

GENERAL VOCABULARY

registrar keeping official records of the students

TED A nonprofit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less); TED stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design.

campus The complex of buildings that make up a university.

'THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY' CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born the fifth of six children in the town of Nsukka in south-eastern Nigeria, where the University of Nigeria is situated. Her father was a professor of statistics at the university and her mother was the university's first female **registrar**.

Adichie studied medicine and pharmacy at the University of Nigeria for a year and a half. Then she left Nigeria to study communications and political science in the USA. Now she divides her time between Nigeria, where she teaches writing workshops, and the United States.

She has published poetry and fiction and her novels have won several awards. For example, her first novel, *Purple Hibiscus* (2003), was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book (2005). Adichie says of feminism and writing, 'I think of myself as a storyteller, but I would not mind at all if someone were to think of me as a feminist writer... I'm very feminist in the way I look at the world, and that world view must somehow be part of my work.'

BEFORE YOU START READING

- 1 Think of an ethnic group about which you have a few ideas but about which you know very few actual facts. Write down your honest views of the stereotype of that ethnic group.
- 2 Find out as much about this group as you can. Write down some new things that surprise you.
- 3 Do you think others see you in a stereotyped way? Write down some of the stereotypes they might have.

▼ FROM 'THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY' BY CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

Adichie, a successful novelist, delivered this speech at a TED conference. She speaks about the power of storytelling and the danger of a single view.

I'm a storyteller. And I would like to tell you a few personal stories about what I like to call "the danger of the single story." I grew up on a university **campus** in eastern Nigeria. My mother says that I started reading at the age of two, although I think four is probably close to the truth. So I was an early reader, and what I read were British and American children's books.