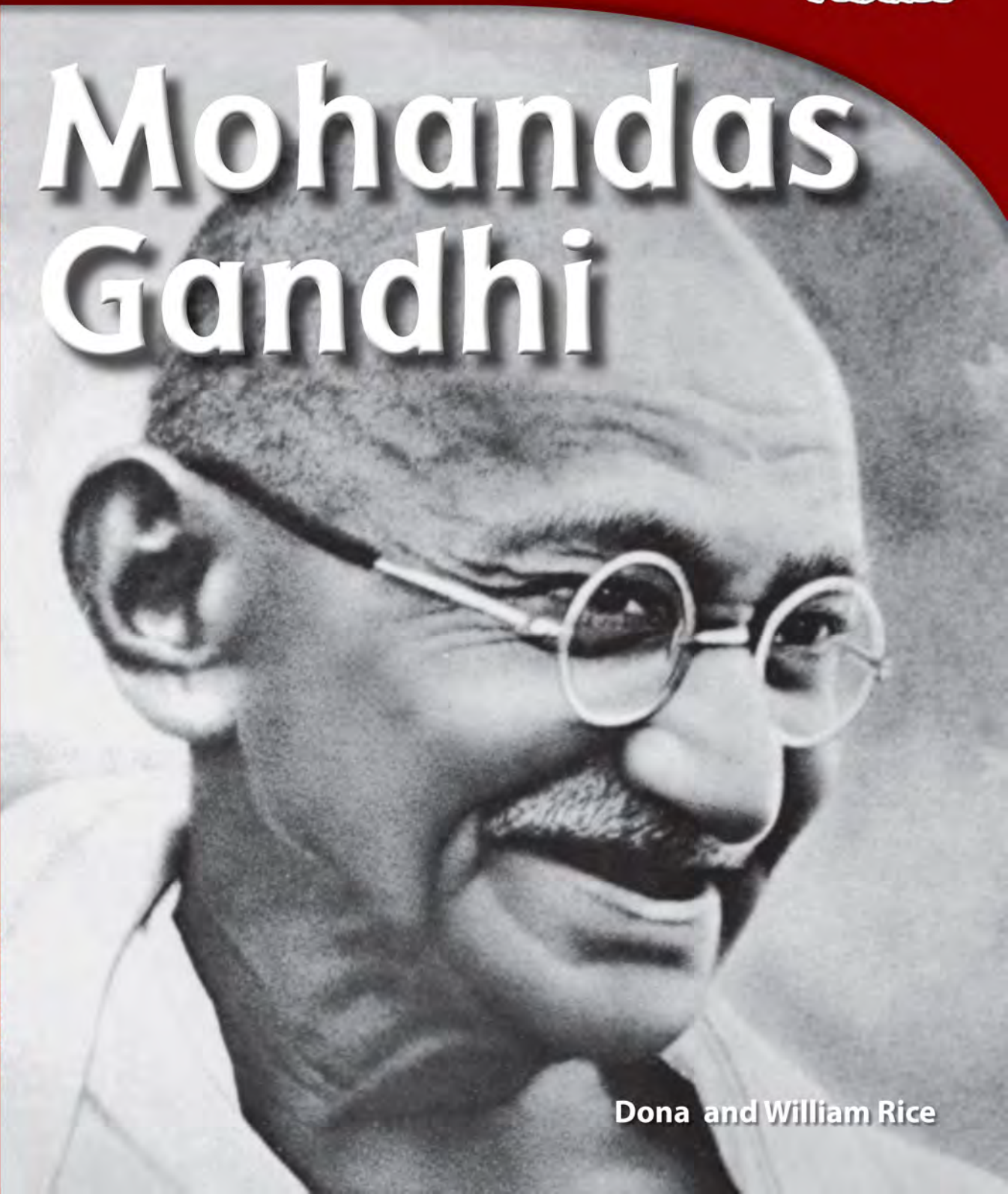
TIME FOR KIDS

Mohandas Gandhi



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Table of Contents

A Child of India 4
School Years. 8
Marriage 14
A British Colony. 16
Life in England 18
Life in South Africa 20
The Great Soul 23
Time Line. 29
Glossary 30
Index 31
About the Authors 32

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A Child of India

Along the west coast of India, by the Arabian Sea, there is a small town called Porbandar (pawr-BUHN-der). On October 2, 1869, a baby boy was born there. He was named Mohandas Gandhi (mo-huhn-DAHS GAHN-dee).





Mohandas's parents influenced him throughout his life.

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Mohandas's middle name was Karamchand, after his father's name. His mother's name was Putlibai.

Mohandas's family was good and **honorable**. They lived a strict **Hindu** life. Mohandas's father and grandfather served as **dewans** (dih-WAHNZ), or government advisors. This helped Mohandas to see the importance of public service. His mother was very gentle and **devout**. This helped form the way Mohandas saw the world.

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Hindu Temple of Shiva in Chennai, India

What Is Hinduism?

Hinduism is a religion that teaches that all living things are connected. It says that everyone must treat every other living thing with respect and love. Hinduism is a common religion in India.

School Years

Mohandas went to elementary school in Porbandar. Learning was difficult for him. Although he was kind and courteous and tried hard at school, he was labeled a poor student.

When Mohandas was seven, his family moved to another city. His father became a dewan there as well. Mohandas's troubles with school continued. He was very timid and shy, which made things even more challenging. But Mohandas kept trying.



Future Greatness

Mohandas did not stand out during his school years, so no one probably would have guessed that one day he would become a great leader. But one thing happened at school that showed the kind of man he would become. An inspector came to his school to test the students on what they knew. He gave the students a spelling test. Mohandas misspelled a word. His teacher told him to copy the word from a student next to him so that the inspector wouldn't see the mistake. Mohandas would not do it. He knew it was not an honorable thing to do.

Mohandas once said, "The purpose of education is to bring out the best in you."



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