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Chapter summary of second class citizen by buchi emecheta

ADAMAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, MUBI (ADSU) FACULTY OF ARTS DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES A PAPER PRESENTATION ON A TOPIC: THE COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL SECOND CLASS CITIZEN BY BUCHI EMECHETA UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MISS HYEHLARA MSHELIA (COURSE LECTURER) INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE (PROSE) COURSE CODE: ENG 109 PRESENTED BY: Pwaanzo Abiola Pardon Giwa Joshua C. Doris Z. Vandi Usman Abdullahi Rejoice Zigwai David Albert Pascalia Usman Mahmud Peace Y. Allen Ndume Solomon Deliver Iliya Thiamo Charles Barsheba Lot Nakodopwa Pwapuro INTRODUCTION The 'Second Class Citizen' by Buchi Emecheta was written in chapters (13 chapters with 192 pages). It's about the struggle of Adah (the main character) and her survival, not only for herself but also for her dreams. While growing into a woman, moving from a high class position in her native Nigeria to a very poor class in a predominantly white European society. She struggles with motherhood and with being a wife and supporting her entire family along with being her own independent person. Part of her struggle also deals with the issues of race and being black in the face of English racism. THE COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL 'SECOND CLASS CITIZEN' BY BUCHI EMECHETA Chapter one of the story starts out with Adah as a young girl who is stuck at home with her mother who does not pay much attention to her. Adah the main character or the protagonist of the novel "Second Class Citizen" was born in Nigeria and belonged to the Ibo tribe. Adah is a young girl who begins to have her dream when she is about eight years to get to the United Kingdom. Adah's brother (Boy) is away at school all day while her father is away working. Adah decides that she wants to go to school too and she sneaks away from her mother one day and runs all the way to school. She has met the teacher a few times before and she goes hoping that he will let her sit in on his class. When she arrives she disrupts the entire class by bursting into the room. The children all stare at her but the teacher just looks at her and smiles and lets her sit in on the rest of the class (Page 10-11). From Adah's childhood, when she hear her father speak of the United Kingdom, and "the preparation of the Ibuza women who lived in Lagos for the arrival of the town first lawyer (Nweze) from the United Kingdom". The title "United Kingdom" when pronounce by Adah's Father, sounded heavily like the of noise associated with bombs. It was so deep, so mysterious that Adah's father always voiced it as if he were speaking of God's Holiest of Holiies. Going to the United Kingdom must surely be like paying God a visit. The United Kingdom, then must be like heaven (Page 8). Adah's dream is to go to the United Kingdom to study and to see the greatness that she is sure is there. Her troubles begin from the first moment she realizes what her dream is. First she is not allowed to go to school because she is a girl and the family does not want to spend the money for her to go. She is a girl of her own mind though she goes to school anyway which ends up getting her mother in trouble. In chapter two, her next set of problems occurs when her father (Pa) dies and she is sent to live with her mother's Elder brother as servant. Any money that her family had went to her brother's education (Boy), and the only reason she was kept in school (though not very good ones) was because it was thought that her uncle would be able to get more money for her when they finally married her off. "Children, especially girls, were taught to be very useful very early in life, and this had its advantages. For instance, Adah learned very early to be responsible for herself, she had to survive."(Page 18). This desire to persevere and survive in her society is what leads Adah on her journey through life. It is also the driving force behind her desire to never give up on her dreams. She avoids marriage over and over until she realizes that marriage might be her only way to continue on with her dreams. She then gets married to Francis and uses her marriage in the sense that she gets a good job and takes care of her husband and her children and she saves money with the intent for her family to go over to United Kingdom. The plan is that she will go along with her husband and both of them will continue their educations and become prominent figures in society. She was beginning to believe she would go to England" (Page 29). The news Adah receives from her husband is not that she will go to England, but that her husband will go to England to study to better himself while Adah will stay at home and continue to support the family. Her husband's father does not approve of women going to England and so he will not allow both of them to move there. At first Adah is filled with rage, but she controls her anger and she comes up with a plan. "Be as cunning as a serpent but as harmless as a dove," she quoted to herself." (Page 30). Once again she uses her smarts to get what she wants. She sends Francis (her husband) off to England to study and in the meantime she works and sends him money. In Chapter three, Adah keeps her hopes up and when her husband writes to her a few months later that he is going to be in England for at least four or five more years, she decides it is time to make her move and she convinces her in-laws that it is necessary for her to be in England with her husband and that Francis wants her there, which he did say to her in his letter. She soon books herself and her two children first class tickets on a ship to England and as she arrive in England, welcomed by cold, rainy and cloudy skies. A foreshadowing of all that is to come for her. She is shocked by the greyness but she will not give up on her dream. Adah has arrived in the United Kingdom and this is where she goes from a first class citizen in her native Nigeria to a Second Class Citizen in England. (Page 39) the Francis that she came to meet was a new Francis. There was something very, very different about him. Adah was stunned when he kissed her in public with everybody looking in public. Adah was really not comfortable with the environment Francis (her husband) stays. She said, "Francis does not tried at all", he should have taken example from his Friend Mr Eke when he knew that his wife was coming with their daughter, he made sure he move away from his lot, (Page 42) but anyway; Adah has no choice, days later she realized that Francis had become sophisticated in many things. She kept all this to herself, though, there was no point in arguing with Francis; he was as remote as the English people Adah had seen at Liverpool. Adah the house where they now lived was a place in which one could not have a good family ding-dong in peace. But anyway, Adah was able to get a job in the United Kingdom. In chapter four, she started working on the first June three months after her arrival and was very good in her office responsibilities, but they say in England that Nigerian children have two set of mothers, the natal mother and the social mother. It came as a big surprise to Adah but she refuses to make any attempt to look for a foster mother (Page 51). Adah was so startled that she spilled the hot custard she was making. So that was, it! Francis wanted their daughter to start speaking only in English. This was due to the fact that Nigeria was ruled for so long a time by the English. An intelligent man was judged by the way he spoke English. But it did not matter whether the English could speak the languages of the people they ruled. This conversation had a terrible effect on little Titi. She later overcome her difficulty in speaking, but she was well over six years old before she mastered any language sufficiently well to be able to converse intelligently. That early confusion retarded her verbal development a great deal. But, thank God, it did not land her in one of those special schools for back-ward children! After that revelation, Adah started nagging Miss Stirling to find a nursery place for her children. But, as every young mother who tried to place her child in a nursery could testify, there was no place for the children. In chapter five, Adah undergoes several challenges and began to lose faith in herself, which she began asking herself all sorts of rhetorical questions: Had my dream of coming to the United Kingdom been right after all? Am I simply an empty dreamer? Their living condition is a big problem and the pressure on her to look for a foster mother too. Francis has change and a lot more. After all, Adah gets Miss Trudy to take care of their children, but Adah's pay at work was just enough to pay the rent, Francis's courses, his examination fees, his books and Trudy's payment for taking care of their children. They have little left after this and so it was impossible for Adah to have lunch at work. Adah's trouble continuous as Vicky was sick, there was no money to pay for his hospital bill (Adah's thinking), she could no longer bear the suspense, and Francis's behaviour toward her is getting worse. She was impatient, and was beginning to hate it all. Adah later got a nursery place for her children. Miss Stirling spoke. We've got nursery places for your children. Your little girl could start on Monday and, when the baby is out of hospital, there will be a place for him too. Adah had exploded another myth. Second class-citizen could keep their children with them, but just look at the price they had to pay! Vicky was still in danger, her marriage hung in the balance, and now all this row. In Chapter six, 'Sad news' Francis spat out as if he had a poison that tested bad in his mouth. He reminded Adah of a snake spitting out venom. Francis had a small mouth, with tiny lips, too tiny for a typical African. 'What Sad news?' Adah asked. Her heart thumping between her ribs. She was making a frantic attempt to make her voice sound unhurried, normal. Anything for a quiet life. Francis held up an envelope, an impersonal type of envelope one of those horrible khaki-coloured ones that usually herald the gas bill or the pink statement from the London electricity board. In any case, that type of envelope never brought good news to everyone. 'It is very, very bad news. And, believe me, I am beginning to lose faith in human nature' he when on savouring Adah's suspense. She was not surprised to bear the later statement from Francis. He was always disappointed in human nature when other humans refused to bend to his wishes. Another trouble from Adah's landlady, I can't wait to see them pack their brats and leave house, the landlady would say loud sad clear along the hallway, to nobody, just like a mad woman roaming about in an open asylum (Page 78). In chapter seven, there was another group of Nigerians who come to England. This group of men came in the late forties. Adah came to know Mr Noble whose story was somehow like hers, he became second class when he came to England, and he gave her all sort of stories going round about him. The stories where so many, so confusing and so contradictory that he became a living legend. The version that was told to Adah he was a retired civil servant, that he was the only son of a certain chief in Benin City, that he had six wives and about twenty children and that he left them all, and came to England to read law (Page 85). The long and short of it is that he fail to make it. Francis and Adah find room in the Nobles'. Chapter eight, some weeks later, when Adah, Francis and their two young children had settled in at the Nobles' (Page 103). Adah felt unwilling to go to work for she felt uncomfortable and unusually heavy. She could have stayed longer in bed, but she had to be in the library by nine-thirty. Sad, and feeling very sorry for herself, as she usually did on such day, she dragged herself up, envying her husband who was still having a good snore. She felt like waking him up, just or the sheer joy of it. She was stretching her hands towards him. On the verge of pulling him up, when the piece of humanity inside her gave her a gentle push was followed by arrow like punches. One of the punches was so intense that she was jolted into reality. Then came the sermon, Francis was a great one for preaching sermons. It was always Jehovah God said that. Adah was having a rest after the eyes of the pig's head at the butcher's, she watched and listened to her husband preaching to her about the diligence of the virtuous woman, whose price was above rubies. In chapter nine, Adah and her husband was a book of mystery. Francis troubles to Adah was annoying, it grows to the extent when Adah hears the mention of "home" she cries (Page 133) her thought when on and on; she has only her children which she can switch her love to them since Francis (her husband) turned back on her. Some days later, the nightdress did arrive. It was blue. The shape and cut was exactly like the one Adah had in the hospital. It was just a long cotton shirt, the type specially made for the very old. Adah was indifferent. At least she would not feel guilty about wearing the hospital's shirt anymore. She did not bother to show it round as she had planned, because she was not proud of it. It was not beautiful, and she could only have one. So for the rest of her stay she learned another rule. She should keep to herself. If she got herself involved in any kind of gossip or conversation. She might be lured to talk about herself, about her children and about her husband. She did not want to do that anymore. There was nothing to talk about. In chapter ten, Francis went to work for two weeks. Adah felt very guilty about this. She knew her man ought to go out for work for their living, but in her own particular family she had been doing all the work. It seemed to her that she was falling, by staying at home and letting Francis go out to work in that terrible winter. Francis would worsen the effect when he came home, telling her how very difficult it was to work as postman in England during Christmas. "You are given a big bag of letters and parcels as the load of Christian in the pilgrim's progress. And, like Christian, you are expected to carry the load, up the stairs leading into flats, and down the stairs to those living in basements. Pa Noble told Adah that in England you worshipped two goddesses; one is Christmas, the other one is holidays. As soon as they finished advertising for Christmas on television and in the papers, the next big thing is the annual holiday. After that, Mr Noble invited Adah's children for tea. She quickly got the children ready for Mr Noble tea party (Page 147). She told Titi to eat everything on her plate, because Mrs Noble would be very angry if she made a mess of her food. Titi understood some of the reasoning Adah was trying pump into her. Chapter eleven, after Adah's children attend the Mr Noble tea party, one Monday morning, when her family were asleep, Adah got together her wash things to have her bath. There was no bathroom in the house in which they lived so she paid visits to the public baths in Prince of Wales Road several times in the week. It was on one of these visits, on a Monday, that she saw this bird; grey small, solitary but contented in its solitude. Chapter twelve, Adah was pregnant again. This time she did not cry, she did not wring her hands, but behaved philosophically. If this pattern was going to be her lot in life she would do all she could to change it, but what was she going to do if all her efforts failed? She when to her Indian doctor. She told him her whole story and that she wanted the pregnancy terminated. The Indian doctor was not a young man at all, but he had a certain way of saying things and was so small that one could easily take him for young man. He had made good in London and had two sons who were both up at Cambridge; he had married a woman doctor he met when he was a student himself. In chapter thirteen, Adah has a dreamed to be a writer. She starts writing the book "The Bride Price" the more she wrote, the more she knew she could write and the more she enjoyed writing. She was feeling this urge: write; go on and do it, you can write (Page 180). She finally done the book "The bride price" as a joke at first, but realizing that she was serious, she scribbled along. Now a few of her friends had read it and they said that it was good (Page 183). Adah became curious, suspicious, her heart beat faster when she came home and saw Francis burning her papers. She ask, what are they, Francis? What are you burning? Letters? Who wrote them? Francis, what are you burning? But Francis did not reply for a while, but when on feeding crumpled sheets in to the stove and watching the burnt papers flying lifelessly about the room like black bird (Page 186). Finally Adah and Francis parted ways and do not stay together. chapter by chapter summary of second class citizen by buchi emecheta pdf. summary of chapter 1 of second class citizen by buchi emecheta

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