

A portrait of Nelson Mandela by South African artist Zamani Makhaye



1. Describe the painting

a. Describe the painting. Complete the following prompts with full sentences.

You may use the following words and expressions:

Figurines, a dove, a fruit bowl, a lion, a couch

- The scene is ...
- In the foreground there are ... On the left and ... on the right.
- Different elements can be identified on the table, namely ...
- Behind the table, is seen sitting on He looks ...
- On the left side of the painting, one can notice ...
- In the background, behind the windows, one can make out ...

b. give three adjectives that best apply to this painting. Justify with one sentence.

You may choose from the following list:

Naive, gaudy, typical, realistic, symbolic, glowing, vivid, striking, picturesque

2. Structure of the painting

Associate each colour of the South-African flag with one element from the painting.

- Black _____
- Yellow _____
- Green _____
- White _____
- Red _____
- Blue _____

3. Meaning of the painting

a. Answer the following questions

- What does the empty seat next to the character symbolize?
- Who do the figurines on the table represent?
- What do the children stand for?
- What does the dove embody?

b. Fill-in the gaps with words from the list below to complete the following interpretation of the painting.

<i>Achieving</i>	<i>Great man</i>	<i>Strife</i>
<i>Children</i>	<i>Hospitable</i>	<i>Striving</i>
<i>Compromise</i>	<i>King Goodwill Zwelethini</i>	<i>Struggle</i>
<i>Dove</i>	<i>Painting</i>	<i>Universal</i>
<i>Enmity</i>	<i>Peace</i>	<i>Viewer</i>
<i>Foreground</i>	<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	<i>Zulu</i>
<i>Future</i>	<i>SA flag</i>	

The ... offers the ... a seat next to the ..., exhibiting the ... spirit for which South Africans are well-known. In the ..., placed on the new ..., figurines of Britain's ... and the ... monarch, ..., denote the nation's history of political ... and The two ... and rising ... represent a ... desire for ... and a prosperous The picture symbolises what most South Africans are ... for – and ... – after decades of ... and ...

Answer key

The painting offers the viewer a seat next to the great man, exhibiting the hospitable spirit for which South Africans are well-known. In the foreground, placed on the new SA flag, figurines of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the Zulu monarch, King Goodwill Zwelethini, denote the nation's history of political struggle and compromise. The two children and rising dove represent a universal desire for peace and a prosperous future. The picture symbolises what most South Africans are striving for – and achieving – after decades of enmity and strife.