

Keeper of the Word Foundation

In the beginning there was the word...

"Dear Mrs. Parks...
Dear Mr. Mandela"



"Dear Mrs. Parks...Dear Mr. Mandela"

CHILDREN'S LETTERS, GLOBAL LESSONS

Dear Edutech Readers:

The exhibition of "Dear Mr. Mandela... Mrs. Parks" Children's Letters: Global Lessons was conceptualized as a vision to demonstrate the connection between Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks through the world's children who wrote letters on courage, strength, education, love, God and power. The Global Lessons letters have already affected families, schools, communities and the collective thoughts on human rights in Africa since the exhibit launch on Mandela's 90th birthday. This vision was inspired by the book *Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue With Today's Youth* by Rosa Parks with Gregory J. Reed, and Mr. Nelson Mandela's archival letters received during his imprisonment at Robben Island, and has been made possible through their letters from thousands of children from around the world. The letters reveal the innocence of children's hearts and the need for the kind of guidance illuminated by Mandela and Parks' life lessons to all generations.

Mandela and Parks' contributions, illustrated by the letters, set the standard for a more prominent, profound and current viewpoint of these Global Lessons. Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela, although being from two different continents, have both greatly admired and supported each other, through common morals, values and goals for the development of today's youth. This project has resurrected human hearts and encourages today's youth to become confident leaders.

"Dear Mr. Mandela... Mrs. Parks" Children's Letters: Global Lessons is a must see exhibition for today's and future generations and goes beyond letters and pictures, but presents an opportunity to enlighten individuals universally to continue in good faith the aspirations and vision for which Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks have fought. It is a reminder that as a global community we are able to use their examples, their struggles, and their fight for freedom, to overcome inequality and oppression so that each generation can reach their full potential.

Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela have built a foundation to help us clearly envision what we can accomplish as human beings to make our daily lives as meaningful and productive as possible. They have prepared a path in how we are to teach the next generation of leaders, professionals, and families to go forth and to strive in advancing the global community. The connection between Mandela and Parks is a bridge over global cultural division and a demonstration that we all are unified by the human spirit.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Reed, Founder



Dear Mrs. Rosa Parks,

First of all I would like to say how much I admire you. There are many people that do not have the courage to stand up for themselves. I am one of them. I am oriental and I hear lots of jokes and comments about my race but I am too afraid to stand up for myself because I feel that I am outnumbered. I can't help but think that I am in living in a "white man's world" and no matter what I do I will not be treated the same because of the color of my skin. That is one of the reasons why I wish there were more people in the world like you, not afraid to stand up for themselves.

Sincerely,
Lin Huynh

Dear Rosa Parks,

Hi! My name is Elvia Valenzuela. I think you were very brave from the way you didn't listen to the white people and you got arrested. I really think that you didn't listen because it was your belief that black people needed rights to sit in the front. One day I heard a girl telling a boy that she wanted to be in their group in class. The said that the group was only for boys and I just did what I believed in and told those boys that girls could do whatever they want, because they had rights. They didn't listen to me, but I felt good. You're really a hero.

Sincerely,
Elvia Valenzuela



Dear Mrs. Parks,

I am writing to you because my class and I are working on you. I have always wondered how you felt when that white man called you names? How did you feel in front of all those people? I bet your heart was broken. Just because you're black does not mean anything bad. I'm black too. People call me names. I just ignore them. My teacher says that's the best thing to do. I love you.

Yours Truly,
Rhence Lobez



Dear Mrs. Parks,

How are you? I have a question. How did it feel to be in jail? One of my best friends is black and she reminds me of you. If you could have one wish in your whole life what would you choose? I would choose to stop world hunger.

Love,
Kalina Reveles

Dear Mrs. Parks,

Was it lonely to be in jail? Were you happy when Martin Luther King got you out of jail? I am reading a book about you. That's why I asked you this question. Sometimes I get bored and play football or play station. This is how I stay out of trouble. I'm glad you got out of jail and got rid of the dumb laws.

Thank you. Your friend,
Martin Parra



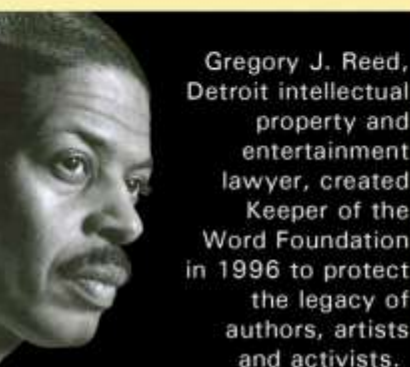
Dear Mrs. Parks,

When you got arrested how did it feel? I love school. My teacher told me a lot about you. If I were you I would be proud. I am Mexican and I am proud. You stood up for yourself. You must be happy. You made the laws better for you and me. I am 9 years old.

Love,
Aja Alvarado

"Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others."

- Rosa Parks



Gregory J. Reed, Detroit intellectual property and entertainment lawyer, created Keeper of the Word Foundation in 1996 to protect the legacy of authors, artists and activists.