

Summary of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie > 150

Nigerian born Chimamanda Ngozi is both a bestselling novelist and motivational speaker. Her journey began with her leaving Nigeria for the United States for a scholarship to Drexel University in Philadelphia. She went on to pursue a degree in communication and political science from Eastern Connecticut State University, and eventually to earn a master's degree in creative writing at Johns Hopkins University. In addition to the several bestselling novels she has authored, she has also written for various publications including Financial Times, The New Yorker, The O. Henry Prize Stories, Granta, and Zoetrope. Her time is divided between Nigeria, where she teaches regular writing workshops, and the United States.

Summary of ted talk: The Danger of a Single Story < 150

In a 2009 TED Talk, Chimamanda discusses the importance of hearing multiple sides to every story, and not just one. She states in this discussion that if we only hear one side, we risk critical misunderstanding to not only just other people, to other countries as well. She gives examples from her own youth of writing stories, based solely on her knowledge of the things she herself had read from British books. Stating that how because she had only had one 'story', she couldn't even imagine that characters like herself were even possible in literature. She states that by giving more dynamic representation for people, we are giving people more than one 'story' to listen to.

This TED talk has been critically acclaimed, and immensely popular with a current view count over of 17 million.

Do you think you've ever viewed someone under a particular representation?

Summary of ted talk: We Should All be Feminists < 150

Chimamanda had another TED Talk in 2012, this time about feminism and its true importance to society. In "We Should All Be Feminists", which Chimamanda later uses as a basis for her book of the same title, she talks about feminism and why it should be promoted around the world. She discusses how girls are conditioned to be not be threatening to men, and how this kind of a mindset could be harmful to our future. That women are just important as men. This conversation sparked a worldwide conversation about feminism and Adichie's dream that one day we would all be equal.

Summary of books: >150 words

1: Dear Ijeawele, Or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions

Upon receiving a letter from a childhood friend, Chimamanda was faced with the question 'how do you raise a girl as a feminist'? In "Dear Ijeawele", she gives her answer and digs right to the heart of the sexual political game that we are faced with in the twenty-first century. Written in the form of a letter, she gives fifteen suggestions that she deems invaluable for giving her friend's daughter all the tools she'll need to be a strong and independent woman.

2: We Should All Be Feminists

What exactly does ‘feminism’ mean in today’s society? With humor and wit, Chimamanda dives into this topic based off of her immensely successful TED talk of the same name. In “We Should All Be Feminists”, she discusses what she thinks the definition of feminism is for women today. In this well-argued personal essay, she draws from her own experiences as a native Nigerian woman, as a woman in the United States, as well as being abroad. At the heart of this book, she offers an artful explanation as to why gender bias is harmful not only to women, but to everyone. She poses all of while stating why she thinks we should all be feminists.

3: Americanah

“Americanah” is the story of two young people in love who escape Nigeria during a time of military rule, in order to better their lives. Life takes them into two separate directions for many years, until they eventually reunite in post-democratic Nigeria. There they fall back in love with not only their country, but with each other. This National Book Critics Circle Award Winner is a beautiful tale and deeply relatable to many people struggling to find their places in the world. In addition, this book was also named as The New York Times Top Ten Books of 2013.

4: The Thing Around Your Neck

In a collection of short stories, “The Thing Around Your Neck” offers a look into two different cultures and the ties between them. The collection is compiled of several different stories told from the perspectives of individuals from all walks of life. The chief story of the novel of a Nigerian woman moving to America and finds out it is nothing like she imagined. “A Private Experience” in which a medical student hides with a Muslim woman during a violent riot. “Tomorrow is Too Far” where a young woman unlocks the secrets around her brothers death. “Imitation” with the young woman who learns that her husband has moved his mistress into their home. Each story profoundly beautiful and moving in their own rights.

5: Half of a Yellow Sun

In “Half of a Yellow Sun”, Chimamanda creates a haunting novel about a historical time in modern African history when Biafra struggles to establish an independent republic in military-ruled Nigeria. She tells the story of three separate characters and how their journey’s eventually cross paths during this violent time in history. Interweaving lessons about moral responsibility, race, class, and love all into one to make for a powerful novel. This novel is an Orange Prize Winner, a National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist and a New York Times Notable Book.

6: Purple Hibiscus

While outwardly appearing to be a perfectly privileged in their Nigerian home, Kambili and her older brother Jaja are kept under strict conditions under their tyrannical father. The country begins to fall apart under the military-coup, so Kambili and her brother are sent to live with their aunt until things

settle. They discover a whole new world beyond their father's rule, and when they eventually return home, it's up to Kambili to keep her family together. "Purple Hibiscus" is the debut novel of Chimamanda, and has been awarded both the Commonwealth Writer's Prize and Hurston/Wright Legacy Award.