

# South African heroes



## Natalie du Toit

Natalie du Toit was born in 1975 in Cape Town. Natalie is an excellent swimmer. One morning after swimming practise she had a dreadful road accident. She had to have her left leg amputated. How would she be able to swim with only one leg?

### Why is Natalie a hero?

Natalie did not see her disability as a problem – she saw it as a challenge. She has continued swimming in competitions. In the 1992 Commonwealth Games she won two gold medals, and was voted “Outstanding Athlete” by everyone at the Games.

Every time Natalie du Toit swims, she shows us how to overcome our challenges .

## Elizabeth Mkhonza

Elizabeth Mkhonza lives in Daveyton in Gauteng. She was sad that so many children had to be left alone at home each day because their parents had to go to work. Elizabeth decided to start a school in her garage for these children. Many people heard about this wonderful idea, and soon the garage had too many children in it. Now Elizabeth runs a school in a new building. There are two teachers to help her, and 45 children at the school.



### Why is Elizabeth Mkhonza a hero?

Elizabeth is a hero because she has helped so many people. The children at her school are kept safe, and their parents don't have to worry about them any more. Her idea was to help other people.

**A hero is a person who does a brave or good thing.**

## Mark Shuttleworth

Mark Shuttleworth was born in the Free State. He grew up in Cape Town and studied at the University of Cape Town. He started a company called Thawte Consulting which he sold for a lot of money. In 1992 he did what he always dreamed of – he went into space.



### Why is Mark a hero?

Mark is famous for being the first African in space, but he is a hero because of all the good work he and the organisation he started is doing. His organisation supports new education projects.

## Andile Gaelesiwe

Andile was born in Meadowlands 29 yrs ago. She is a singer/songwriter, founder of the Open Disclosure Foundation which deals with victims of sexual violence. Andile also manages the social responsibility projects for Gauteng's no1 youth station YFM.



### Why is Andile a hero?

Andile is a hero because she spoke out against rape. She used her life experience to help others. Andile's courage in talking about her rape shows us that we all have the power to make a difference.

## Class hero of the week

## Miriam Makeba

Miriam Makeba was born in 1932. She has a beautiful voice, and soon became very well known for her singing. Miriam Makeba has been given a special name, “Mama Africa”.

### Why is Mama Africa a hero?

In 1963 Mama Africa spoke out against apartheid in South Africa, and lost her citizenship and right to return to the land of her birth. She lived in the United States of America and Guinea. This did not stop her from telling the world how bad apartheid was. At last the South African government changed its mind in the 1980s, and Mama Africa came home.

Mama Africa is a hero because she was prepared to give up something for what she knew was right.



**How many heroes do you know?**

**What heroic acts do you know about, or have you done?**

**Write four words in African languages for 'hero'.**

## Makhaya Ntini

Makhaya Ntini was born in 1977 in the Eastern Cape. He has always loved cricket, and plays very well. Makhaya is a brilliant right arm fast bowler. He was chosen to play for the South African cricket team, the Proteas. This was the most exciting day of his life. In early 2003 he became one of the world's top ten bowlers.

### Why is Makhaya a hero?

Makhaya is a hero because he has worked hard on his talents and achieved well.



# South African heroes

## Introduction

This poster is for Intermediate Phase learners and educators.

This poster has the following aims:

1. to develop an understanding of what a hero is
2. to help the learners understand that heroes come from all walks of life
3. to introduce learners to some South African heroes
4. to offer the learners the opportunity to think about opportunities to be heroes
5. to offer opportunities to develop self esteem

## Activity 1

- Talk to the learners about a time when they were very brave, or good. Have the learners think about people in their lives who have been brave or very good.
- Introduce the poster, and read the sentences which defines what a hero is.

## Activity 2

- Talk to the learners about the different heroes on the poster. It is suggested that you don't talk about them all at the same time. This could be done over a period of a few lessons or even weeks.
- Have the learners read the text that tell about the hero. Ask the learners if they think that the person is truly a South African hero.

Point out to the learners that it is not only famous people who are heroes; anybody can be a hero. Elizabeth Mkhonza is a good example of this.

## Activity 3

- Read the African language words for 'hero'. Discuss how different languages treat the word 'hero' and what it means in its language and cultural context.
- Draw up a list of words for 'hero'.
- Talk to the learners about the differences or similarities of 'hero' in different languages.

## Activity 4

- Read the sentence and block that defines the word heroic.
- Help the learners to write a few sentences or story in which they use the word correctly.

## Activity 5

- Ask the learners to choose the person on the poster who they feel is the most heroic on the poster. They should write a paragraph saying why they feel that person is the greatest hero on the poster.
- Have the learners read their paragraphs to the class.

## Activity 6

**Class hero of the week**

- Explain to the learners that the blank space on the poster is for the class to vote for a learner who is a hero. Change the class hero every week.
- Encourage the learners to suggest someone to fill that space. They must explain to the class why they think that the person should be put up on the poster. If the class agrees, have a learner/group/class who nominated the hero create a block similar to the ones on the poster. They should follow the structure of the other blocks. The new hero can be put up in the blank space.  
**Note:** when a hero is replaced, put their hero block up on the wall next to the poster; do not throw it away.

## Activity 7

- Have the learners write an imaginary story about a heroic act that they have seen or heard about . Remind them to write full sentences and to use descriptive language.
- Divide the class into groups. They must read each story, and choose the best one. As a group they must act out the story for the class. Give the learners the opportunity to rehearse their plays.

## LET'S MEET 1

**Learning Programme: Social Science – history for grades 5 – 6**

This social sciences programme is about special people in our history.

South Africa would not be where it is today without the contribution of it's citizens. When looking at the history of South Africa, there are individuals that stand out because of their incredible talents, sacrifices, spirits and contribution to this great land. These are the heroes and their work has to be acknowledged and celebrated.

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# Teacher's notes

## Links to the National Curriculum Statements

Life Orientation

LO3: Personal Development

The learner will be able to use acquired life skills to achieve and extend personal potential to respond effectively to challenges in his or her world.

## Languages

LO1 –LO6

## School TV programmes for Intermediate Phase

**Soul Buddyz**

**Let's Meet 1**

**Let's Meet 2**

**Looking Back Moving Forward**

**Remember the day**

**Imvelo Yethu**

**On Track**

**Handmade 1&2**

**The Molo Show: Maths**

**Making Cents**

**Adventures of the Aftermath Crew**

**Loud and Proud**

**When I grow up**

**The goodness in me**