

Write-up

[A question to make a write-up is meant to express your personal views and ideas about a person, a book, an event, a film, a character etc. Your personal opinion is highlighted and it should be substantiated by examples and explanations. Try to start with a striking point. Include all relevant points and arrange them sequentially. Use simple and clear sentences. Conclude effectively with your personal opinion or advice but in a way having a general acceptance. A suitable title is important.]

Q 1: *A single story creates stereotypes. The problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. Do you agree to these statements? Prepare a write up justifying your views in the light of your reading of the speech 'The Danger of the Single Story'.*

Stereotypes are Partial Truths

“The single story creates stereotypes and the problem with stereotype is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete”. Adichie says so in her speech ‘The Danger of a Single Story’. Citing some examples, she very aptly proves the danger of having a single story about people or countries.

As a child, she used to read American and British books. She had convinced that books by their nature should have foreign characters and things with which she should not have any personal identity. But when she got chances to read books by African authors like Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye, her single idea about books was changed. She realized that people like her, girls with kinky hair and chocolate-colored skin could also be characters in books.

Adichie’s family had a house-boy namely Fide. She had heard a lot about his poor and miserable family from her own mother. Thus Adichie developed in her mind one single story about him - a poor boy from a poverty-stricken family. But when she visited once his house, she found out that they had other abilities of craftsmanship. Fide’s brother could make beautifully patterned baskets of dyed raffia. Then she realized the foolishness behind her single thought about Fide and his family.

When she was 19, Adichie went to America to continue her university studies. Her American roommate had a single story about Africa. She believed African people were poor, uneducated and backward in every field. They were only a tribal community in need of support from other countries. In her single story about Africa, she even did not know that English was the official language of Nigeria and was shocked to hear Adichie's good English. She had always a patronizing, pity feeling toward Adichie. In her single story, Africans were never similar to her or could not be human equals. Similarly, her professor once told her that her characters were not authentically African. He thought an African writer should create African characters and they should be uneducated and starving. He had such a single story about Africans but all Africans were not always like what he thought.

When we analyze her views and the cited examples, we can't help agreeing with her. If we have only one idea in our mind about a person or a people, that single idea doesn't make the whole of that person or people. They have other qualities and abilities that we are not aware of. If we judge people with the single idea we have about them, our judgment will not always be correct and complete.

Q2: Prepare a write-up on the topic "Acts of kindness and compassion bring forth fruitful results" in the light of the story 'The Best Investment I Ever Made'.

An act of compassion that changed a man

Acts of timely kindness and compassion can bring forth fruitful changes in people who may be transgressors or even criminals. When we read the story 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' written by Dr AJ Cronin, we will realize the fact further. One of the characters in the story Mr. John had led a loose life in his youthful days. He was an orphan and his uncle found a job for him in the town. Soon he forgot his state and started running after pleasures of life beyond his means. To make money he gambled and even stole some amount from his office. Lost everything, becoming disappointed and anguished and afraid of a possible prosecution for the theft, he finally resorted in a suicide attempt.

The timely intervention and help of three kind-hearted people- the landlady of the lodge where he stayed, a police sergeant and Dr. A J Cronin - brought

him back to a fresh life. They felt pity towards the young man who tried to end his life for a meager amount of seven dollars and ten shillings. They showed kindness and compassion to him by taking a timely decision to help him. The landlady offered him free food and accommodation for a month. The sergeant was ready to take risk of his position agreeing not to report his crimes and Dr. AJ Cronin gave him as much money as he needed to put back in his office safe.

The timely decision of the three people changed Mr. John's mind and he determined to make a fresh start. He submitted the rest of his life for the charity work. The acts of kindness and compassion of the three good people saved a young man and he in return lived the rest of his life for others serving the society with all the virtues of his mind.

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1. Imagine that Vanka ran away from the house of Alyakhin. Children who suffer a lot at the master's house often do that. Prepare a write up focusing on child labour and its consequences.
 2. Ali lost the shoes of his sister Zahra. His family was too poor to buy a new pair of shoes. Prepare a write up on the poverty that exists in the country and suggest ways to eradicate it.
 3. Martha had won the scholarship jacket. She had to face some obstacles to win it. What were the obstacles she had to face? Prepare a write-up on the difficulties faced by Martha to win the jacket.
 4. 'Every home should adopt a pet animal.' Prepare a write up expressing your views either for or against this statement in the light of the story 'Adolf'.
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