

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie "Danger of a Single Story"
Ted Talk Transcript Cloze Activity**

Fill in the blanks with the words you hear in the video. The word bank is below if you need it.

02:29

Now, I loved those American and British [1] _____ I read. They stirred my [2] _____ . They opened up new [3] _____ for me. But the unintended consequence was that I did not know that people like me could [4] _____ in literature. So what the [5] _____ of African writers did for me was this: It saved me from having a [6] _____ story of what books are.

02:51

I come from a conventional, [7] _____ -class Nigerian family. My father was a [8] _____ . My mother was an administrator. And so we had, as was the norm, live-in domestic [9] _____ , who would often come from nearby rural [10] _____ . So, the year I turned eight, we got a new house boy. His name was Fide. The only thing my mother told us about him was that his [11] _____ was very [12] _____ . My mother sent yams and [13] _____ , and our old clothes, to his family. And when I didn't finish my dinner, my mother would say, "Finish your food! Don't you know? People like Fide's family have [14] _____ ." So I felt enormous [15] _____ for Fide's family.

03:36

Then one Saturday, we went to his village to visit, and his mother showed us a beautifully patterned [16] _____ made of dyed raffia that his brother had made. I was [17] _____ . It had not occurred to me that anybody in his family could actually [18] _____ something. All I had heard about them was how poor they were, so that it had become [19] _____ for me to see them as anything else but poor. Their poverty was my single [20] _____ of them.

04:05

Years later, I thought about this when I left Nigeria to go to university in the United States. I was 19. My American roommate was [21] _____ by me. She asked where I had learned to speak English so well, and was confused when I said that Nigeria happened to have English as its official language. She asked if she could [22] _____ to what she called my "tribal [23] _____ ," and was consequently very disappointed when I [24] _____ my [25] _____ of Mariah Carey.

Word Bank: Basket, books, discovery, exist, family, help, imagination, impossible, listen, make, middle, music, nothing, pity, poor, produced, professor, rice, shocked, single, startled, story, tape, villages, worlds

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie “Danger of a Single Story”
Ted Talk Transcript Answer Key**

02:29

Now, I loved those American and British **books** I read. They stirred my **imagination**. They opened up new **worlds** for me. But the unintended consequence was that I did not know that people like me could **exist** in literature. So what the **discovery** of African writers did for me was this: It saved me from having a **single** story of what books are.

02:51

I come from a conventional, **middle**-class Nigerian family. My father was a **professor**. My mother was an administrator. And so we had, as was the norm, live-in domestic **help**, who would often come from nearby rural **villages**. So, the year I turned eight, we got a new house boy. His name was Fide. The only thing my mother told us about him was that his **family** was very **poor**. My mother sent yams and **rice**, and our old clothes, to his family. And when I didn't finish my dinner, my mother would say, "Finish your food! Don't you know? People like Fide's family have **nothing**." So I felt enormous **pity** for Fide's family.

03:36

Then one Saturday, we went to his village to visit, and his mother showed us a beautifully patterned **basket** made of dyed raffia that his brother had made. I was **startled**. It had not occurred to me that anybody in his family could actually **make** something. All I had heard about them was how poor they were, so that it had become **impossible** for me to see them as anything else but poor. Their poverty was my **single** story of them.

04:05

Years later, I thought about this when I left Nigeria to go to university in the United States. I was 19. My American roommate was **shocked** by me. She asked where I had learned to speak English so well, and was confused when I said that Nigeria happened to have English as its official language. She asked if she could **listen** to what she called my "tribal **music**," and was consequently very disappointed when I **produced** my **tape** of Mariah Carey.