

*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie

1. Did you like this book? Why or why not? Would you recommend this book to others? Would you keep a copy of this book? Do you think you would read it again in the future?
2. What did you think about the timeline of the book? Did it help advance the narrative? What about the pacing?
3. Would you consider this book to have universal appeal; any person could read it and find significant meaning in it? If so, why? If not, who is the intended audience?
4. Did you learn anything about phenomenon related to psychology from reading this book? Some of the topics include, child abuse, resiliency, and the impact of secrets of families.
5. Did you learn anything about family dynamics and relationships from this book?
6. Did you learn anything about Nigeria or Nigerian culture from this book?
7. What did you think of the Adichie's switching between English and Igbo? What did it signify when the characters in the story picked one language over the other?
8. What do you think of the conversation between Jaja and Kambili on page 151? Specifically, this quote, "What does abnormal mean?"
9. In our intro psychology courses we talk about the approach vs. avoid strategies that people adopt. One page 226, Kambili describes the difference between Auntie Ifeoma and her father on the way they parent. She says, "We did not scale the rod because we believed we could, we scaled it because we were terrified that we couldn't." What do you think about this?
10. In psychology we often talk about events vs. the meaning people make of them. This quote from page 56 reminded me of that phenomenon, "I often wondered why Sister Veronica needed to understand it, when it was simply the way things were done.
11. The events leading to Kambili's hospitalization (pages 211-213) were a major turning point in the story. The tension that she feels is described, "I wished I could get up and hug her and yet I wanted to push her away, to shove her so hard that she would topple over the chair." Do you think her mother senses this change?
12. What is the significance of the purple hibiscuses?
13. If you could ask Adichie one question about this book or her life, what would it be?