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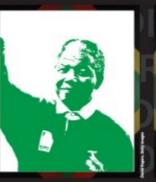














### **LEADER COMRADE NEGOTIATOR PRISONER STATESMAN**

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Mandela n. birth name of Nelson Mandela's grandfather, which became the surname of the family under colonial ru

Nelson in English name given to Nelson Mandela on his first day of school

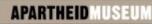
Dalibhunga n. founder of the parliament, name given to Nelson Mandela on the occasion of his initiation into manhood

Madiba in Netson Wandela's popularly known clan name, which means reconciler, mesuphonically, the filler of ditches

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## **CREDITS**

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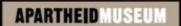
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"My father possessed a proud rebelliousness, a stubborn sense of fairness that I recognise in myself. He was asserting his traditional prerogative as a chief and was challenging the authority of the white magistrate." Nelson Mandela

# SON OF THEMBULAND

Mvezo is a tiny village on the banks of the Mbashe River in Thembuland in the Transkei. It sits on a precipice, overlooking the wooded river and thousands of streams that lie below. It was here that Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born on 18 July 1918.

Mandela was born to a people that were not free. In 1885, following long years of war and oppression, the kingdom of Thembuland was annexed by the British and became part of the Cape Colony.

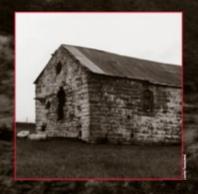


Mandela's father, Gadla Henry Mphakanyiswa Mandela, was the chief of Mvezo. Represented here by this Thembu bridegroom, Nkosi (Chief) Mphakanyiswa Mandela was a tall and imposing man, who had four wives and 13 children. Mandela's father was a firm believer in traditional ways.

My father was an unofficial one-mand officiated at local traditional rite, sufficient orecordiles and funerals. He are sufficient to be ordained, for in the religion of the Xhosas, there is fulle distinction between



Mandela's mother, Nosekeni Fanny, was his father's third wife. A reserved woman, she converted to Christianity and had her son and his two sisters baptised as Methodists. Like so many Africans of his day, Mandela would continue to be pulled in two directions for the rest of his life – between traditional values and customs, and modernity, represented largely by Christianity in his early years.



Mandela's father, though firmly traditional, was friendly with two educated brothers who were Christians. They suggested that his son should attend school. Nkosi Mohakanyiswa Mandela agreed to allow his youngest son to go to school – the first in the family ever to do so.

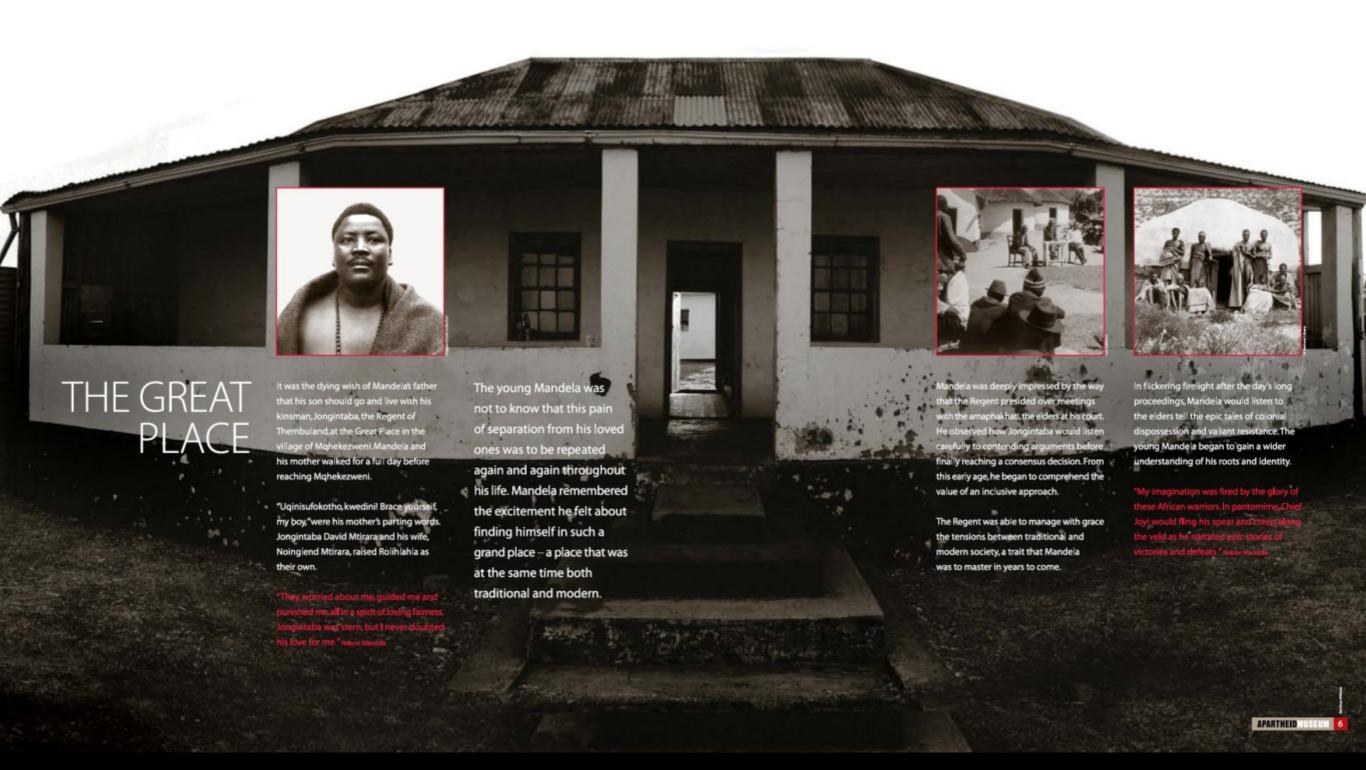
According to family legend, while Rolihlahla was still a small boy, his father clashed with the local magistrate, who called him to account for a ruling he made regarding an ox. As chief, he insisted that he was not accountable to the British magistrate. "Andizi, ndisaqula; I will not come, I am still girding for battle," he responded.

Nkosi Mphakanyiswa Mandela apparently refused to appear before the magistrate in court. This allegedly cost him his post, his stipend and the land that went with it. Now penniless, his wives went to stay at their respective parents' homes. Mandela's mother went to settle near friends and family in Qunu, a large village near Mthatha. Her children saw their father for one week every month.

"In those days, black children were given white names at school because it was more 'civilised'. My teacher called me Nelson. Maybe she named me after the great British admiral, Lord Nelson. But that is only a guess." Nelson Mandela

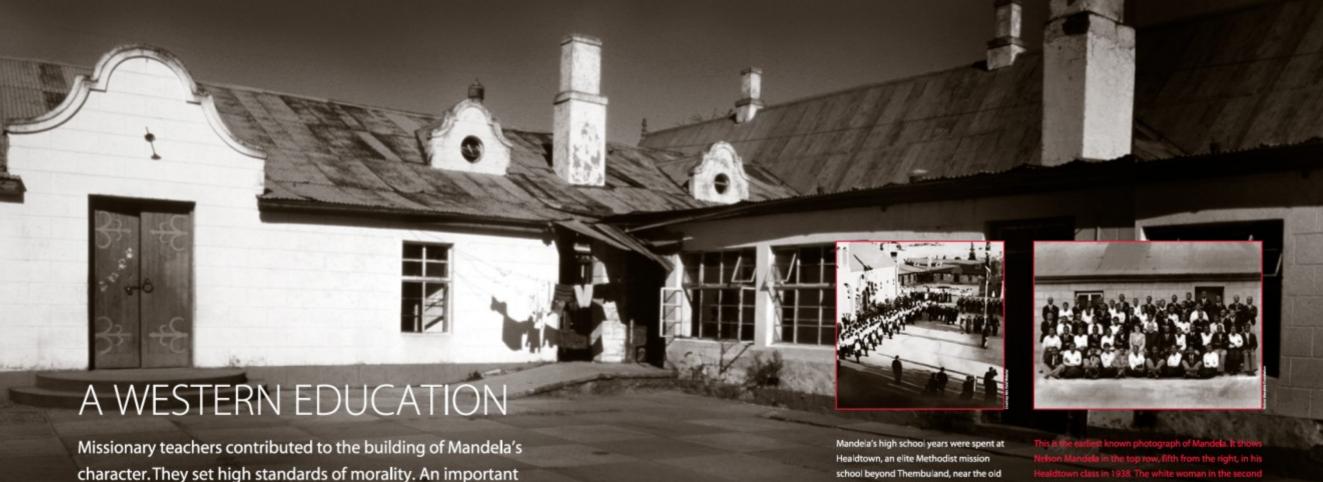


"Good moral character is not something that we can achieve on our own. We need a culture that supports the conditions under which self-love and friendship flourish." Aristotle, ancient Greek philosopher





"I quickly realised that I had to make my way on the basis of my ability, not my heritage." Nelson Mandela



After his initiation ceremony, Mandela was sent to Clarkebury, a famous mission school (pictured here). Mandela was not sufficiently well co-ordinated to excel in sports like soccer or cricket. Instead, he devoted himself to long-distance running. He also took up boxing, which became a lifelong passion.

aspect of Christianity was forgiveness – to harbour grievances

would be to lessen one's own character.

colonial military station of Fort Beaufort.

Healdtown was suffused with British enduring respect for many aspects of British culture. Years later, in 1962, as an accused in court, he would describe the British Houses of Parliament as "the most democratic institution in the world".

"I simply could not compromise. Something inside me would not let me." Nelson Mandela

### FORT HARE

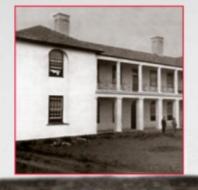
Mandela passed his matric exams at Healdtown and was accepted for a BA degree at Fort Hare in the town of Alice in the Eastern Cape.



Mandela's plan was to become an interpreter in the courts of Thembuland. But his kinsman and nephew, Kaiser Matanzima (above right), who went on to become the leader of Transkei homeland, persuaded him that law was a more powerful and influential profession. Mandela readily agreed.



At Fort Hare, Mandela was exposed to a wider world, and his political horizon broadened. He was excited by the number of students who came from all over the country, and even beyond South Africa's borders, such as Seretse Khama (above left), who was to become the first president of independent Botswana.



During his second year, Mandela was nominated for election as a prefect. He accepted - only to find that the majority of students were boycotting the elections. A few students voted and Mandela was elected as a prefect. He decided that he could not accept the position, even though the principal threatened to expel him if he refused.



blazer at the Nelson Mandela Foundation



Mandela stubbornly refused to return to Fort Hare. The Regent was angry at Mandela's disobedience and decided it was time to teach him and his son Justice a lesson about real responsibility. He arranged marriages for both young men.

