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## ***Unit 4: Contemporary Novel Study***

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### **"The Danger of a Single Story" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

**Directions:** While you watch Adichie's speech, record your responses for the following questions:

1. Adichie explains that we are "impressionable and vulnerable...in the face of story" (1:43). What point is she trying to make here?
2. According to Adichie, how is a "single story" created and why is it dangerous? (9:25)
3. How do the anecdotes Adichie uses about Fide, her college roommate, her professor, and her trip to Mexico support and illustrate her argument about the single story and its dangers?
4. Why does Adichie think it is "impossible to talk about the single story without talking about power" (9:36)? How does this relate to the Igbo word *nkali*?
5. Adichie refers to the poet Mourid Barghouti who says that by merely beginning a story about a person or group with "secondly" (10:11), one can take away their power. Explain how this approach would have that effect.
6. How does Adiche's repeated use of "What if" (14:08-16:05) create the possibility of a counter narrative or what Chinua Achebe calls a "balance of stories"?
7. What is Adichie's call to action at the end of her talk? What will this do for us? (18:16)
8. What part of Adichie's argument do you believe is the most effective? Why?