



## ABHM Book Club Discussion

July 1st, 2021

*Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela (1995): Parts 7-11

### How to Use this Guide:

[America's Black Holocaust Museum](#) staff created this guide to assist in reading and discussion of Nelson Mandela's memoir. Please feel free to print a copy and keep it with your book as you lend to friends and others who are interested. Do not expect to get through all of the questions during the upcoming meeting nor in one sitting. Perhaps consider them as conversation starters or an invitation to reflect more deeply about Nelson Mandela's life.

### Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What is Mandela's experience during the Rivonia Trial and on Robben Island? **How did he relate his time during the trial and in prison to the larger struggle against apartheid?** What strategies of survival and resistance did he and the other political prisoners use? See pages 317, 360, 386, 390, and 406.
2. **How did propaganda and lack of/censored communication and access to the press impact the anti-apartheid movement while Mandela was in prison?** What makeshift channels of communication did the political prisoners create and why were these important? See pages 372, 389, 414, 419, 476, and 499.
3. **What role did the younger generation play in the end of apartheid, particularly those involved in the Black Consciousness Movement?** What was Mandela's reaction to the more radical ideologies within the anti-apartheid movement and how did the ANC treat these newcomers? See pages 484-487 and 592.

4. On page 600, Mandela writes, “it seems to be the destiny of freedom fighters to have unstable personal lives.” Do you agree or disagree? **How did fighting against apartheid impact Mandela and Winnie’s relationship and their children?** See pages 445, 470, 490, and 600.
5. What was the worldwide reaction to Mandela’s release from prison after 27 years? Do you remember where you were when you learned of his release? **How can we honor these collective and individual memories of Mandela and the anti-apartheid movement?** See pages 563-565.
6. What does true racial reconciliation look like, according to Mandela? What can we learn from Mandela and the anti-apartheid movement to work towards racial reconciliation in our own time here in America? **How does the [mission](#) and work of ABHM relate to Mandela’s ideas of racial reconciliation?** See pages 537-539, 551, 563, 568, and 622.
7. Who do you think would benefit from reading *Long Walk to Freedom*? **What can we learn from Mandela’s memoir in terms of the ongoing struggle for civil rights in the United States today?** See page 583.
8. **For those of you who have had the chance to visit [Mandela: The Official Exhibition](#) at the Milwaukee Public Museum, how did the exhibit complement your reading of Nelson Mandela’s memoir and vice versa?**

#### **Additional Resources:**

“Systems of Racial Violence: A Discussion Series” Part 1: <https://youtu.be/sTqJMS5RNUw>

“Systems of Racial Violence: A Discussion Series” Part 2: <https://fb.watch/6pYccV4HI3/>

Milwaukee’s Fight for Social Justice: Looking Back with Reggie Jackson  
<https://youtu.be/duEMByKrnUE>

Milwaukee’s Fight for Social Justice: Looking Forward with Urban Underground  
<https://youtu.be/kpuvD2p7Y1s>

Full list of programs related to *Mandela: The Official Exhibition* at the Milwaukee Public Museum through August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021: <http://www.mpm.edu/plan-visit/exhibitions/special-exhibitions/nelson-mandela-official-exhibition/programs-events>