**The Danger of a Single Story**



 ** Author Bio:** Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born in Enugu, Nigeria in 1977. She graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in Communication and Political Science. She has a Master’s Degree in Creative Writing from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Arts degree in African History from Yale University. She was awarded a Hodder fellowship at Princeton University for the 2005-2006 academic year, and a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University for the 2011-2012 academic year. In 2008, she received a MacArthur Fellowship.

Her first novel, Purple Hibiscus (2003), won the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, and her second novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2006), won the Orange Prize. Her 2013 novel *Americanah* won the US National Book Critics Circle Award and was named one of T*he New York Times* Top Ten Best Books of 2013. She was named one of TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2015. In 2017, Fortune Magazine named her one of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders.

In her landmark 2009 TedTalk, Adichie explains how we often assign identity to others: we tell single stories that create stereotypes, which then become the only stories that are told and believed to be true. In the talk, she walks the listener through numerous examples of single stories and theirharmfulimpact**.** She also engages with the notions of power and vulnerability and storytelling as a critical vehicle for influencing the lives of people.

**Pre-Reading Discussion:**

1. Think about a situation in which you experienced or were responsible for a single story. What effect did this limited view have on the people involved.
2. Why might we tell single stories of a group of people? Who is more likely to have single stories told about them? What possible harm might this have?

**During Reading: Learning Spread**

Create a shape in the center of 11.5 X17 paper – leave this central space blank. As we view the TedTalk, use the remaining space to create a learning spread of **ideas, key words/phrases, images, and questions** that resonate with you. Use connectors, colours, lists, arrows, T-charts and other graphic organizers to make sense of the ideas Adichie explores.

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OR if you are a linear person, use the Ted Talk Notes that we have used previously. Find on my blog

**After Reading: exploring text and ideas (you can write on here, or the back of your learning spread)**

1. How did the stories that Chimamanda heard or read as a child clash with her lived experience – what may be the consequences of this disconnect?
2. What groups within society might be more prone to a single story being told of their identity? What groups have some protection against a single story? What does this tell us about power and voice?
3. What was Adichie’s single story of Fide?
4. What was her college roommate’s story about Adichie?
5. Why is it important for young children to see themselves in literature?
6. How did Adichie’s reading of British literature affect her writing? Similarly, how did reading African literature affect her writing?

**Consolidating your Learning (Day 2)**

1. **“Why Am I Not on Star Trek?”** we will read together and annotate in class
2. **Rhetorical Devices-**we will be exploring these to add spice to our writing
3. **Narrative Essay-**we will be working on this in class over the next few days