

# True history through struggle heroes' lives



**Book:** Learning African History: Freedom Fighter Series 2

**Author:** Chris van Wyk  
**Publisher:** Awareness Publishing  
**Reviewer:** Zenoyise Madikwa

When the scary chapter written during our apartheid past was closed, the first page of a new chapter of true South African history was opened.

South Africans now no longer have to be subjected to lies and distorted tales about their own past.

*Learning African History: Freedom Fighters, Series 2*, a boxed set of 10 books, is an example of this new breed of books that tell our history as it was.

These books are aimed at children aged 10 years and are English first language speakers, and 11-year-old second language speakers.

The series presents short biographies of prominent South African freedom fighters including Nelson Mandela, Lillian Ngoyi, Joe Slovo and Walter Sisulu.

The biographies lay bare the influences and important events in the lives of these struggle heroes during the dark

days of apartheid. Children will easily relate to many of the childhood stories about these heroes.

Each read is politically inspired, insightful, readable, provocative and engaging.

The



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tion is not only a teaching resource for children, but adults will also delight in them.

The colourfully packaged hardcover

books have lots of photos and the large font and pleasing layout make them very attractive for young readers. The glossary that explains terms encourages independent reading.

Chris Van Wyk, an esteemed poet, novelist and children's book writer, celebrates the achievements of those who fought for the realisation of a common humanity and the building of a nonracial

democ-  
racy.

Van Wyk was born at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospi-

tal, Soweto, in 1957. He was educated at Riverlea High School in Riverlea, Johannesburg, where he still lives.

This series follows van Wyk's *Series 1*, which includes Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko, Sol Plaatjie and Govan Mbeki.

The third series covers some of the country's most important artists.