

# Movie Reflections

## Invictus (12A)

Nelson Mandela's (Morgan Freeman's) release from prison and his ascent to a democratically elected President of South Africa marks a radical change in the country. This change away from Apartheid will not be easy for anyone in the country, but Mandela has to figure out how to galvanize the residents of the country together. Because of his love of the game, Mandela places his support behind the Springboks, the national rugby team. South Africa is hosting the 1995 Rugby World Cup, that being the only reason the Springboks are even competing in the tournament as its years on the sideline of world rugby events has not made it world ranked. The Springboks were previously considered the team of white South Africa, and as such was denounced by Mandela when he was in prison. But he does whatever he can to make it the team of all South Africa. He needs the support of the Springboks and its Captain, Francois Pienaar (Matt Damon) to achieve his hope of the Springboks winning the World Cup.

Mandela after being elected President, sets to bring his divided country together. But it won't be easy because there are those who still resent the presence of the Afrikaaners who oppressed them. They want to get rid of all symbols of their oppression, amongst them is the National Rugby team, the Springboks, which for many is a major symbol of their oppression. But Mandela chooses to stand up for them. With the World Cup approaching, Mandela sends for the team Captain, Pienaar and he subtly tells him that he wants them to win the World Cup. So they train, but Mandela decides to show them for what they are playing by making them teach rugby in small townships and spend some time in the prison where he was held for twenty-seven years.

The film *Invictus* is a story of Hope, a nations Hope for its team and a leaders Hope for a healed nation.

## Reflections on Hope

Take time to discuss what are your hopes for:



yourself personally  
your family and,  
the community in which you live.

There were many obstacles and challenges to Mandela realising his hopes for a nation but he identified not only that worked through them with the help of others.



Take some time to think through the obstacles that might get in the way of you realising your hopes.

Finally we see Mandela had a clear plan to realising his hopes.



Discuss the things that you can do now to help you work towards your hopes that you have discussed in each of the areas above.