pm every night. This is when my passion for wanting to really make a change in the world came about.

I cannot sit here writing this and tell you that I remember the long lunches and Sunday afternoon chats in Madiba's Houghton home. I cannot tell you I remember every word spoken, every hug exchanged, but I have been lucky enough to have small reminders, such as the photos and letters from him. I am blessed to have been able to be in his presence for even a small amount of time.

Madiba touched my life, not so much in the moment of meeting him but truly in the years thereafter, I remember him getting too sick to see us anymore, when my father and grandfather were only allowed to go and have that Sunday tea with him for the last few times.

I guess sometimes you don't know what impact someone has on your life until they are no longer here but I do know that it is people like Nelson Mandela, my late grandfather Bertie Lubner and my father Marc Lubner who have inspired me to take on a path of not 'needing' to help others but 'wanting' to because of the sense of joy it brings in doing so.



The more I learned about my grandfather and the incredible things he did politically, economically and socially in South Africa and for South Africa with the rest of the world, and through my education in high school significantly showcasing Madiba's journey, as well as the first-hand experiences I had visiting townships and government hospitals with my father for his charities - I guess the combination of all three really sparked the career path I am working towards, but more importantly the type of person I aim to live my life being. All three of these men have shown me something, Madiba – to know that love for humanity can truly overcome all obstacles; my grandfather – to always see the light that sits within every single soul even when the world seems so dim; and my father – to always be selfless, not to gain credit by giving of yourself but a sense of meaning in being able to help another."

Takara Lubner



Above: Takara Lubner with Madiba.
Place: Houghton, Johannesburg
Date: 5 July 1999
Source: Unknown





Left: Lithemba Ntengu (13 years) - Ukhanyo Primary
Right: Limile Jwaqa (Grade 2) - Rosmead Primary



Madiba and Zuliega Francis

"I'm Zuliega Francis. I met Nelson Mandela. The day they told me I was going to be the one to welcome our President in our community, I was very excited, overwhelmed, nervous. I had different type of feelings because it was the President. It was in 1996. I was 12 years old when I took his hand, I smiled and felt so blessed to meet the man that made a difference in our country. Today I can say to my children that I met Mr Nelson Mandela; I got an opportunity that lots of people wish for and I thank those who gave me the opportunity.

The reason Nelson Mandela came out to our community in Delft was the local government election in 1995. My father at the time was a candidate in Delft. He took Nelson Mandela to visit various residents to listen to what their concerns were in Delft. One of the things at the time that Delft did not have was a proper police station and a day hospital. His visit resulted in a positive two years; after his visit Delft received a fully-fledged day hospital and police station and that changed people's lives. That's how it came to be that I met Nelson Mandela."

Zuliega Francis



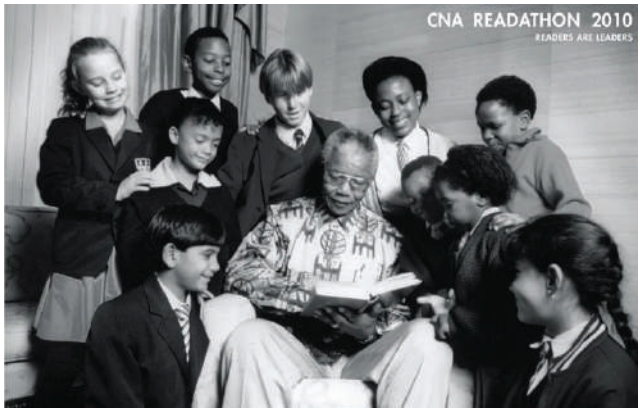
Above: Zuliega Francis, aged 12, greeting Madiba.
Place: Delft
Date: 1996
Source: Unknown



Madiba and Gavin Street

"On 21 June 1995, the READ Educational Trust had organised a photo-shoot to capture an image required for marketing the upcoming National Readathon. Former President Nelson Mandela, being a patron of the National Readathon, agreed to participate in the campaign with the photo-shoot taking place at De Tuynhuys.

I was one of a lucky few children selected to represent a diverse group of scholars from around the Western Cape who would be read to by Madiba, setting the scene for the photo-shoot. I later learnt that Madiba attended a cabinet meeting prior to our meeting which was a reason for the location.



Above: The official photograph for the 2010 CNA Readathon.
Place: De Tuynhuys, Cape Town
Date: 21 June 1995
Source: Unknown



Above: Gavin Street, aged 14, peering over Madiba's shoulder as he reads a book.
Place: De Tuynhuys, Cape Town
Date: 21 June 1995
Source: Unknown

It just so happened that it was my 14th birthday and my father, who has enormous respect for Madiba (and had a memorable encounter of his own), encouraged me to mention this to Madiba when we met.

After the stage had been set and photos captured, Madiba was preparing to leave, taking the time to greet each child until all of a sudden it was my turn. Madiba was towering over me, smiling as he reached out his hand. I grabbed it and promptly announced, before saying anything else, that it was my birthday.

Madiba's head shot back, letting out a hearty Madiba laugh with a warm smile, and wished me a Happy Birthday! We made some small talk and he made me feel like I was the only person in the room. Madiba then asked me to send a message to my fellow classmates, that when I returned to school I should tell all the pupils that he loves them.

The compassion that Madiba had for children of all races still astounds me, particularly after everything he had endured in the fight against Apartheid. Nelson Mandela is a role model for humanity and having an opportunity to engage with the man is a privilege and an honour that I cherish.

My father and I still argue over whose story of meeting Madiba is better."

Gavin Street



Right: Siyakholwa Kala (Grade 7)
-Ukhanyo Primary



Left: Gianluca Astengo
(Grade 8) - Westerford High

Madiba and Richard David Wilson

"I met Madiba when I was 17 and it was one of the highlights of this period in my life. We had the final African Schools Debating Championships at the Mandela Foundation. Madiba wanted to meet the candidates that attended. This was so special that he would take time out of his day to meet scholars from around the continent to show support. Our conversation was very short, but he asked where we were from and we said iRhini (this is its Xhosa name, but it is currently officially known as Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape). He said "Oh iRhini, that is near my home town and a lovely place". We were so grateful to have met such an incredible person that inspired us to work toward a truly connected South Africa that values people from all backgrounds."

Richard David Wilson



Above: Richard David Wilson, aged 17, standing next to Madiba at the final African Schools Debating Championships.
From left: Richard David Wilson, Madiba and Dexter Munnik
Place: Mandela Foundation, Cape Town
Date: 2009
Source: Unknown



Left: Madeleine Gibbons (Grade 8) - Westerford High





Above: Lathitha Gududela (Grade 2) - Rosmead Primary

Left: Suzie Beyer (Grade 8) - Westerford High

Madiba and Nombulelo Mazibuko

"I, Nombulelo Mazibuko, met with Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, at the age of 18, at one of his homes in Constantia, Cape Town. It was shortly after I was crowned the Face of Africa for the year 2000.

I first received a phone call from him congratulating me and while we were busy on the phone, he said to his secretary (at that time, Zelda la Grange) she must send my manager an email to invite me so that we can join him at one of the functions that he was attending at the Cape Sun Hotel in Cape Town.

I remember I was busy with a shoot for one of SA's magazines, when the PR gave me the phone. I thought it was a prank call. Only after we received an email from his secretary did I then realise that it was reality. I felt really honoured and special to be invited to his home for a meeting with the President. The occasion became a big thing in my family, especially for my late grandfather.

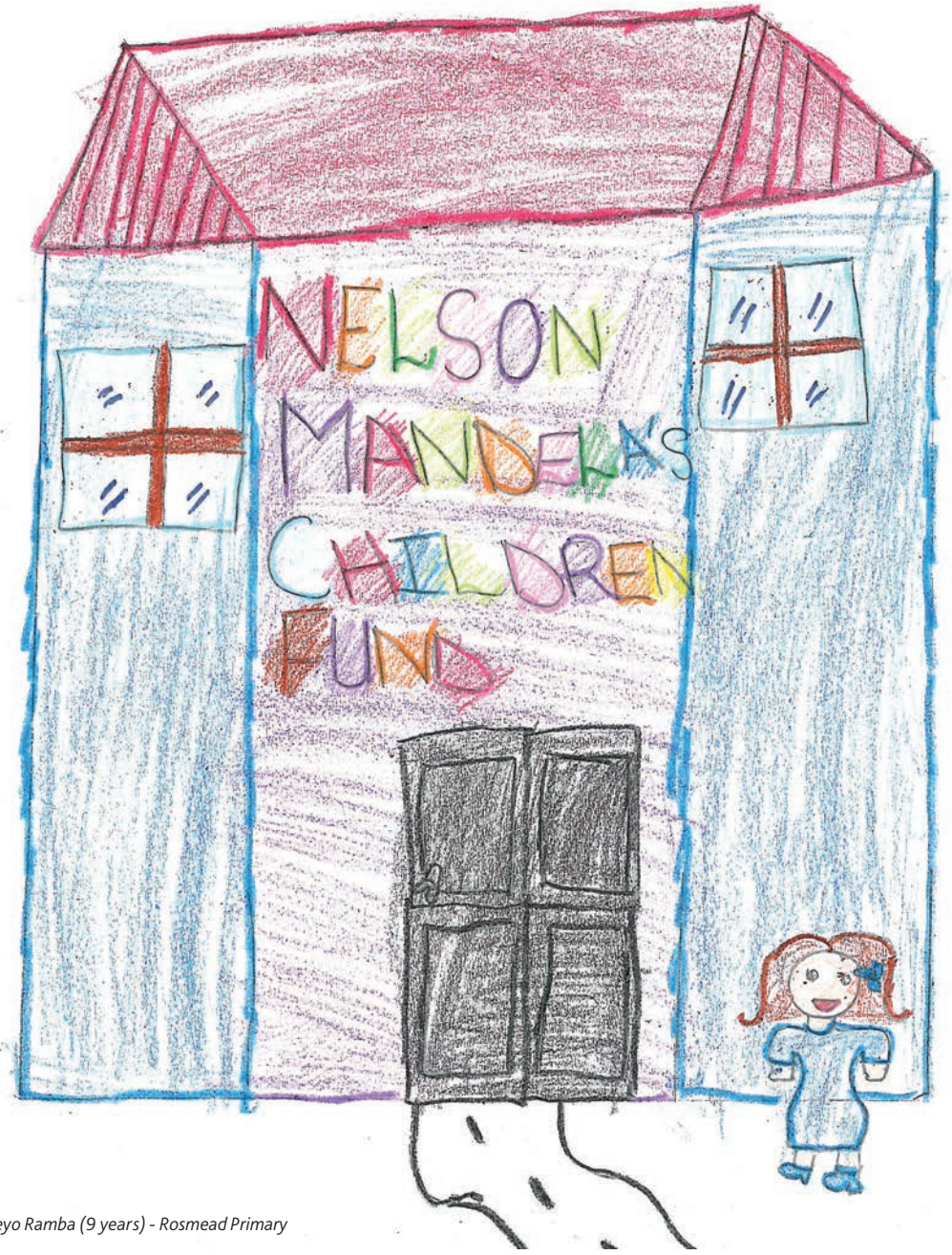
We all had to go to his house in Constantia first for pre-dinner and also to mingle and get to know each other before we went to the event. When we got to his house we were welcomed by his secretary who gave us a tour of his house and later he joined us too. He welcomed us with a bright smile and hugs and we each got a signed copy of his book Long Walk to Freedom.

At the event, he congratulated me for winning the Face of Africa and also told me how proud he was that out of all the girls who participated in the competition, a South African won. Also he encouraged me to carry on with my studies because "Education is important"."



Above: Nombulelo Mazibuko, aged 18, taking a photograph with Nelson Mandela.
Place: Madiba's home in Constantia, Cape Town
Date: 2000
Source: Unknown

Nombulelo Mazibuko



Above: Eliqaqambileyo Ramba (9 years) - Rosmead Primary

Madiba and Alexander Comninos

"The pictures were taken a few weeks before Christmas in 1996. I was 6 months old. My parents were on their way to visit a friend at the V&A Waterfront when they discovered that Madiba was passing through. My dad thought it was important that I see Mandela and wormed his way through the crowds with me in his arms.

The pictures show Zelda Le Grange - Madiba's private secretary - taking me from my father and handing me to Mandela.

My father (Raoul Comninos) is the man in the glasses with dark hair."

Alexander Comninos



Above: Zukhanye Sibondana (11 years) - Rosmead Primary



Top: Alexander Comninos, at 6 months, being passed to Madiba by Zelda le Grange. From left: Zelda le Grange, Madiba, Alexander Comninos and Raoul Comninos
Place: V & A Waterfront, Cape Town
Date: 1996
Source: Unknown



freedom

Madiba and Mieshqua De Vries

"Tata Madiba has been my icon from a very young age. I started a scrapbook and collected lots of pictures. The scrapbook was mainly about Madiba (or as I called him at the time "Oupa"). One month before my 5th birthday in 1996, when Tata Madiba campaigned in Manenberg I had the opportunity to present Tata Madiba with a bunch of flowers and show him my scrapbook. I still treasure my autographed scrapbook. (Best birthday gift ever)."

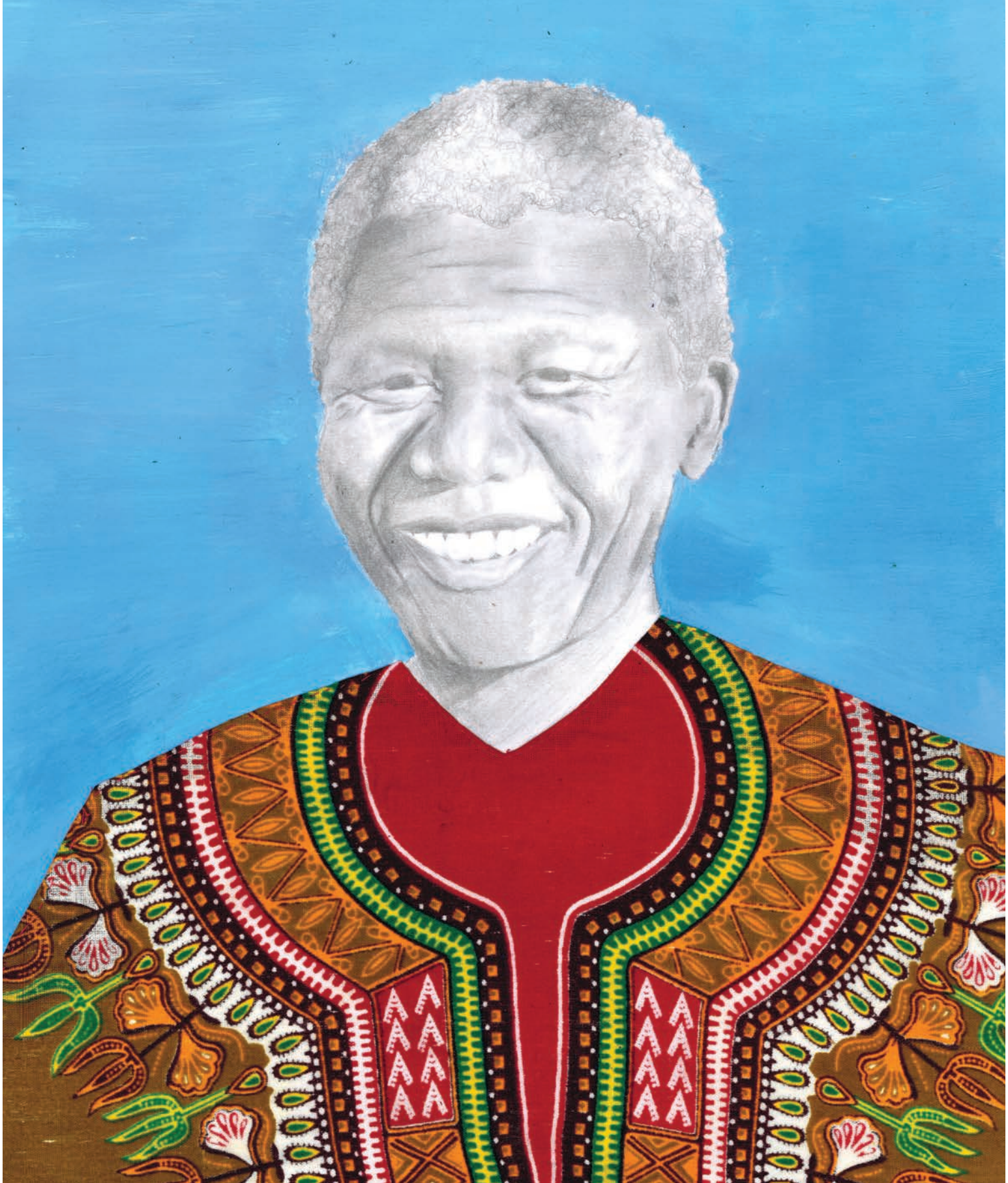
Mieshqua De Vries



Above: Mieshqua De Vries, aged 4, in the company of Madiba.
From left: Natasha Liddle, Saida Simms, Mieshqua De Vries, Madiba, unknown baby, and Ganief Adams
Place: Manenberg
Date: 27 May 1996
Source: Unknown



Above: Owethu Thwesha (8 years) - Rosmead Primary



Madiba and Yael Benjamin

"This was taken in about 2004 at one of the Steve Biko Memorial lectures held at the University of Cape Town. Nelson Mandela was the guest speaker that year – it was one of his last public speeches. My father, Shawn Benjamin, was one of the official photographers at this event. My mother, brother (Jonathan Benjamin), and myself – aged 7 and 10 respectively – went with him planning to sit outside on Jammie Plaza and watch the speech on the big screen.

My brother and I were then invited inside the hall and were told to sit on the floor in front of the front row. My brother sat barefoot (having forgotten his shoes at home as usual), and I sat clutching my copy of A Long Walk to Freedom – both in absolute awe, sitting mere metres from Madiba. As 7 and 10 year olds I don't think we took in much of the speech. At the end, Mr Mandela acknowledged us and called us onto the stage in front of the whole audience.

Madiba warmly chuckled and asked my brother where his shoes were. He then proceeded to chat to us – asking personal questions such as what schools we went to, what our favourite subjects were, what our hobbies were, etc. Before leaving the stage he signed my book and gave us each a warm hug. A memory I will remember and cherish for years to come.

We were lucky enough to have met Madiba once before, a few years prior to the above meeting. I unfortunately don't have any photographs as the meeting was at a private airport and photographs were not allowed to be taken. Again, my dad was working – aerial photography – my family tagging along for an adventure. Nelson Mandela happened to be there at the same flight – obviously either leaving or arriving. We greeted and he spoke to us warmly. Another memory I cherish so much."

Yael Benjamin



Left: Yael Benjamin, aged 10, with her brother getting her Long Walk to Freedom book signed by Madiba.
From left: Graça Machel, Xolela Mangcu, Madiba, Jonathan Benjamin and Yael Benjamin
Place: University of Cape Town, Cape Town
Date: 10 September 2004
Source: Enver Essop

Far left: Serena Tarantello (Grade 8) - Westerford High

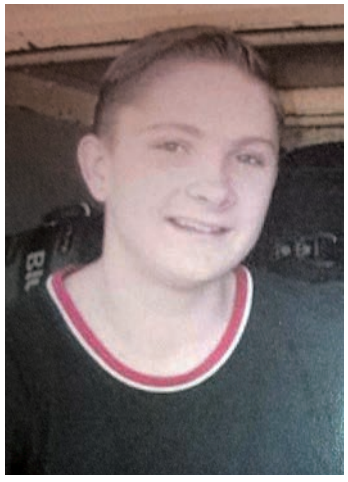

ANC

Madiba and Marco Gevers

"My name is Marco Gevers and I met Nelson Mandela on 20 July 2005. It was my last year of boarding school at the Drakensberg Boys Choir school and we had the privilege of singing for Madiba for his 87th birthday in Johannesburg. There were some kids there from his foundation whom we shared the day with. There was also a massive cake for him, which he cut after we sang for him.

I was very keen to meet him, but I remember he had lots of security around him. So I decided to be a cheeky 15 year-old and sneak past the security guards to go and shake his hand and to meet him. He had very soft hands. I greeted him saying: ''Happy Birthday Sir, nice to meet you'', he then replied saying ''Thank you young man''. I don't remember if he said anything else, but it was an honour to meet him and obviously all my school friends were very jealous."

Marco Gevers



Left: Marco Gevers, at the age he met Madiba.
Place: Johannesburg
Date: 20 July 2005
Source: Unknown





Above: Shekina Kalambayi (Grade 7) - Rosmead Primary



Left: Chloe Taylor
(Grade 8) - Westerford High

Madiba and Devaksha Vallabhjee

"In 1989, the small town of Tongaat in KwaZulu-Natal gave Nelson Mandela the freedom of the town. He was still on Robben Island at the time and wasn't able to accept the award himself. But in 1994 after his release, he took the time to visit Tongaat and accept the award.

I was three years old and not a fan of crowds. The Tongaat City Hall was the last place I wanted to be. I refused to sit down and I refused to let my mom sit down, fussing and making a scene until she had to stand at the back of the hall with me.

Madiba had noticed me giving my mom a hard time. He addressed the crowd, accepted his award and greeted everyone on his way out. Before leaving, he made a point to say hello to me. Clearly something about that big grin had me transfixed enough to stop whining for at least a moment!"

Devaksha Vallabhjee



Above: Devaksha Vallabhjee, aged 3, being introduced to Madiba.
From left: Madiba, Krishna Vallabhjee, Devaksha Vallabhjee, and unknown man in foreground
Place: Tongaat, KwaZulu-Natal
Date: 21 October 1994
Source: Krishna Vallabhjee



Right: Philasande Ramashala (Grade 3) - Rosmead Primary

Madiba and Emily Innes, with Jenni-Kate Warwick and Hannah Gould

"The first of December 2001 is a day that I will NEVER forget. It is the day that my life-long dream came true... My dream of meeting Nelson Mandela. This is how it happened...

In December 2001 I was 15 years old, and this month marked one year since I had started volunteering at Beautiful Gate home for children infected with and affected by HIV in Crossroads in Cape Town. Since my time volunteering there, my family had started fostering one of the children from the home, Lerato. (See www.leratoshope.org.za)

01 December 2001 was Lerato's 3rd birthday, and it was world AIDS day. We had decided to throw a birthday party at Beautiful Gate for Lerato and her friends. Turns out that while we were going to be having the party in the hall, Nelson Mandela was going to be doing a visit and press time with some of the staff of the home, in one of the other buildings on the property.

Of course, it was highly organised... Only certain selected staff members were allowed to be in the building that he was going to be in with all the TV crew, bodyguards, etc.

While setting up the birthday party, the excitement and anticipation was building in the air. We got to watch as Nelson Mandela was driven down the long driveway, up to the door of the building he was going to be in. We barely caught a glimpse of him as he was quickly ushered into the building with all the TV cameras and bodyguards in tow. We then went back to run the party for the children. After some time, we walked towards



Above: Emily Innes and Jenni-Kate Warwick watching as their sister shakes hands with Madiba.
From left: Madiba, Jenni-Kate Warwick, Hannah Gould, and Emily Innes
Place: Beautiful Gate, Crossroads, Cape Town
Date: 1 December 2001
Source: Unknown

the building that he was in, as we had heard that it was time for him to leave soon.

We stood on the outside of the fence surrounding the building that Madiba was in. We watched and waited, and finally... He stepped out of the door! There he was... Right there... My Madiba! The 'Tata' ('Father') of our nation who I had always longed to meet!

I stood on the outside of that fence, watching as Madiba had photos taken with the staff from the home who were all surrounding him. The set up was that Madiba and the staff were standing just outside the building, then there was his car parked in front of them with the engine running and the door open, and the bodyguards standing there ready to whisk him away. On the other side of the car were all the press with their cameras. We

were then further away from that, on the outside of a fence. I was so close, yet so far from being able to personally meet him. It was like my dream was about to happen, but the moment could so easily slip away from me!

There was such a buzz in the air and so much excitement. The Madiba magic was there.... Right there! I was standing on my tip toes, peering through the fence and the crowds with their cameras. My eyes were fixed on Madiba... I was close... But not close enough for my dream of meeting the man to come true. I was standing there thinking, 'Maybe this is it, maybe this will have to count as a 'tick' on my bucket list for meeting Madiba.' But, in my heart, I knew that this wasn't REALLY meeting him, this was just seeing him. Which was awesome, but I wanted more...

So, I said, 'I'm going in there'! I took my two sisters with me... We got to the other side of the fence and we weaselled our way through the crowd until we were standing on the side of his car with all the press, while Madiba stood on the other side, with all the staff, having the last of his pictures taken. Now we were closer, but I still wasn't close enough. I could hear his car engine running and sense his bodyguards getting edgy for him to leave. But I was on this side of his engine-running-ready-to-leave car, and he was on that side of it. Now what?! So close, yet so far... Well, that's what I thought, that's not what Madiba thought...

In the middle of the chaos and excitement and crowd of people surrounding Madiba, he looked up away from his immediate crowd of adoring fans, and he saw the faces of three little girls looking adoringly at him from the distance. Madiba walked away from the crowd of children's home staff. His bodyguards



Above: Lisakhanya Mlanjana (8 years) - Rosmead Primary

looked relieved and must have thought 'thank goodness, he is finally leaving'. They had his car door open, right there, and tried to usher him in. But, they didn't realise that Madiba was not leaving the crowd so he could get into the car.... He was leaving the crowd because he had spotted three girls in the distance who wanted to come and meet him.

So, much to his bodyguards' surprise, he didn't follow their 'usherings'... He went in the opposite direction... He walked around his car to the other side to US! He walked right up to us and shook our hands! This was my moment I had waited for... It had miraculously come to me... I thought 'it is now or never'.... And I did it... I launched forward and gave him a huge hug and said 'Ndiyakuthanda Tata' ('I love you Father'). Nelson Mandela let out his famous joyous Madiba laugh, and said 'Ooooh, thank you, thank you!' WOW!!!! A moment I will never forget. I was trembling. It was magic. It was Madiba magic.

He had seen us. He had seen three white blond girls... Very different from him... On the far edges of a crowd, out of his way, separated from him.... And he chose to bridge the gap. He chose to come to us. This is a picture of what Madiba is about. He didn't see barriers; he saw past barriers... In this case, he saw past the barrier of the car and bodyguards that were between him and us. For our nation, he saw past the barriers of Apartheid and all the obstacles that it created. He saw past that... He saw past that, to freedom and reconciliation.

What a man. Let's be inspired by Madiba magic, and continue to spread his magic, by seeing past the barriers of poverty and injustice, and working together to create a better, brighter South Africa."

Emily Innes

"I was 17 when we met him and it was a truly incredible moment and story. My sisters were 15, 9 and 3 at the time. Emily grabbed him for a hug and almost gave the bodyguards heart failure.

He was at Beautiful Gate for World AIDS day and went into a room with all the children. We weren't allowed in at that time, but the children all came out absolutely mesmerised and you just had to mention 'Tata Madiba' around them and they became starry eyed. I don't know anyone else who could have had that kind of impact on a group of rowdy toddlers and kids!"

Jenni-Kate Warwick



Right: Dylan Cluer (Grade 8) - Westerford High

Madiba and Sunil Osman

"I was 13 years old when I had the honour of singing to and meeting Nelson Mandela, during 1996 at the Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town. I was part of a choir and after our performance he took the time to come and greet every single one of us. The choir I sang with was a combination of SACS Boys High School and Herzlia High School.

I will never forget his height and massive hands and my nerves as he approached me and said in his true Nelson Mandela voice, "You sing very well."

I will never forget the day, and then receiving his book and a letter from the office of the President to say thank you.

His memory lives on forever."

Sunil Osman

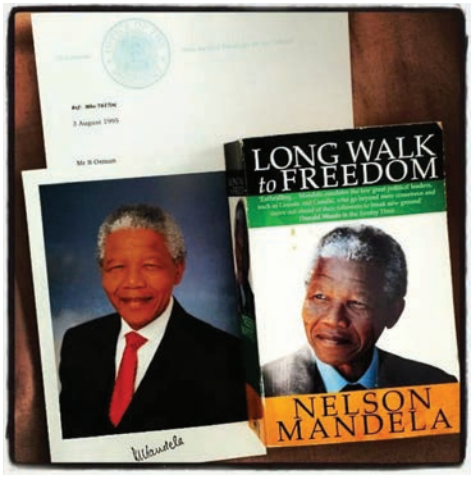


Above: Georgia White (Grade 8) - Westerford High



Above: Sunil Osman at 13, the age at which he met Madiba;
Date: 1996
Source: Akkersdyk Studios

Below: A signed letter and book from Madiba.
Date: 1996
Source: Sunil Osman





Madiba and Daniel King

"We have always treasured these photos which were snapped on the spur of the moment. Daniel has very little memory of it except for remembering that he felt nervous.

On 09 August 1992, Nelson Mandela visited All Saints College in Bhisho for an ANC regional executive meeting. When he arrived he received a tumultuous welcome from students and staff who all lived on the campus. Peter King was an English teacher at All Saints College and he took his son Daniel King along in the hope that he would catch a glimpse of the future President. Mandela greeted everyone warmly and gave an impromptu address to the students and staff in the foyer of the main building. As he was exiting the door (to attend his meeting) Daniel happened to be running past.

In the first photo uTata Mandela is bending down to ask Daniel his name and his age. Daniel can be seen holding up four fingers to indicate that he is four years old. In the second photo they shake hands as Mandela says "Good to meet you Daniel King!"

Tracey Feltham-King
(Mother of Daniel King)





Above: (left) Daniel King, aged 4, telling Madiba his name and age; (right) Daniel King shaking Madiba's hand.
Place: All Saints College, Bhisho
Date: 9 August 1992
Source: Quentin Hogge



Madiba, Debra Bailey and the children of Falsebay Educare

"Mandela visited our ECD centre during the early nineties. It was a proud moment for our centre, both for the children and parents. An article was published with this picture in the Cape Argus. I, Debra Bailey, was Principal of Falsebay Educare in Portlands, Mitchells Plain at the time.

Mandela interacted with the children, and needless to say, they were attracted to him immediately. One of the children said, as he was entering the gate, "Here comes my oupa!" Mandela handed out sweet treats to the children, sponsored by Beacon Sweets.

One of the girls hugging him is now working at the Premier`s office. The boy with the lollipop is a Lay Minister within the church. The girl with the plaits is studying sound engineering."

Debra Bailey



Above: Madiba visiting Falsebay Educare and greeting all the children.
Place: Falsebay Educare, Mitchells Plain, Cape Town
Date: Early 1990s
Source: Benny Gool



Left: Harim Ntountani
(7 years) - Rosmead Primary



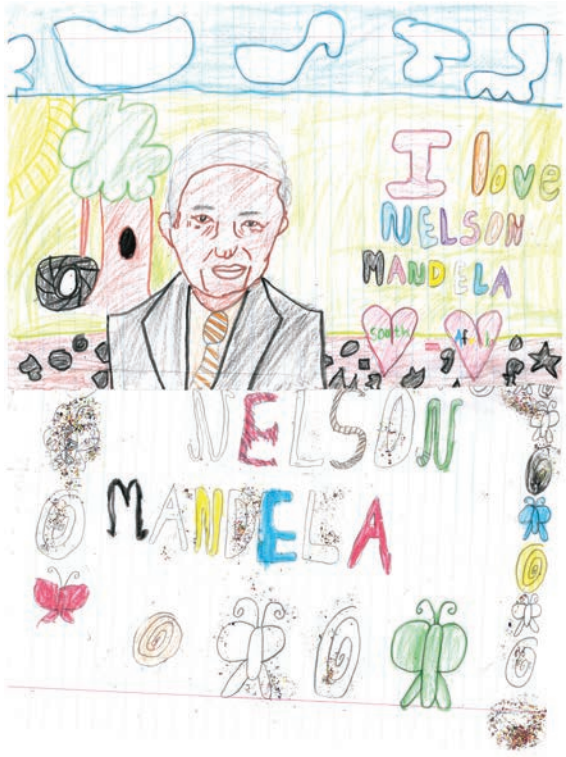
Madiba and Karen Nes

"I was five years old when I met Nelson Mandela, and while I may not have known the significance of this moment at the time, I can still remember what a powerful presence he had as he walked in to the launch of Dial-A-Teacher. As Mandela made his way through the corridor of children waiting to welcome him, he stopped in front of me, bent over to my height and asked, "Are you the teacher?" My body froze as I tried to put words together to respond as any five year old would. My voice quivered as I made it clear that "No sir, I'm not the teacher." He looked over to the audience, looked back at me, and gave me a cheeky grin before taking his position on the podium. What a smile! I will remember it forever."

Karen Nes



Above: Karen Nes (bottom left), aged 5, meeting Madiba at the launch of the Dial-A-Teacher programme in February 2000.
Place: Cape Town Convention Centre
Date: 7 February 2000
Source: Amy Kleinhans' Publicity Team



Above: Kerosene Jules (Grade 3) - Rosmead Primary



Madiba and Pam Herr

"More than 60 years ago, I was a kid of six or seven and my parents owned a sweet shop in Market Street, Johannesburg, where I spent a lot of time. One of our customers was Mr Mandela. I remember him coming in (he was one of a very few Black customers!). He had a parting in his hair. He used to buy fruit and nuts. Thinking back this could well have been sustenance for the many hours he must have spent as a young attorney in the Johannesburg City Law Library where he would do research, etc.

I subsequently met him as a member of the Cape Town Press Club. Gosh, Mr Nelson Rohihlala Mandela was my hero. He negotiated a revolution.

What a great soul – to have been able to move forward and create a new country after what had been done to him."

Pam Herr



Above: Masixole Carolus (Grade 6) - Intshinga Primary



Above: Market Street, Johannesburg – the street of Pam Herr's parents' sweet shop – where Madiba was a customer.
Place: Market Street, Johannesburg
Date: Unknown
Source: Unknown

Below: Pam Herr, aged 7 – the age at which she met Madiba.





Above: Isabelle Dollman (Grade 8) - Westerford High

Madiba and Rayhaan Survé

"I have always believed that Nelson Mandela was a magical man. However, I did not really understand Madiba Magic until I met him on a typical rainy Cape Town day. It was at the unveiling of a statue in honour of Nelson Mandela outside of Victor Verster Prison. My family and I stood eagerly as the ceremony commenced, when the heavens opened up to bless the day. Suddenly there was commotion, everyone running to find cover while little me was still waiting for the speech to start. My dad grabbed my hand and led me to a tent. Next thing Benny Gool, anti-Apartheid photographer and family friend was positioning me for a photo. It wasn't until I had wiped my eyes of the water that I lost my breath as if struck by lightning.
A strong, deep, yet gentle voice moved towards me, "Come, sit, my boy". It took me a second as I realised I was next to my hero. And then everything became calm. Madiba continued by asking me questions about what school I was at and what I wanted to be when I grew up. The rain faded off into the distance while I was mesmerised by the peace that surrounded Mandela. It was as if just being in his presence could solve the world's problems. As if his energy, which he emitted so strongly, could bring even the angriest to harmony. My hand was engulfed by his and that was the end to my moment with a legend. Later that day I went on to perform at a concert and was awarded distinction. I am sure there was some Madiba Magic at work."

Rayhaan Survé



Above: Rayhaan Survé, aged 11, shaking hands with Madiba.
Place: Outside Victor Verster Prison (now Drakenstein Correctional Centre), Paarl
Date: 2008
Source: Benny Gool



Above: Bonginkos Salaze (Grade 2) - Rosmead Primary


I love you
Nelson Mandela
Peace
freedom fighter

End Note

Through these stories, Madiba's character is highlighted – he was a man of patience, kindness, humour and sincerity. The way in which he chose to interact with children, time after time, was consistent; he always made children feel special regardless of the circumstances in which the meeting occurred. He was never too busy to greet a child and share a handshake and a few words. He was also not shy to sing a children's song to them. This is one of the many things that made Madiba special.

Madiba was graced with the title of 'Children's Champion' and this is undoubtedly what he was. Madiba aimed to "make society more familiar with the smiles of children rather than their tears". [1] This is evident through each of the memories told in this book.

Madiba once pronounced that, "Every occasion we dedicate to the concerns and the future of children can only help to make us a better nation and a more caring people. There can never be too much of these occasions and events. In fact, I always say that every day of our lives should be devoted to them for they are our sole future. In every day of our lives we should find some time and space for consciously thinking about and doing something for a better life for a child and for children generally". [2] Madiba lived by this view and profoundly enriched the lives of the children featured in this book, who are just a few of the thousands of young lives he touched throughout his life.

We thank you Madiba for the work you did for our children and for our nation. You will forever be remembered as a hero.

[1] *Excerpt from Madiba's speech presented on 09 July 2008 at the French School Lycee Francais Jules Verne in Johannesburg, South Africa, titled 'NMCF Annual Children's Celebration Message 2008'.*

[2] *Excerpt from Madiba's speech presented on 03 November 2003 at the Eskom Convention Centre in Midrand, South Africa, titled 'Speech at the Opening of a Healing Garden and Children's Parliament'.*

About Centre for Early Childhood Development

We believe that children must be put first in society. Our mission is to increase the capacity of individuals, organisations and communities in delivering early childhood development (ECD) programmes. We work with: communities, providing support and assistance to ECD projects such as ECD centre-based programmes; organisations, enhancing organisational efficiency and effectiveness; individuals, including ECD centre teachers and parents with young children, developing their skills and increasing their capacity; and parents, providing information on the development of children.

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About Cape Town Museum of Childhood

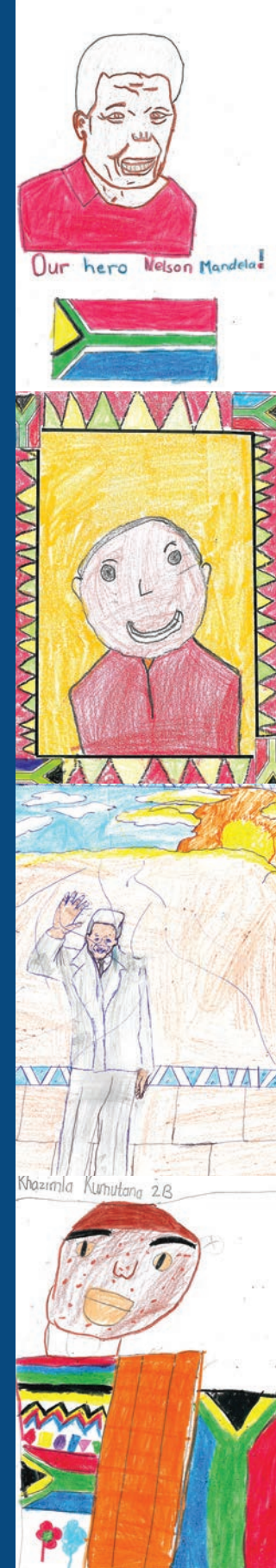
The Cape Town Museum of Childhood is an interactive museum where children and adults celebrate childhood. We aim to create access and give insights into various childhood experiences and realities. The exhibits provoke reflection, and help us to engage with and build an understanding of childhood. Visitors experience historical, current and future aspects and contexts of childhood. This first in Africa museum celebrates the resilience of children, the possibilities that childhood holds, as well as children's experiences through time. Please come and visit our museum.

www.museumofchildhood.org.za
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Our Rainbow Nation
He Loved Children

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

– Nelson Mandela, 2008



Right (top-down): Ivano Daries (Grade 3) - Rosmead Primary; Onako Mpambani (7 years) - Rosmead Primary; Andile Jim (13 years) - Intshinga Primary; Khazimla Kumutana (Grade 2) - Rosmead Primary