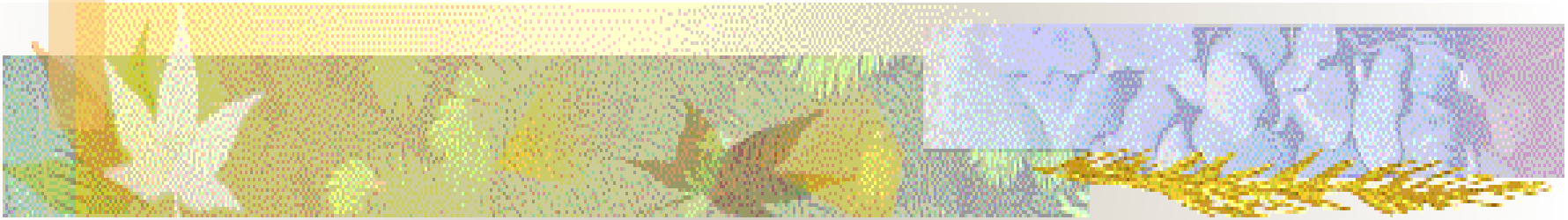


“Master Harold” ...and the boys



Background Information



Athol Harold Fugard

- Mother was an Afrikaner who ran the family business. Father frequently ill and permanently handicapped.
- Uses **his own life experiences** as fodder for his plays.
- Committed to producing socially conscious work and exposing injustices.




Setting

- Rainy afternoon, Willie, Sam and Hally conversing
- In a café managed by Hally's mother
- Port Elizabeth, South Africa
- Circa 1950's

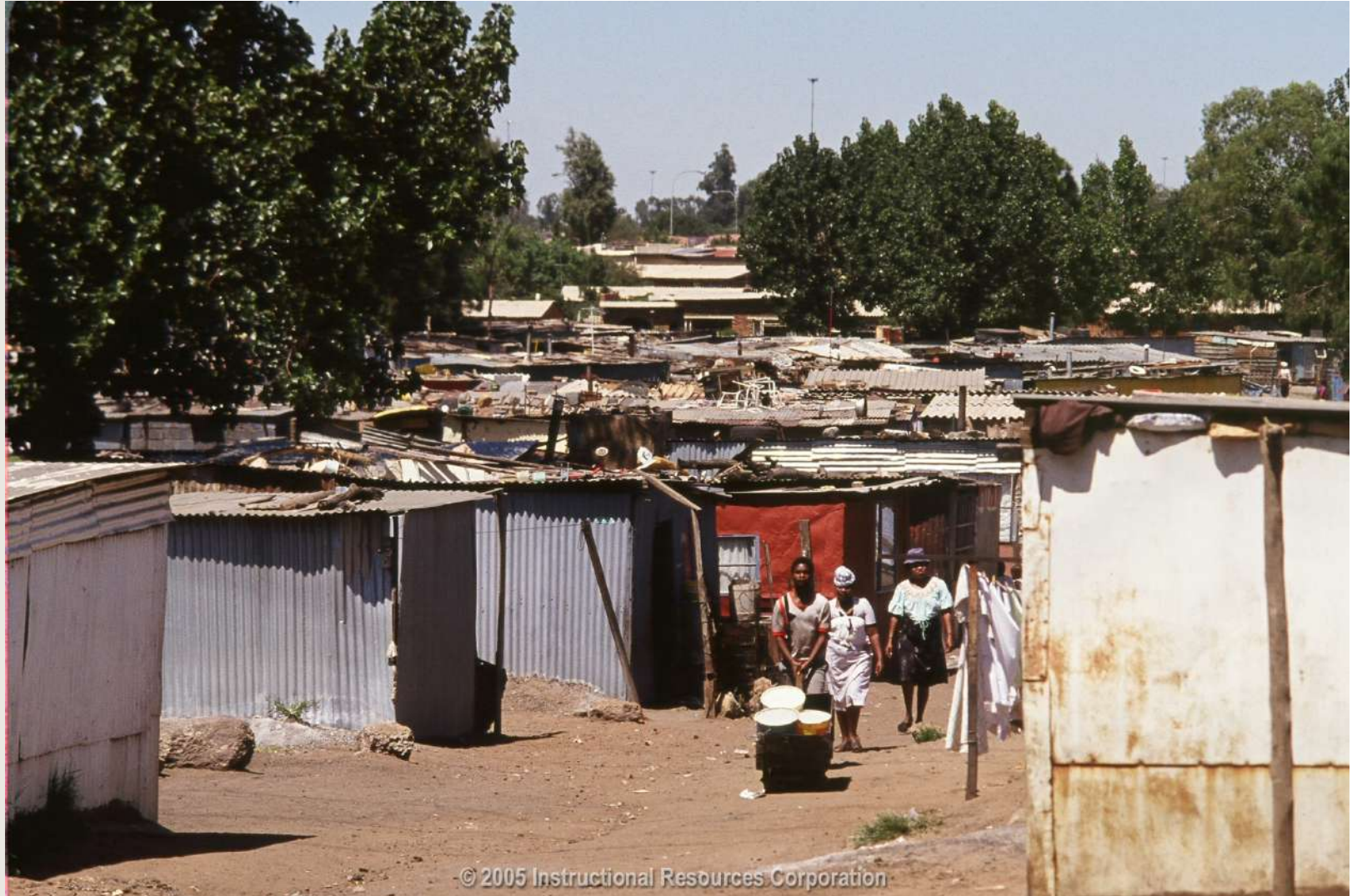


Apartheid 1948-1994

- In Afrikaans, means “**separate-ness**”
- A system of laws put in place by the white minority government in South Africa.

- 
- **Enforced discrimination** and segregation of the black majority, denying them their basic civil and legal rights. (marriage, jobs, “passbooks”)
 - Created a culture in which hatred, alienation and xenophobia saturated **every level of human existence** (schools included).

Shacks in Soweto South Africa



Parliament House Cape Town, South Africa



Nelson Mandela

Invictus movie clip

- 1962- arrested for anti-apartheid activities, given life sentence.
- 1990- released at age 71, 27 years later
- 1994-1999- President of South Africa
- First South African president to be elected in a fully representative democratic election






How did Apartheid end?

- A complex web of internal and external pressures.
- Laws imploded due to widespread opposition.
- Western nations no longer fearing the influence of the Soviet Union began to withdraw financially in an effort to pressure the white minority government.
- Its culturally legacy is difficult to erase.



Living Standards

- In the 1950's Port Elizabeth was **overcrowded** with poor black South Africans.
- Black South Africans needed “papers” to do just about anything. Every aspect of their lives were controlled.

- 
- **Unsanitary** shanty towns were erected but demolished by officials.
 - Due to the 1953 Bantu Education Act, Willie and Sam were **deprived of an education.**

South Africa

- Africa is a continent, not a country.
- South Africa is a country located on the tip of that continent.





Please note!

- Sam and Willie are black South Africans.
- Hally is a white South African.
- Sam and Willie are not slaves, they are servants or employees.



Thematic Ideas

- Boyhood and Manhood
- Teacher and Student
- Personal and Political
- Anger and Hatred
- Forgiveness and Compassion
- Human Rights
- Coming of Age
- Idealism and Realism



Symbols and Metaphors

- **Dancing-** a metaphor for life/the world
 - Characters use dancing as a means to make sense of the world around them. The way they view the world is reflected in how they view dancing.
 - For Sam, ballroom dancing contains implications of an ideal world.
 - Eventually, it comes to represent a world free of prejudice and inequality.



Other Important Symbols

- The Kite & The Bench
- Rain & Foul skies
- Looking down & Looking up
- Social gestures- reflect political climate
- Titles:
 - “boy”vs. Sam
 - Hally vs. Master Harold



Warning!

- **Racism** is strongly suggested and **directly expressed** in this play.
- The play is a **political allegory** and represents the larger picture of what was taking place.