



# INVICTUS

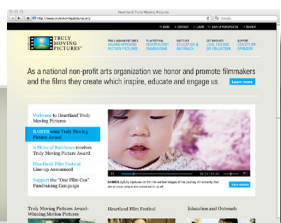


## Synopsis

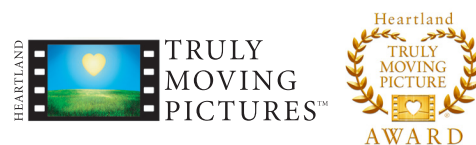
Nelson Mandela joins forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team, Francois Pienaar, to help unite their country. Newly elected President Mandela knows his nation remains racially and economically divided in the wake of apartheid. Believing he can bring his people together through the universal language of sport, Mandela rallies South Africa's underdog rugby team as they make an unlikely run to the 1995 World Cup Championship match.

## Discussion Questions

- Mandela thought it was very important that his security detail be comprised of people from his administration as well as the prior administration. Why was this such a problem for some of the people on the security detail? Why was this so important to Mandela?
- The Springboks were a team that represented apartheid era South Africa. Why do you think Nelson Mandela wanted to keep the team together? Why do you think he was against renaming the team and starting over with a new South African rugby team?
- We saw in the final scenes when South Africa won the rugby World Cup that this sport brought people together in a way that had never been seen in South Africa before. Sports have the ability to draw people with many differences together to rally behind a common cause. Can you think of a time that you have rallied behind a sports team and felt part of a larger group because of it? Have you experienced this on different levels (school, city, national or international sporting competitions)?
- When Francoise brought the soccer team to the jail to learn about the place where Mandela had been imprisoned, he was shocked and amazed as much as anyone else about Mandela's living situation for so many years. How did you feel when you saw the cell where he was imprisoned for so long?



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## Activities

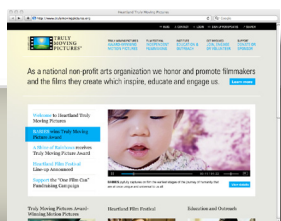
- Read the entire poem *Invictus* by William Ernest Henley. Do you find this poem inspiring? Can you think of a way that this poem could apply to overcoming struggles in your own life?
- Attend a sporting event. There are many that are inexpensive and even free. Pick a team to root for if there is no home team for you at the event.
- Rugby is a sport that has not caught on very much in the United States yet, but you may have noticed that it looks a lot like North American football. Check out the rules of the game and find out the differences and similarities between rugby and American football.
- Apartheid ended decades ago, and those who did not live through it may not completely understand it. Research on your own what apartheid was. Why was there such conflict between black and the white people in South Africa for so long?

## Get Involved

- Sports can have such a positive impact on children, but many kids cannot afford the proper equipment or area to play. Begin a donation drive to collect money or equipment for kids who don't have the money on hand to play sports like rugby.
- Race relations are still a problem world-wide and in our own country. There are ways that you can get involved with groups who still focus on trying to make things more equal and fair. Research groups and get involved to make your own impact. Visit these sites as a start:
  - American Civil Liberties Union - [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)
  - Southern Poverty Law Center - [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)



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