Chimamanda Adichie: The Danger of a Single Story

Before Video Discussion Questions

- How is your perception influenced by the world around you?

- As we think about what influences us in daily life, what stories are you told in books, movies, pictures, music, the news, or by friends and family that change our perceptions?

* For example, what stories do you hear about particular groups of people that change and shape your perception?

After Video Discussion Questions

Chimamanda Adichie speaks of “how impressionable and vulnerable we are in the face of a story, particularly as children”.

* What stories did you grow up reading or listening to?
* Could you identify with the characters in these stories? (Did you feel like you had things in common with them?) Why? Why not?
* Did these stories influence your perception of the world?

- When she said “our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories”. What do you think this means?

- What does it mean to have a “single story” of a person?

- When have you had a single story of a person or group?

- How do our emotions shift when we realize there is more than a single story?

- How can we transcend our perceptions on other peoples’ single stories?

- How is Chimamanda Adichie able to recognize her own view of people and move past the single story?