

NEXT | FAVORITES OF THE FAMOUS

## Picture Perfect

National Geographic asked luminaries across genres—politics, film, and writing—to share with us the photographs that mean the most to them.

**KEN BURNS, Documentarian** Jerry Liebling was my mentor. He taught me how to see. His photograph "Boy and Car, New York City, 1949" abides with me. It is so simple and straightforward. Even when I close my eyes, especially when I close my eyes, I can see it: the boy's direct and revealing face, his improbable hockey shirt, his flapping old shoes, his irrepressible hat, the swoop of the car fender, the unmistakable honesty of the exchange between subject and artist, the subtle subtexts of race and money and power, all carefully balanced. Take a look at it again. It will reward another inspection.



**MICHELLE OBAMA, U.S. First Lady** Meeting Nelson Mandela in 2011 was such an honor—when I met him, I just kept saying, "Thank you, thank you, thank you." It also meant so much to me that my daughters were able to meet him. We encourage the girls to give back and engage, and meeting such an exemplary model of service and bravery was a life-changing experience for all of us.

PHOTOS: JEROME LIEBLING (TOP), OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY SAMANTHA APPLETON

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