Chimamanda Adichie: ‘The Danger of a Single Story’

1. Listen to the first paragraph
   1. PAIR: What are your expectations of this speech? Why?
   2. PAIR: What is your impression of the speaker?
2. Listen to the second paragraph (“I was also an early writer”)
   1. PAIR: What are your expectations of this speech now?
   2. PAIR: Has your view of the speaker changed?
   3. PAIR: What kinds of characters did Adichie write about as a young girl, and what did these characters do? Why is it significant that Adichie chose to write about those characters and their lives?

1. Listen 18-35 (…of what books are)
   1. WRITE in your portfolio: What is “the danger of the single story?”
2. Listen 36-47 (..my single story of them)
   1. PAIR: What is the point of the story about Fide?
3. 48-58 (…a connection as human equals)
   1. WRITE: How does the story about her roommate illustrate the concept of ‘a single story’?
   2. How were Adichie's interactions with Fide's family similar to her interactions with her college roommate?
4. 59-90
   1. PAIR: Why did her professor think her novel was not ‘authentically African’?
5. 91-125 (… I did not have a single story of America)
   1. PAIR: Why did she feel ashamed in Mexico?
   2. What does the example about ‘American Psycho’ tell you?
6. 126-148 (…than how we are similar)
   1. PAIR: “And the problem with stereotypes is not that they are UNTRUE, but that they are INCOMPLETE”. Explain what this means – and how it relates to her overall point. Do you agree?