Reading Comprehension: FAMILY

I Let's do a brainstorming exercise. Go to menti.com and insert the code given by your teacher.
II Now look at the pictures and the title. In your opinion, what is the text about? Check the option(s).

a) The friendship between two men
b) Two men who are prisoners
c) A man's father who went to prison and became president
d) The relationship between a prisoner and a prison warden

III Read the text carefully. Check the glossary below.

My prisoner, my friend, my president and my father

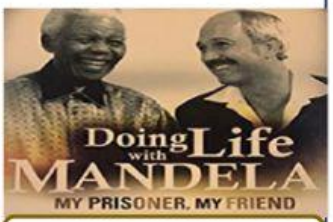
In 1978, Christo Brand was an 18-year-old white South African boy. He became a warden in the famous prison on Robben Island. This is where the biggest criminals in South Africa were imprisoned, including political prisoners. Brand didn't know much about politics.

a)

And then he met prisoner 46664, a quiet 60-year-old black man. He 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. "Like me, Mandela came from a farm. We understood that we shared the same sky and the same air."

b)

The two men became friends. But their friendship had to be secret and their conversations had to be short. Brand considered Mandela a warm and thoughtful person.



c) Christo Brand's book

Mandela was a generous man, and he never forgot his friend. When he became president, he got Brand a job. One day, Brand was putting documents on the table when Mandela came in. He saw Brand, went to him and hugged him. Mandela looked at all the important people in the room and said: "This person was my warden and 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."**

d)

1-prisoner: *prisioneiro*; **2-warden**: *guarda prisional*; **3-imprisioned:** *preso;* **4-barrier:** *barreira;* **5-thoughtful:** *atencioso;* **6-hug (v):** *abraçar;* **7-proud:** *orgulhoso*

IV Label the pictures.
V Choose the correct option, <u>according to the text.</u>

1 When he was a young man...
A - Christo Brand worked in a prison.
B - Christo Brand went to prison.
C - Christo Brand was a criminal.

2 Robben Island is...
A - a beautiful island in the Pacific.
B - a city in South Africa.
C - where a prison is located.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

VI Decide if the statements are true, false or not stated <u>in the text</u>.

	T	F	NS	
1				There were only women in Robben Island prison.
2				Christo Brand was afraid of the dangerous criminals.
3				Prisoner 46664 was a lovely older man, not a dangerous criminal.
4				Mandela was interested in his warden and he liked him.
5				Prisoner 46664 was the future president of South Africa.
6				Nelson Mandela and Christo Brand didn't have anything in common.
7				They were friends and it wasn't a problem.
8				When Mandela became president, he helped Brand.
9				The others weren't impressed with the fact that they were friends in prison.
10				Brand loved his ex-prisoner like a father.

VII Match the words with their meaning <u>in the text. Two words are not needed!</u>

1-well known (paragraph 1)

2-get to know somebody (paragraph 2)

3-a place with domestic animals (paragraph 2)

4-recognize/realize (paragraph 2)

5-nobody knows this (paragraph 3)

6-not remember (paragraph 4)

7-heartbroken/unhappy (paragraph 5)

FORGET

DECIDE

MEET

SECRET

SAD

HAPPY

FAMOUS

FARM

UNDERSTAND

LIVEWORKSHEETS