After reading the extract from *The Danger of a Single Story*, **type brief, note-form** answers to the following questions, directly onto this sheet.

# 1st paragraph

1. Adichie introduces herself straight away and foregrounds the fact that she is a ‘storyteller’. Why is it significant that this is the first thing she mentions about herself?
2. Find evidence of gentle humour – what is its effect?
3. What can we infer about her mother and where she grew up?

# 2nd and 3rd paragraphs

1. Adichie makes it clear that there is a symbiotic connection between reading and writing, and so what you read as a young child will inevitably shape your thoughts and feelings. Summarise the clichés of children’s books that she experienced.
2. Which word indicates does she repeatedly use to indicate that she belongs to a certain cultural identity?
3. Find an example of hesitancy – what is the effect of this?

# 4th, 5th and 6th paragraphs

1. Adichie draws us into her childhood reading experience. In what way might being ‘impressionable’ make someone ‘vulnerable’? What is the effect of the verb ‘convinced’ to describe her understanding of books at this age?
2. In what ways did she struggle to find ‘African’ books?
3. She lists famous African authors and how reading their works helped her experience a ‘mental shift’ in her ‘perception of literature’. How does she compare herself to the stereotypical white girls she had read about? What was the consequence of reading African literature?
4. How does she use language to convey some of the benefits of reading British and American literature?
5. How does she use punctuation and sentence structure to impart a valuable lesson learned?

# 7th and 8th paragraphs

1. We suddenly shift into learning about her background. How does her mother behave?
2. Why is it effective that she shares this personal anecdote about Fide? Summarise her single story of Fide and what she learned from it.

# 9th, 10th and 11th paragraphs

1. She judged someone on their income and then experienced judgement on her skin colour and country of birth. Summarise the stereotypes she faced.
2. What is the effect of using a single sentence about the stove comment?
3. Adichie mentions that her roommate exhibited a ‘well-meaning pity’. We usually view pity as a commendable virtue. In what ways, according to Adichie, can it be limiting?
4. Adichie holds no resentment towards her roommate for her small-mindedness. Why?
5. How does she use sentence structures to summarise the stereotypical view of Africans? What is this stereotype?

# 12th and 13th paragraphs

1. She then moves from personal experiences to wider experiences of narrow-mindedness in terms of political issues in America, focusing on immigration. How are verbs used to characterise Mexicans?
2. She then shifts geographical locations and enters the heart of Mexico and – this is her strength, probably informed by her job as a writer – she observes people. What feelings does she undergo when she looks at the Mexicans? What does she see?

# 14th and 15th paragraphs

1. Explain in your own words what she means by: ‘show a people as one thing, as only one thing, over and over again, and that is what they become’?
2. Her tone changes to one of determination: how is this shift reflected in the syntax?
3. Adichie makes use of ANAPHORA (when you begin a new sentence or clause with the same word or words), prioritising ‘stories’. Why?
4. She uses parallelism in order to compare the way stories can hurt or heal, malign or celebrate, and we learn about the power of stories (a recurring theme). Why does she end this list with ‘**but** stories can also repair that broken dignity’? What does her choice of verb suggest about her viewpoint?

# 16th and 17th paragraphs

1. Why do you think she refers to another famous writer, Alice Walker?
2. What does the metaphor ‘a kind of paradise was regained’ suggest about the power of stories?