Question of the Week
What is the best way to keep your freedom?

High Frequency Words
free
read
college
laws
believed
president

Concept Words
diamonds
village
equality
Nobel Peace Prize
retired

Learning Goals
• Sometimes people fight to keep their freedom.
• Nelson Mandela fought for equality in South Africa.
• Nelson Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize.
South Africa is at the tip of Africa.

In 1918, a boy was born in South Africa. His name was Rolihlahla (RO lee lah la). The name means troublemaker, or “someone who makes trouble.”

The little boy grew up. His name was Nelson Mandela.

A diamond field in South Africa

In the early 1900s, people found diamonds in Africa. Diamonds can make people rich.

Not everyone got money from the diamonds. The government owned most of the diamond fields.
The government ruled the land. It ruled most things in South Africa.

Many South Africans were not free to make choices. They could not vote for leaders. They could not buy things from most stores.

Few people in Mandela’s village were able to read.

One day, a man came to Mandela’s mother. The man said her son should go to school. Mandela would be the first in his family. His mother was happy.
Mandela was a good student. The teachers gave the students English names. His teacher named him Nelson. Nelson means “son of a champion.”

As a boy, Mandela lived with the village chief. The chief taught Mandela to be a leader. Mandela went to college. He learned that many laws were not fair. He tried to change these laws. He got into trouble. People at the college asked him to leave.
Nelson Mandela did not stop. He went to law school. He became a lawyer. He started the first office for black lawyers.

Mandela wanted laws to be fair. He wanted South Africa to have more freedom.

Mandela told people in South Africa about equality. Equality means treating everyone the same way. He told people to fight unfair laws. The government did not like what Mandela did. He went to jail for 30 years.
In 1990, Mandela left prison. It was important news around the world. The government told Mandela not to make trouble. But Mandela continued to fight for equality.

Mandela believed all people should vote. He fought for equality most of his life. In 1993, he won the Nobel Peace Prize.
In 1994, Mandela became president of South Africa. Later, he retired, or stopped working. He moved back to his village.

People will always remember Mandela’s fight for freedom.

Talk About It
1. Who taught Mandela to become a leader?
2. Tell how you feel when you see someone being treated unfairly.

Write About It
3. On a separate sheet of paper, write one sentence about something good that happened to Mandela.

Extend Language
The prefix un- means “not.” For example, unfair means “not fair.” Add the prefix un- to these words:
just equal safe true
Use one of the words in a sentence.