

« *Free Nelson Mandela* » by *The Specials* (1984)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoThjlnKQ94>

Free Nelson Mandela
Free, Free, Free, Nelson Mandela
Free Nelson Mandela

Twenty-one years in captivity
His shoes too small to fit his feet
His body abused but his mind is still free
Are you so blind that you cannot see

I say Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you
Free Nelson Mandela

He pleaded the causes of the ANC
Only one man in a large army
Are you so blind that you cannot see
Are you so deaf that you cannot hear his plea

Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you Free Nelson Mandela

Twenty-one years in captivity
Are you so blind that you cannot see
Are you so deaf that you cannot hear
Are you so dumb that you cannot speak

I say Free Nelson Mandela
Oh oh I'm begging you
Free Nelson Mandela
Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you, begging you please
free Nelson Mandela
free Nelson Mandela
I'm telling you, you've got to free Nelson Mandela

SPECIALS



2
TONE

Analyse the lyrics !

- 1) What does « 21 years » refer to ?
- 2) In this song, does the singer ask for / celebrate / condemn the release of N.Mandela ? Justify.
- 3) Which party did N.Mandela belong to ? Justify.
- 4) Do you think this song is optimistic or pessimistic ? Justify your choice.
- 5) Use your answers to those questions to sum up the message of the song.