

Read the following paragraphs of the speech "The Danger of a Single Story" and answer the questions given.

What this shows, I think, is how impressionable and vulnerable we are in the face of a story, particularly as children. Because all I had read were books in which characters were foreign, I had become convinced that books by their very nature had to have foreigners in them and had to be about things with which I could not personally identify. Now, things changed when I discovered African books. There weren't many of them available, and they weren't quite as easy to find as the foreign books. But when I read Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye, I realised that people like me, girls with skin the color of chocolate, whose kinky hair could not form ponytails, could also exist in literature. I started to write about things I recognised. I loved the American and British books I read. They stirred my imagination and opened up new worlds for me. But African writers saved me from having a single story of what books are.

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 clothe 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.

1. What was Adichie convinced about the nature of books?

2. How did Adichie feel when she read books authored by Achebe and Laye?

3. What was the story she heard about Fide?

4. Pick out the word from the given passage which means 'easily influenced'.

## <u> എസ്റ്റ് ബെൽ സഹായക പഠനസാമഗ്രി</u>

KUTTIPPURAM Sub dist.
் Silent Bells ் மஸ்வன் – അനുബന്ധ പഠനസഹായകസാമഗ്രി
Activity 2
'Now, things changed when I discovered African books'. Comment on the statement.
Hints:- books with foreign characters - about things with which she could not personally identify - read Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye - African characters could also exist in literature - to write about things she recognised
Activity 3
Adichie had only heard a single story of Fide. But she experienced a different story when she visited his house. Adichie writes her feelings about Fide in her diary. Prepare the likely diary entry.
Diam
Diary 01 December 2020
Tuesday
A day that changed my perspectives