

MY COUNTRY (FOR MANDELA)

BY ZINDZISWA MENDELA (1972)

Zindiswa Mendela with Nelson Mandela – as a baby before his arrest and then as an adult when he was freed. Zindzi was only 4 years old when her father was arrested, He was to serve 27 years in prison before being released and going on to become the President of South Africa.



MY COUNTRY (FOR MANDELA)

I stand by the gate

School's Out

Smoke fills the location

Tears come into my eyes



I wipe them away
I walk into the kitchen
To see my mother's
Black hard-working hands
A forceful smile from
A tired face



We sit and have supper
I pick up a picture of
My father and look
My mother turns away
Tries to hide



My father left my mother

In his arms

He is roughly separated
from her



The van pulls away
Mother watches
Bravely enough.
I as a child do
Not understand
My heart aches
How I long to see my father



At least to hold his hand
And comfort him
Or at least tell him
He'll be back someday.

