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Nelson Mandela died, at the age of 95, on the 5th of December, 2013. South African President Jacob Zuma declared a national day of mourning on the 8th of December. This image depicts the scene in front of Madiba's home—in Houghton, Johannesburg, South Africa—on the national day of mourning. It depicts just one example of Mandela's influence, where a crowd of blacks and whites join together to mark his passing. Image by Rob Dennison; license: [CC BY-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/)

Nelson Mandela is part of the Madiba clan. When people call him "Madiba," they are expressing both affection and respect for an elder of his clan and the father of South Africa.

It was not always thus.

Afrikaners, such as [Francois Pienaar](#) and his Springbok teammates, could not have foretold how their lives would become entwined with that of a black South African - especially someone who once [advocated violent resistance](#) against the white-enacted laws of apartheid.

And ... who, among South Africa's white families, could have believed reconciliation was possible in their country - without a revenge-taking, violent civil war?

Yet ... love and forgiveness is possible, even on a country-wide scale, depending on the [nation's leaders](#). The long-feared backlash did not happen, although significant issues [remain](#).

The [personal price for Mandela](#) has been extremely high. As Morgan Freeman said, in a December 2009 [PBS interview](#):

*He was born to do what he's doing. I think Providence sat on his shoulder at an early age ... If you talk to him, I'm not sure I should tell all this, but, all of this world renown and glory sits on him, on one side of him. Over here, he feels like he's a complete failure because of [what his family had to pay](#).*

His family's price includes two [divorced wives](#) and [children](#) who were unable to see (let alone know) their father for decades. As Mandela himself has referenced, when one is father to all, he is [less a father](#) to his own:

*In that way, my commitment to my people, to the millions of South Africans I would never know or meet, was at the expense of the people I knew best and loved most. (Mandela, [Long Walk to Freedom](#), page 623.)*

The bond that Mandela formed with Pienaar (who married his girlfriend [Nerine Winter](#)) is still intact. They remain close, and Mandela is godfather to Jean Pienaar, one of Francois' two sons.

Each in his own way, the two men had worked together to unify their nation. As Francois describes the country's post-win response, he uses awestruck words:

*It was just unbelievable on the streets of South Africa. For the first time all the people had come together and all races and religions were hugging each other.*

There is something else which cements the bond between Madiba and Pienaar: a rugby shirt. When Mandela (happily married to [Graca Machel](#)) took the field at Ellis Park, just before the World Cup final began, he was wearing a Springbok jersey.

What number had he picked? Number 6.

To whom was number 6 assigned? [To Francois Pienaar](#).

For many more years, after the nation-healing Rugby Match, Nelson Mandela continued to inspire people all around the world. Madiba breathed his last on the 5th of December, 2013. Announcing the death of South Africa's beloved leader, [President Jacob Zuma](#) said:

*Our nation has lost its greatest son...What made Nelson Mandela great was precisely what made him human. We saw in him what we seek in ourselves...Fellow South Africans, Nelson Mandela brought us together and it is together that we will bid him farewell.*

And so will the rest of the world.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MADIBA-and-PIENAAR-POST-WIN-Invictus>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

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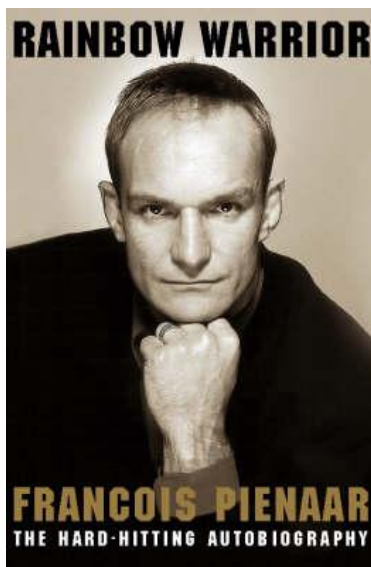
## Media Stream



### Madiba

Image of Nelson Mandela, online courtesy [Daily Dispatch Online](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Madiba>



### Francois Pienaar - Rainbow Warrior

Image of *Rainbow Warrior's* cover, online courtesy [Waterstone's](#).

*Rainbow Warrior* (by Francois Pienaar and Edward Griffiths)

#### **Published**

13/09/1999

#### **Publisher**

HarperCollinsWillow

#### **ISBN**

9780002189057

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Francois-Pienaar-Rainbow-Warrior>



### Francois and Nerine Pienaar

Photo of Francois and Nerine Pienaar, online courtesy Hartford House.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Francois-and-Nerine-Pienaar>



### Francois Pienaar - Springbok 6

Image online, courtesy South Africa News.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Francois-Pienaar-Springbok-6>



### Mandela and de Klerk Share Nobel Peace Prize

Photo of Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk with their Nobel Peace Prize - online, courtesy FW de Klerk Foundation.

Excerpts from the Oliver R Tambo Lecture - "Setting Free the Past" - by Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town. Delivered at Georgetown University in 2002. Online, courtesy Georgetown University.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mandela-and-de-Klerk-Share-Nobel-Peace-Prize>



### Graca Machel - Mandela's Last Wife

Photo online, courtesy The Presidency of South Africa's [official web site](#).

[Quoted passages](#) from comments accompanying the United Nations report on "Impact of Armed Conflict on Children."

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Graca-Machel-Mandela-s-Last-Wife>



### MADIBA and PIENAAR - POST-WIN

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### Morgan Freeman on Mandela

Clip from Tavis Smiley interview of Morgan Freeman, aired on PBS December 10, 2009.

Video clip online, courtesy PBS Channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Morgan-Freeman-on-Mandela>