**Worksheet 3: 20 to 24 April 2020 (Comprehension and summary – 2 days)**

Comprehension questions (day 1): Carefully read through the comprehension passage. Read through the questions. Read through the passage again. When reading the questions, underline the “question words” (name, explain, discuss, say what you think), as these should guide your answers. Remember that you should attempt to answer questions in your own words unless asked to quote. When asked for your opinion, base your answers on information provided in the passage.

Summary (day 2): Read through the first 8 paragraphs of the passage. Underline main thoughts of paragraphs. Rewrite them in numbered points as a draft summary. Edit your draft, ensuring that your points do not contain direct quotes (use synonyms and change the word order) and that you do not repeat yourself. Check your word count and rewrite in a shorter form if necessary. Write a final draft of your summary and draw a line through the first draft.

**Reading passage**

**Excerpt from the BBC obituary about former President Nelson Mandela**

1. **To those who observed him closely, Nelson Mandela always carried himself as one who was born to lead.**
2. As his former cellmate and long time friend, Ahmed Kathrada, said recently: "He was born into a royal house and there was always that sense about him of someone who knew the meaning of leadership."
3. The Mandela who led the African National Congress into government displayed a conspicuous sense of his own dignity and a self-belief that nothing in 27 years of imprisonment had been capable of destroying.
4. Although Mr Mandela frequently described himself as simply part of the ANC's leadership, there was never any doubt that he was the most potent political figure of his generation in South Africa.
5. To the wider world he represented many things, not least an icon of freedom but also the most vivid example in modern times of the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. Back in the early 1990s, I remember then President, FW De Klerk, telling me he how he found Mandela's lack of bitterness "astonishing".
6. His fundamental creed was best expressed in his address to the sabotage trial in 1964. "I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination," he said.
7. "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."
8. Born in 1918, Rolihlahla Dalibhunga Mandela was raised in the village of Qunu in the Transkei in the Eastern Cape. He was one of 13 children from a family with close links to the royal house of the Thembu people.
9. Mr Mandela often recalled his boyhood in the green hills of the Transkei with fondness. This was a remote landscape of beehive-shaped huts and livestock grazing on poor land.
10. He was only nine when his father died of tuberculosis. Always closer emotionally to his mother, Mr Mandela described his father as a stern disciplinarian. But he credited his father with instilling the instincts that would help carry him to greatness.
11. Years later Mr Mandela would write that "my father possessed a proud rebelliousness, a stubborn sense of fairness…" His death changed the course of the boy's life.
12. The young Mandela was sent from his home village to live as a ward of the Thembu royal house, where he would be groomed for a leadership role.
13. This meant he must have a proper education. He was sent to a Methodist school, where he was given the name Nelson. He was a diligent student and in 1939 went to Fort Hare University, then a burgeoning centre of African nationalism.
14. **1918** Born in the Eastern Cape

**1943** Joined African National Congress

**1956**Charged with high treason, but charges dropped after a four-year trial

**1962**Arrested, convicted of incitement and leaving country without a passport, sentenced to five years in prison

**1964** Charged with sabotage, sentenced to life

**1990**Freed from prison

**1993**Wins Nobel Peace Prize

**1994**Elected first black president

**1999**Steps down as leader

**2001**Diagnosed with prostate cancer

**2004**Retires from public life

**2005**Announces his son has died of an HIV/Aids-related illness

Questions

1. Paragraph 1. Say how you think someone “born to lead” would behave him- or herself. Mention three things.
2. Paragraph 2. Name the reason Ahmed Kathrada gives for Mr Mandela’s sense of being a leader.
3. Paragraph 3. What tells one that Mr Mandela had a very strong sense of dignity?
4. Paragraph 5. Say what apart from political power was a hallmark of Mr Mandela’s time as president of South Africa.
5. Paragraph 6. Reading this paragraph, what one word could one use to describe former President Mandela?
6. Paragraph 9. Say what this paragraph implies about Mr Mandela’s childhood.
7. Paragraph 10. Describe Mr Mandela’s attitude towards his father. Give reasons for your answer.
8. Paragraph 11 and 12. Suggest how his father’s death changed Mr Mandela’s life.
9. Paragraph 14. Say whether Mr Mandela’s life was largely filled with positive or negative events. Give a reason for your answer.
10. Can one learn any lessons from the life of Mr Nelson Mandela? Explain your answer by referring to the passage.