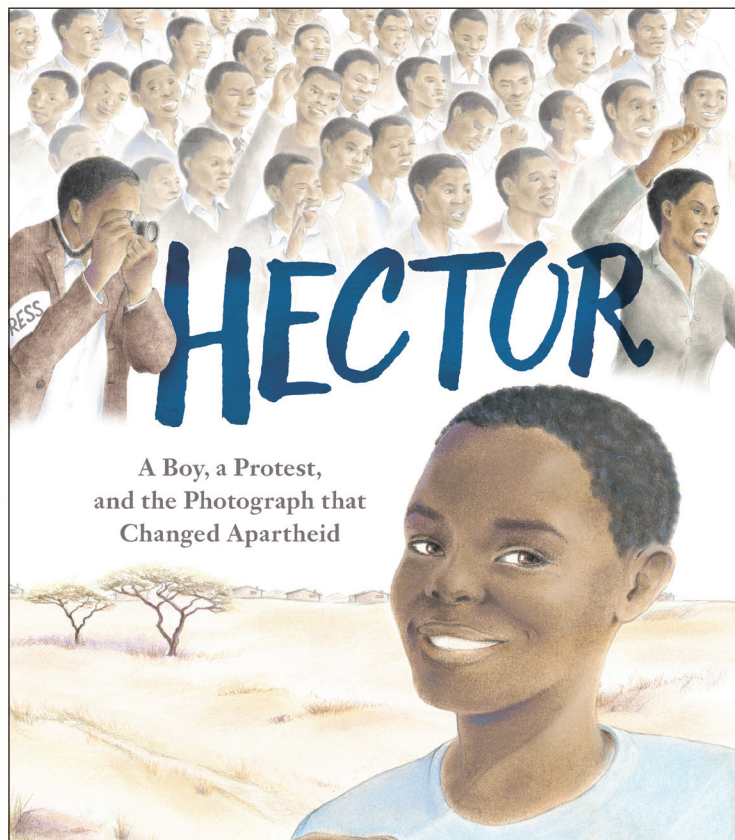




HECTOR

A Boy, a Protest,
and the Photograph that Changed Apartheid

Written and illustrated by **ADRIENNE WRIGHT**



Published by



INTRODUCTION

HECTOR ZOLILE PIETERSON lost his life on June 16, 1976 during a student-led protest that was meant to change laws and help black people in South Africa live freely and equally to white people. He was just 13 years old and began his day like any other. Adrienne Wright tells the story through the lens of three people: Hector; his older sister, Antoinette; and photographer, Sam Nzima. All three people have a different perspective, but share the same story—the heartbreaking fate of Hector caught in a world of oppression. This beautiful tribute is written and drawn in graphic panels and draws the reader into the time and place of this tragedy. Although the story is tragic, this book is an inspiring way for young readers to begin to connect to history or can be used by older readers to begin a conversation about the struggles that existed in South Africa for years*. Adrienne Wright carefully researched this story so that the world could learn that one young man affected such change.

*Due to the sensitive nature of this book and the content included in some of the activities, teachers are advised to proceed thoughtfully. Notifying families and guardians before beginning the book is recommended. The format of the book makes it accessible for all ages, but the depth of discussion may vary depending on the age of the reader.



ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is apartheid? Discuss the impact it had on the people of South Africa.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7yvnUz2PLE>
- Compare the conflicts in South Africa to the struggles that have occurred in other parts of the world. How are they alike? How are they different?
- Describe Hector. How many adjectives can you list to describe him?
- How did the children respond to their mother's encouragement to speak Afrikaans when they were counting? How would you respond? Should the government control the language spoken at school? Why or why not? What role do you think the government should have in education?
- In South Africa white schools and black schools were not equal. Find evidence in the story that supports this fact. How does Hector respond to the inequality?
- Study Sam Nzima's photograph. What do you see? Describe the emotions that you see in the photograph.
- Why do you think the police were confiscating the film from the press? Why is this important to the story?
- Do you think words or photographs have a bigger social impact? Explain your thinking.
- Compare Hector's interaction between the *tsotsis* (bullies) and the police at the protest. How are they similar? How are they different?
- *Kirkus Reviews* said this story is "A tragic but inspiring story about an event in South Africa's history that must never be forgotten." Why is it important to keep a story like Hector's alive? He is described in the book as "a compelling symbol of the cost of apartheid". How does South Africa remember Hector? Why is it important for the rest of the world to remember him?
- How does the layout of the book affect the storytelling? How does it draw the reader in? Why do you think Adrienne Wright chose to tell the story in this way? Why do you think Wright tells the story from different perspectives? What perspectives are not included in the story? How might additional perspectives change the tone of the book?



ACTIVITIES

Perspective

Adrienne Wright and Hector Pieterse grew up in the same region, but had very different perspectives. Adrienne is white and her experiences in childhood differed from those of Hector and other black children. At times their differences in perspective could mean the difference between life and death. How might a person's perspective and experiences affect the course of their life? Think about simple things like which park you play at, what school you go to, if you take a car, bus or train to get to where you need to go, or where you were standing during an incident that you witnessed. You can also think of a conflict you have had with a friend or sibling. How do different experiences or point of view affect your outcome or opinion? How does an author use perspective to develop characters and create a story that has depth and layers? Adrienne Wright used three different perspectives to tell the story of June 16, 1976. Explore the use of perspective in other pieces of literature. There are many examples of this.



Here is a list of a few titles that can be analyzed:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson-docs/30792ChildrensBooks.pdf>

With a partner choose a short story from the list. Pay close attention to the lens that the characters see the story through. Draw a simple t-chart and include a column for each character. Make notes as you read that include the feelings, opinions, and background knowledge/experiences of each character. Once your note taking is complete, analyze the differences and discuss how each perspective affects the outcome of the story.

T-Chart

Character Name	Character Name

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3

Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6

Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Page Street Publishing Classroom Guide

(Recommended for grades 4–8)

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Sam Nzima's photograph of Hector Zolile Pieterse is one of *Time* Magazine's 100 most influential photographs of all time. Click on the link below to see the entire collection and read about the background of each photo. What makes a picture so powerful? Choose an image that speaks to you.

Then, choose your own form of expression to share your thoughts. It could be in the form of an essay, poem, rap, song, skit, painting, or any other way that will allow you to convey to an audience how you feel about the photo. Include facts as well as your opinions and feelings to express yourself.



Teachers might consider creating a gallery and performance/expression space so that students can share their perspectives, be inspired, and show the impact the photography has had on them.

<http://100photos.time.com/>

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Primary Source

A primary source can be a powerful tool to begin a discussion. The photo of Hector Pieterse, Antoinette Sithole, and Mbuyisa Makhubu is what sparked a movement for social justice. It's what inspired Adrienne Wright to create this picture book. There are many reasons to use primary sources when teaching or researching. Follow the link to view the newspaper in which the photograph was published, then watch the oral history of the protest told by Sam Nzima.

<http://time.com/4365138/soweto-anniversary-photograph/> .

Ask readers: Did viewing the primary sources enhance your understanding of the story? Why or why not? Now invite readers to explore other primary sources. The Library of Congress is a great place to start. Follow the link to read about primary sources and explore the library's online collection*. After exploring the Library of Congress's online resources have students choose a topic that they want to learn more about. Encourage students to share their new knowledge in the way they think is best. They might make a poster, create a social media post, design a diorama, or create a brochure. The possibilities are endless!

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/index.html>

*The material included in the Library of Congress's online resources are not organized by age level and do contain material that may be not be suitable for all ages.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8

Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

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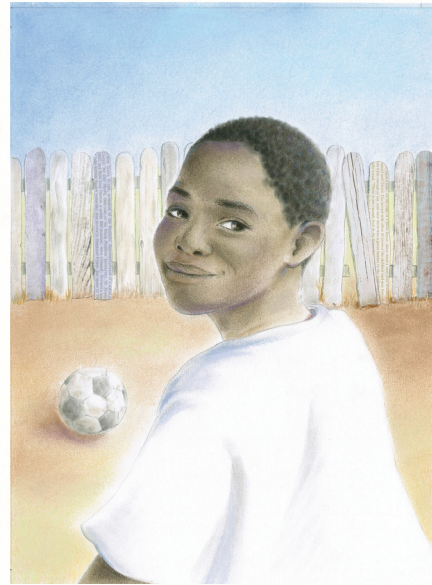
Page Street Publishing Classroom Guide

(Recommended for grades 4–8)

A Day in the Life....

Compare and contrast your everyday life with Hector's. How are you the same? How are you different? Use evidence from the text to draw conclusions about the type of person Hector was and how he spent his days. You can use any graphic organizer to take notes. Some information will be right there, but you may also need to use your prior knowledge to make some reasonable guesses about Hector. Will you have more in common or more differences? How might you respond to some of the challenges that Hector faced? Explore the similarities of children around the world as well as their uniqueness. Choose one of the videos in the link below to watch with a partner. Discuss how you are like the child in the video as well as how you are different. Fill in a Venn diagram as you discuss. What did you learn? Did you have more differences or more in common than the child in the video? Why is it important to learn about children from other cultures?

<https://kidsinothercountries.org/>



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6

Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

WORKSHEET



The Pen is Mightier Than a Sword

The written word is a powerful tool! Promote the practice of using the pen (or pencil!) to make change.

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Name: _____

Date: _____

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN A SWORD

This quote by Edward George Bulwer-Lytton has lived on and holds true to this day. The high school students in Soweto were frustrated with the inequality that apartheid brought to their nation. They turned to peaceful protest as a way to be heard. Unfortunately their story ended in tragedy. One hundred seventy-six people were killed when police fired tear gas and bullets into the crowd. Persuasive writing is a form of peaceful, intellectual protest. When it is done well, it can cause important changes in a safe way. What do you want to change? Choose a topic and write an essay that will persuade your readers to see your point of view. Use your pen to honor Hector's memory and make a positive change. How do you write an effective persuasive essay? Here are 7 tips for a strong piece of writing: <https://thebestschools.org/magazine/tips-for-writing-persuasive-essay/>

Step 1: Choose a topic. What is something that is interesting or important to you? Is there something you would like people to think differently about? What has been bugging you lately? Here is a link that might help you get started: <https://www.journalbuddies.com/writing-2/persuasive-writing-prompts-for-elementary-students/>

For those that are aiming a bit higher, this link will lead you to topics that may inspire you to make change on a larger scale: <http://www.kidsgoglobal.net/the-issues>

Step 2: Think about your topic. Complete the organizer below.

State your opinion:
1 fact that supports your opinion:
1 fact that supports your opinion:
1 fact that supports your opinion:
Restate your opinion:

Step 3: Put it all together. Use your organizer to write a well-developed essay. Be sure to ask a classmate to edit your work before you write your final draft!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Date: _____

Topic: _____

[illegible]