

READING

NAME: _____

Read the article and match phrases a-g with spaces 1-6. There's one extra phrase which doesn't belong in the article.

- a even a little shy sometimes
- b when he heard the news
- c who had grown up on a farm
- d showing tourists around Robben Island
- e hoping to become his friend
- f This person was my warden
- g although this wasn't allowed by the prison authorities

My prisoner, my friend, my president and my father



In 1978, Christo Brand joined the prison service. He was an 18-year-old white South African boy _____. Now he was being sent to work as a warden in the famous prison on Robben Island. There, he was told, he was going to work with the biggest criminals in South African history, including political prisoners. Brand didn't know very much about politics – he just knew that he was going to work with some dangerous people.

And then he met prisoner 46664, a quiet 60-year-old black man who started to talk to Brand and ask him questions – questions about his family, his education, his plans for the future. Prisoner 46664 was Nelson Mandela, who would one day become the first black president of South Africa.

'There was no colour barrier between us,' said Brand, who later worked as a guide _____. 'Like me, Mandela came from a farm. We understood that we shared the same sky and the same air.' The two men got on well and became quite close, _____. They had to keep their friendship secret and their conversations had to be short. Brand found that Mandela was a warm and thoughtful person, _____.



Mandela was also a generous man, and he never forgot his friend. When he became president, he got Brand a job. One day, at a meeting of important politicians, Brand was in the room and was putting documents on the table. When Mandela came in, he saw Brand, went to him and hugged him. Mandela looked at all the people in the room and said, '_____. This person was my friend.' Brand says that he felt very proud at that moment.

Nelson Mandela died in December 2013, aged 95. Like so many people around the world, Brand was very sad _____. He said at the time, 'Mandela was my prisoner, my friend, my president and my father.'

