

**INVICTUS**  
**WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY**

# IN THIS LESSON : YOU WILL FIND

- Cultural objectives:
  - The study of an iconic poem
  - Oppression and resistance lexical fields
  - An iconic person
  - The link between a famous character's fate and a nation's one
  - A South African history initiation
  - The posterity of a literary masterpiece brought by History which was immortalized by cinema

# AN ICONIC POEM

- C:\Users\patricia\Documents\INVICTUS\Poem INVICTUS cited by Nelson Mandela who was imprisoned for.mp4

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_\\_XawMZcSLU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__XawMZcSLU)

Act n°1 : according to this video, fill in the following grid

Place where the slides were taken

Duration of the video

Nature of the quoted text

Name of the speaker

Knowledge about the speaker

Act n°1 : according to this video, fill in the following grid

<b>Place where the slides were taken</b>	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>
<b>Duration of the video</b>	<b>1'44</b>
<b>Nature of the quoted text</b>	<b>poem</b>
<b>Name of the speaker</b>	<b>Nelson Mandela</b>
<b>Knowledge about the speaker Suggested event in the speaker's life</b>	<b>- he fought apartheid - he was emprisonned 27 years</b>

# INVICTUS

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul

Act n°4 read and listen the poem

Act n°2 : lexical activity. Find the definitions of those difficult words and try to translate them

- Pit : black hole where you can find water
- Clutch : firm grasp
- To wince : to thrill as feeling a sudden pain
- Bludgeoning : to hit roughly with a tool
- Unbowed : unconquered
- Beyond : outside the limits
- Looms : threat rising faraway
- Strait : very narrow
- Scroll : an amount of successive events



## Act n°2 : lexical activity. Find the definitions of those difficult words and try to translate them

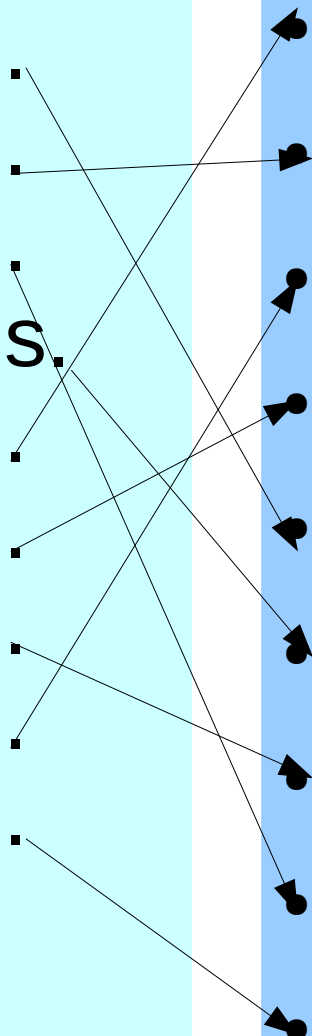
- Pit
- Clutch
- To wince
- Bludgeonings
- Unbowed
- Beyond
- Looms
- Strait
- scroll

- Invaincu
- Emprise
- Etroit
- Au-delà de
- Puits
- Matraquage
- Menace perceptible
- Tressaillir
- Enchainement, déroulement

# Act n°2 : lexical activity. Find the definitions of those difficult words and try to translate them

- Pit
- Clutch
- To wince
- Bludgeonings.
- Unbowed
- Beyond
- Looms
- Strait
- Scroll

- Invaincu
- Emprise
- Etroit
- Au-delà de
- Puits
- Matraquage
- Menace perceptible
- Tressaillir
- Enchainement, déroulement



Intermediate Task : I collect the expressions  
linked to :

Oppression lexical field  
Resistance and freedom lexical field

## Act n°3 : Resistance and freedom lexical field

- Unconquerable
- Not winced
- Nor cried
- unbowed
- Beyond wrath and tears
- Unafraid
- Master of my fate
- Captain of my soul

## Act n° 4: Oppression lexical field

- Out of the night
- Black pit
- Fell clutch
- Bludgeonings
- Wrath and tears
- Horror of the shade
- Menace of the years
- The scroll of punishment

Final task : I recollect the poem in English with the help of the translated paragraphs

## Act n°5 : Observing the poem in English I find its translation with the jumbled verses in French

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul

En ce lieu de colère et de pleurs,  
Se profile l'ombre de la mort,  
Et je ne sais ce que me réserve le sort,  
Mais je suis et je resterai sans peur,

Dans les ténèbres qui m'enserrent,  
Noires comme un puits où l'on se noie,  
Je rends grâce aux dieux quels qu'ils  
soient,  
Pour mon âme invincible et fière,

Aussi étroit soit le chemin,  
Nombreux les châtiments infâmes,  
Je suis le maître de mon destin,  
Je suis le capitaine de mon âme

Dans de cruelles circonstances,  
Je n'ai ni gémi ni pleuré,  
Meurtri par cette existence,  
Je suis debout bien que blessé,

## Act n°5 : Observing the poem in English I recollect its translation from the jumbled text

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul

Dans les ténèbres qui m'enserrent,  
noires comme un puits où l'on se noie,  
Je rends grâce aux dieux quels qu'ils  
soient,  
Pour mon âme invincible et fière,

Dans de cruelles circonstances,  
je n'ai ni gémi ni pleuré,  
Meurtri par cette existence,  
Je suis debout bien que blessé,

En ce lieu de colère et de pleurs,  
Se profile l'ombre de la mort,  
Et je ne sais ce que me réserve le  
sort,  
Mais je suis et je resterai sans peur,

Aussi étroit soit le chemin,  
Nombreux les châtiments infâmes,  
Je suis le maître de mon destin,  
Je suis le capitaine de mon âme



## 2 eme partie : a poem posterity

- Nelson Mandela's favourite poem in dark hours
- Invictus : the movie of reconciliation of South Africans

Clint Eastwood 2009

# Act n° 3 COMPARE THESE TWO PICTURES



# Act n° 1 the picture on the top left

The man on the picture

Place of the picture

Supposed time it was taken

Depiction of the picture

# Act n° 1 the picture at the bottom right

The man on the picture and his function

Place of the picture

Symbol of this picture

Depiction of the picture

# Act n° 1 the picture on the top left

The man on the picture	Nelson Mandela
Place of the picture	A South African jail ; maybe Robben Island
Supposed time it was taken	During his 27 year in prison
Depiction of the picture	On this picture, we can see NM in his cell on Robben Island. His elbow lays on a window sill. He looks old

# Act n° 1 the picture at the bottom right

The man on the picture and his function

Barack Obama : President of the United States

Place of the picture

Nelson Mandela's cell at Robben Island

Symbol of this picture

A tribute to Mandela and to his position against apartheid

Depiction of the picture

BO is looking through the same window, trying to find the sun light and we can imagine that he is thinking about what it was to live in that cell during 27 years

# Invictus : the movie

- C:\Users\patricia\Documents\INVICTUS\Invictus - Official Trailer [HD].mp4
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZY8c\\_a\\_dIQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZY8c_a_dIQ)

C:\Users\patricia\Documents\INVICTUS\Invictus - Official Trailer [HD].flv

## Act n° 2 : watching the trailer, I explain the historical context of the movie

Title of the film and director  
Reference of the title

Place of the film

Main sporting event

Political role

Main actors playing main real character



## Act n° 2 : watching the trailer, I explain the historical context of the movie

Title of the film and director Reference of the title	- Invictus which refers to the poem - Clint eastwood 2009
Place of the film	South Africa
Main sporting event	Rugby world cup 1995
Political role	- An event to gather a nation - a reconciliation
Main actors playing main real character	Morgan Freeman plays the role of Nelson Mandela

## Act 3 : South Africa significant dates

- 1960: In the town of Sharpeville, 67 Africans were killed while protesting against Apartheid
- 1962 ; Mandela is arrested for plotting against the government. Despite his fame, he spend 27 years in prison, he kept a political word worldwide heard
- 1990 : President FW. de Klerk announced the end of apartheid. Mandela was freed from prison after 27 years.
- 1993 : De Klerk and Mandela were jointly awarded Nobel Peace Prize

# Historical events from 1990 to 2013

- 1994 : South Africa held its first elections in which all races could vote. Nelson Mandela was elected President
- 1995 : South Africa hosted and won the World Cup rugby tournament
- 1999 : Mandela stepped down as President
- 2004 : The African National Congress won a landslide election, gaining almost 70% of the votes. Thabo Mbeki began his second term as president
- 2009 : Jacob Zuma was elected President
- 2010 : South Africa hosted the World Cup soccer tournament
- 2013 : Nelson Mandela's death

# Intermediate task n°1

Draw a timeline of South Africa history

Act n°4 : select the events of the timeline  
which concern Nelson Mandela

## Act n°4 : select the events of the timeline which concern Nelson Mandela

- 1962 : Mandela in prison
- 1990 : end of apartheid. Mandela freed
- 1993 : awarded with Nobel Prize with De Klerk
- 1994 : Mandela elected President
- 1995 : Rugby world cup. Reconciliation
- 1999 : mandela stops presidency
- 2013 : Mandela's death . National homage

## Intermediate task : Explain how Nelson Mandela is linked to South Africa history

- On the timeline I can observe that
- Firstly,
- Secondly,
- Finally
- In conclusion, we can truly say that

# Intermediate task : Explain how Nelson Mandela is linked to South Africa history

- On the timeline I can observe that Nelson Mandela's life is closely linked to the History of South Africa
- Firstly, he was put in jail in 1962 because he fought with the ANC the South African policy called apartheid. It implies racial segregation and violence against black South Africans. He spent 27 years in prison and was released in 1990 with the end of Apartheid
- Secondly, in 1993 he was awarded with the Nobel Prize which he shared with the white president De Klerk. The following year , he became President. His aim was to find a way to reconcile South Africans. That's what he achieved in 1995 with the rugby World Cup
- Finally, He resigned presidency in 1999 and died in 2013. He received a national and international homage
- In conclusion, we can truly say that Nelson Mandela 's life is really intermingled with South Africa history even if Mandela is a true icon of fight for civil rights all over the world

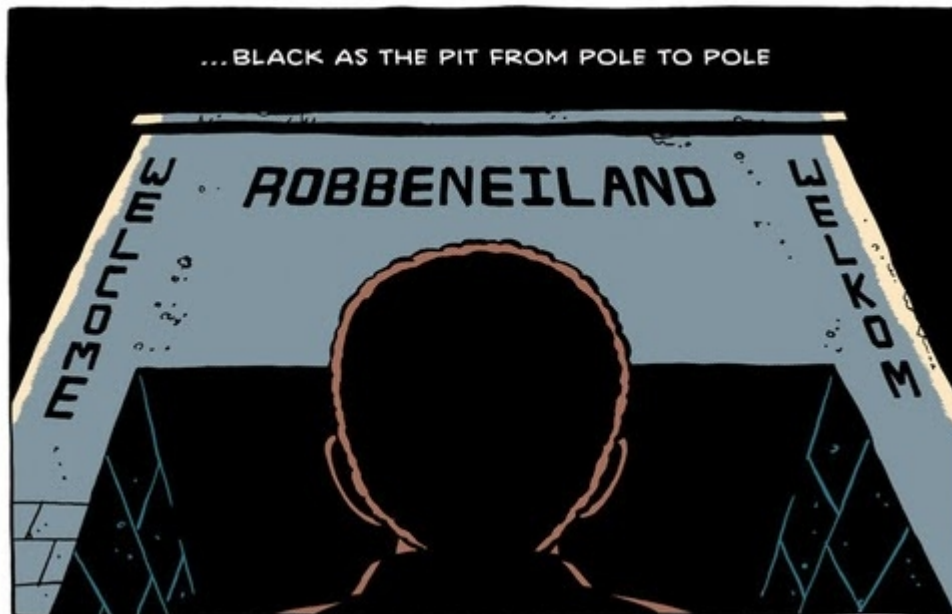
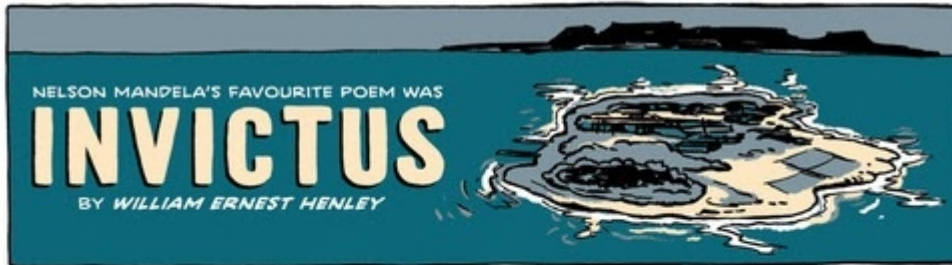


# Final Task

Present the film according to its historical context: I can present a brief history of South Africa from the 1960's to nowadays with the help of the timeline

With the help of the comic, present a brief explanation of the choice to use this mean to present the poem, Nelson Mandela and his links with South Africa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlZTzsC8e4g>



IN THE FELL CLUTCH OF CIRCUMSTANCE...



... I HAVE NOT WINCED NOR CRIED ALOUD.



UNDER THE BLUDGEONINGS OF CHANCE...







...MY HEAD IS BLOODY, BUT UNBOWED.



BEYOND THIS PLACE...



OF WRATH...



AND TEARS...

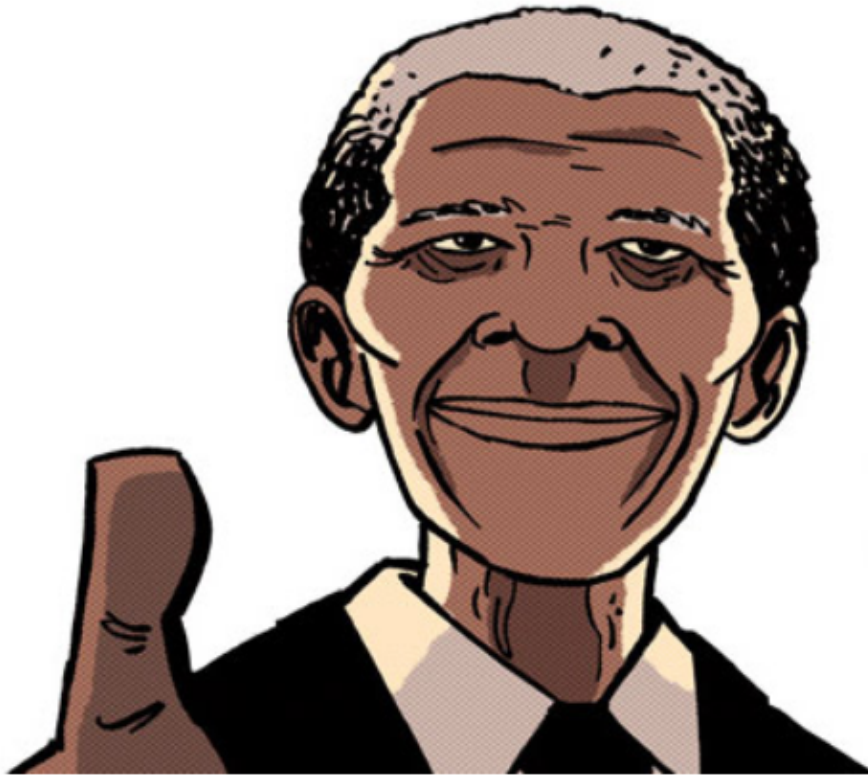












... I AM  
THE CAPTAIN  
OF MY SOUL.

NELSON MANDELA  
1918 - 2013