

Words Paint Pictures *by Elsa Roberts Auerbach*

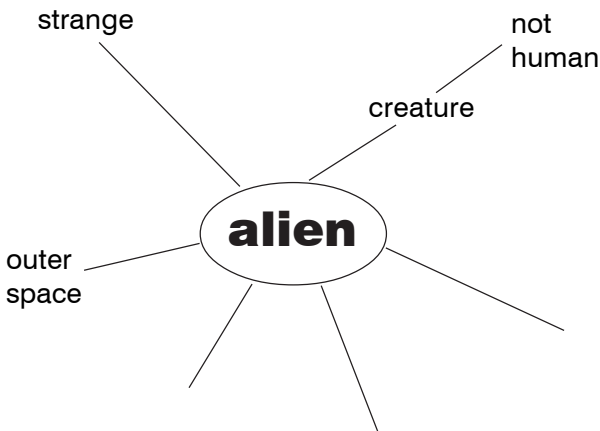
Nelson Mandela was a leader of the movement fighting against the apartheid system of government in South Africa. Under apartheid, whites (who made up only 13% of the population) controlled the government of South Africa and people of different racial backgrounds were segregated in every aspect of their lives. By law, Blacks had no rights: they were not allowed to vote, to live in the cities without special permission, or to marry someone of another race. Nelson Mandela was part of a movement to bring democracy and rights for all races to South Africa. Because of his activity, he was imprisoned for 18 years. He was elected President of South Africa in its first democratic election in 1994 after apartheid ended.



Different words that describe the same person tell different stories about that person.



The language that is used to describe people who were born in one country but live in another country also paints pictures of those people. What comes to mind when you hear the word *alien*? Brainstorm all the words you think of:



Now do the same for the following words:

illegal, immigrant, international visitor, foreigner, native, newcomer, refugee, undocumented worker, citizen

What words have been used to describe you? Add them to this list.

1. Which of these words have positive meanings?
2. Which have negative meanings?
3. Which do you like better? Why? Which are most commonly used? By whom? Where? Why?

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