

POST SCREENING QUIZ:

THE LIFE OF ALBIE SACHS' AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

Based on the documentary film

Soft Vengeance: Albie Sachs and the New South Africa

A film by Abby Ginzberg

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1. When Albie Sachs volunteered to join the anti-apartheid struggle, he knew that he risked arrest. Why did he want to join the struggle and how did he answer his black comrade who said to him, "No, no, no, no, it's not for whites." How old was Albie when he was arrested the first time for anti-apartheid activity? What had he done? Why was Albie not sent to prison this time? What did Albie's response and subsequent activities in the anti-apartheid organisation tell us about Albie as a person: his ideals and moral fibre? Why was important for the future of our country that Albie, a young white man, be allowed to join in with black people in the fight against Apartheid?
2. What role did Albie play in the anti-apartheid movement when he was 21?
3. Albie was present at the Congress of the People in Kliptown when the Freedom Charter was signed in 1955. He described The Freedom Charter as something which was carried "inside ourselves," "in memory," and which was the result of people who came together to 'imagine freedom'? Why did people not carry a copy of the document with them? What crime would the supporters of the Freedom Charter have committed if they did possess a copy of the document? What was the official punishment for this crime in South Africa at this time?
4. The word 'defiance' means disobedience or rebelliousness. What was The Defiance Campaign? What did the members of this movement defy and how did they do it?
5. Describe what happened at Sharpeville when police met the crowd of peaceful protesters? How many people were killed and injured?
6. Why did Albie refer to Sharpeville as "that tipping point moment"? How did this incident 'tip' history? What was the response of the South African government to the Sharpeville incident?
7. What decision did Nelson Mandela make as a result of the events at Sharpeville?
8. In 1963, Albie Sachs, aged 28 was detained in solitary confinement. Why was Albie arrested and placed in solitary confinement in Cape Town? How long was he locked up the first time? Name the book Albie wrote about this experience. Describe his attitude while he was in solitary confinement. What was the first thing Albie did on his release?
9. During Albie's first solitary confinement, Nelson Mandela and was tried for treason in the Rivonia Trial.
In his famous speech he said, "During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die," Nelson Mandela on 20 April 1964
What crime were the people accused of in this Rivonia Trial?
Name some of the ideals for which Nelson Mandela was prepared to die.
10. How long was Mandela's prison sentence? Why do you think that Nelson Mandela not executed?
11. What did Mandela's imprisonment and then release on 11 February 1990 mean for black South Africans?

12. What was strange about the different ways the characters, Nelson Mandela and the others and Denis Goldberg were imprisoned after the Rivonia Trial?
13. List three praiseworthy qualities or characteristic shared by Nelson Mandela and Albie which enabled their successful leadership skills in the struggle against apartheid.
14. Name the country where Albie went after his release from his second solitary confinement? Who was he with and what did he do there?
15. What do you call someone who is forced to leave their home country unwillingly, for political reasons, and has to stay away as punishment? Are there exiles in the world today?
16. What does 'political asylum' mean?
17. Why is Portuguese still the official language in Mozambique today?
18. What is the Commonwealth? Why is it important to be a member of the Commonwealth?
19. Why did Albie go to Mozambique? What political interest did the ANC have in Mozambique? Describe the how the Code of Conduct (which Albie drafted for the ANC at the request of Oliver Tambo in Zambia) related to Albie's time in prison.
20. The personal triumph of Albie Sachs is depicted when Albie chooses 'soft vengeance' instead of 'hard vengeance'. Describe the incident which occurred in Mozambique which disabled Albie. When did this incident occur? Who was responsible for his disability and how did Albie respond to this disability? What would have been the consequences if Henri had succeeded in arranging Albie's death? Why did Albie invent the phrase soft vengeance and what is the traditional definition of 'hard vengeance'?
21. When and why did Albie return to his home country? How long had he been away? What lesson did Albie learn from the war in Mozambique that he did not want repeated in South Africa? What did Albie do immediately he returned to South Africa from Mozambique?
22. What was the direct catalyst that spurred the government and the ANC on to work even harder to reach consensus with the apartheid government and bring about change that would ensure freedom and democracy? What role did Nelson Mandela play in ensuring a non-violent transition to create a new South Africa?
23. What was the purpose of The Truth Commission? Why was it established? Who were important leaders of this Commission? Were murderers and torturers given general amnesty and just allowed to walk free in the new SA? Albie shook Henri's hand after Henri had been to the Truth Commission. What did this mean to Henri and Albie? Has reconciliation in South Africa been complete?
24. Albie played an important role in the creation of the highest Court in the land. What is its name? When and where was this court built? Explain what was so significant about the site chosen for this court. When did Albie receive his appointment to this court and who appointed him? How many justices were appointed to serve on this court? What was so remarkable that Justice Yvonne Mokgoro was also appointed to this highest Court in the land?
25. Why does the Constitutional Court have an art collection? What role did Albie play in collecting art for this court? What role does art have in government and politics?
26. Explain how the new South African Constitution has changed South African to enable the following:
 - Albie and Vanessa's marriage
 - The abolition of the death sentence
 - Same sex marriages
 - The abolition of the Slums Act
27. What does this quotation mean: "South Africa's democracy depends on the Constitutional Court" (Nelson Mandela)