

**Springboard 3.20 (Part 2)**  
**Comparing Text and Film**

Unit	Essential Question	Goal(s)	Assignment	What is Due This Week
Unit 3: Choices and Consequences	How are great leaders portrayed in text and film?	Analyze and compare a film with a nonfiction text on a similar subject.	<b>Springboard 3.20 (Part 2) Comparing Text and Film</b>  <i>Biography Excerpt &amp; Video Clip with Questions</i>  Due 6/3/20 (Next Wednesday)	<b>Springboard 3.20 (Part 1) Comparing Text and Film</b>  (This was assigned last Wednesday 5/27 on Microsoft Teams)  Upload your work in Microsoft Teams OR Email Mrs. Tramp

**Directions:** Read the following excerpt from a biography on Nelson Mandela, and then answer the following questions.

**Playing the Enemy:**  
**Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation**  
 By John Carlin

**Robben Island**

[The Springbok players] found themselves on a ferry bound for Robben Island. It had been Morne Du Plessis’s idea. Du Plessis [the Springbok team manager] had begun to see just how enormous the impact of this “One Team, One Country” business was, not only in the terms of the good it would do the country, but the good it would do the team.

“There was a cause-and-effect connection between the Mandela factor and our performance in the field,” Du Plessis said. “It was a cause and effect on a thousand fronts. In players overcoming the pain barrier, in a superior desire to win, in luck going your way because you make your own luck, in all kinds of tiny details that go together or separately mark the difference between winning and losing. It all came perfectly together; our willingness to be the nation’s team and Mandela’s desire to make the team the national team.”

Robben Island was still being used as a prison and all the prisoners there were either Black or Coloured. Part of the day’s events involved meeting them, but first the players took turns viewing the cell where Mandela had spent eighteen of his twenty-seven years in captivity. The players entered the cell one or two at a time; it couldn’t hold any more than that. Having just met Mandela, they knew he was a tall man like most of them if not as broad. It required no great mental leap to picture the challenges, physical and psychological, of being confined in a box so small for so long.

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After Mandela’s cell the Springbok players went outside to the yard where Mandela had once been obliged to break stones. Waiting for them was a group of prisoners.

They were so happy to see us,” Pienaar said. “Despite being confined here they were obviously so proud of our team. I spoke to them about our sense that we were representing the whole country now, they included, and then they sang us a song. James Small — I’ll never forget this — stood in a corner, tears streaming out. James lived very close to the sword and I think he must have felt, ‘I could have been here.’ Yes, he felt his life could so easily have gone down another path. But,” Pienaar added, recalling the bruising fights he would get into when he was younger, the time he thought he had killed a man, “... but mine too, eh? I could have ended up there too.”

Small remembered the episode. “The prisoners not only sang for us, they gave us a huge cheer and I ... I just burst into tears,” he said, his eyes reddening again at the recollection. “That was where the sense really took hold in me that I belonged to the new South Africa, and where I really got a sense of the responsibility of my position as a Springbok. There I was, hearing the applause for me, and at the same time thinking about Mandela’s cell and how he spent twenty-seven years in prison and came out with love and friendship. All that washed over me, that huge realization, and the tears just rolled down my face.”

**1. What effect does meeting with the prisoners, described in paragraph 6, have on the team members? Choose a quote and explain how it shows the effect it has on the team members.**

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**2. Based on James Small’s own words in paragraph 6, describe how he felt about “One Team, One Country.”**

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### Viewing the Film:

**Directions:** View the “Robben Island” Video Clip. (This can be found in the “File” Tab in the Springboard 3.20 Folder). How was the text altered in the film? Why you so think those changes were made?

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## **Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation**

By John Carlin

### **The Rugby World Cup**

When the game ended,” Morne Du Plessis said, “I turned and started running towards the tunnel and there was Edward Griffiths, who had invented the ‘One Team, One Country’ slogan, and he said to me, ‘Things are never going to be the same again.’ And I agreed instantly, because I knew right there that the best was behind, that life could offer nothing better. I said to him ‘We’ve seen it all today.’”

However, Du Plessis was wrong. There was more. There was Mandela going down onto the pitch, with his jersey on, with his cap on his head to hand over the cup to his friend Francois. And there was the crowd again — “Nelson! Nelson! Nelson!” — enraptured, as Mandela appeared at the touchline, smiling from ear to ear, waving to the crowd, as he prepared to walk toward a little podium that had been placed on the field where he would hand the world cup trophy to Francois Pienaar.

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The gods at that moment were Mandela and Pienaar, the old man in green, crowned king of all South Africa, handing the cup to Pienaar, the young man in green, anointed that day as the spiritual head of born-again Afrikanerdom.

As the captain held the cup, Mandela put his left hand on his right shoulder, fixed him with a fond gaze, shook his right hand and said, “Francois, thank you very much for what you have done for our country.”

Pienaar, meeting Mandela’s eyes, replied, “No, Mr. President. Thank you for what you have done for our country.”

Had he been preparing for this moment all his life, he could not have struck a truer chord. As Desmond Tutu said, “That response was made in heaven. We human beings do our best, but those words at that moment, well . . . . . you couldn’t have scripted it.”

Maybe a Hollywood scriptwriter would have had them giving each other a hug. It was an impulse Pienaar confessed later that he only barely restrained. Instead the two just looked at each other and laughed. Morne du Plessis, standing close by, looked at Mandela and the Afrikaner **prodigal** together, he saw Pienaar raise the cup high above his shoulders as Mandela, laughing, pumped his fists in the air, and he struggled to believe what his eyes were seeing. “I’ve never seen such complete joy,” Du Plessis said. “He is looking at Francois and just, sort of, keeps laughing ... and Francois is looking at Mandela and ... the bond between them!”

It was all too much for the tough-minded Slabbert, hard-nosed veteran of a thousand political battles. “When Francois said that into the microphone, with Mandela there listening, laughing, and waving to the crowd and raising his cap to them, well,” said Slabbert, “*everybody* was weeping. There wasn’t a dry eye in the house.”

There wasn’t a dry eye in the country.



At the 1995 Rugby World Cup, President Nelson Mandela congratulates Springbok captain Francois Pienaar after handing him the William Webb Ellis trophy at Ellis Park in Johannesburg, South Africa.

### **Viewing the Film:**

**Directions:** View the “The Rugby World Cup” Video Clip. (This can be found in the “File” Tab in the Springboard 3.20 Folder). After viewing the video clip, complete the Quick Write below.

#### **Quick Write:**

In the excerpt above, the author suggests that a Hollywood scriptwriter would change the final scene. Why do you think they did not? What responsibilities do you think an author has when portraying a true event?

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