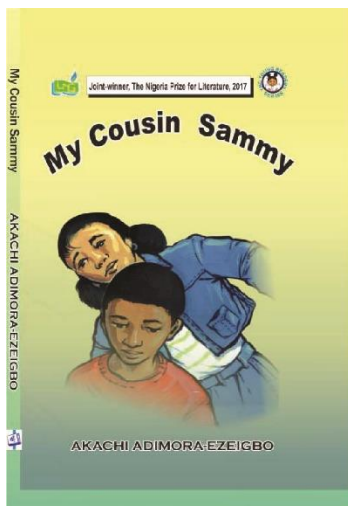




UN SDG BOOK CLUB AFRICAN CHAPTER



SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES READING LIST (English Language)



My Cousin Sammy

Author: Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo

Illustrator: Modupeola Buhari

Publisher: The Book Company Limited

ISBN: 978-38173-6-1

Country: Nigeria

Language: English

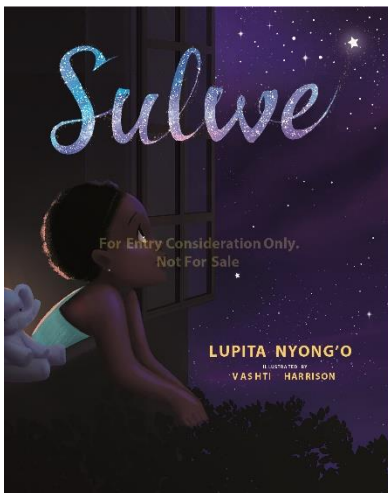
Summary

"My Cousin Sammy" is a heartwarming contemporary African novel that explores the complexities of family life in the midst of urban migration. The story follows Sammy, a teenage orphan from a rural area, as he navigates his new life with his middle-class relatives in Lagos. Through Sammy's journey, renowned Nigerian professor Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo masterfully weaves a tale of domestic conflict, selfless love, and acceptance.

At the center of the story is the unconditional love and compassion of Sweetie, the narrator, who welcomes Sammy into her family with open arms. Her kindness and empathy serve as a powerful contrast to the indifference of others, highlighting the importance of familial bonds in a society increasingly marked by individualism.

As Sammy struggles to adapt to his new environment, the novel sheds light on the challenges faced by rural migrants in urban cities. Through Akachi's vivid prose, we experience the vibrant cityscape of Lagos and the resilience of its people.

Ultimately, "My Cousin Sammy" is a testament to the power of love and acceptance in bridging cultural and socio-economic divides. Akachi's masterful storytelling and command of English prose make this novel a compelling read, one that reminds us of the importance of embracing our relatives and celebrating our shared humanity.



Sulwe

Author: Lupita Nyong'o

Illustrator: Vashti Harrison

Publisher: Bunk Books

ISBN: 9780241394328

Country: Kenya

Language: English (available also in Kiswahili, French and Arabic)

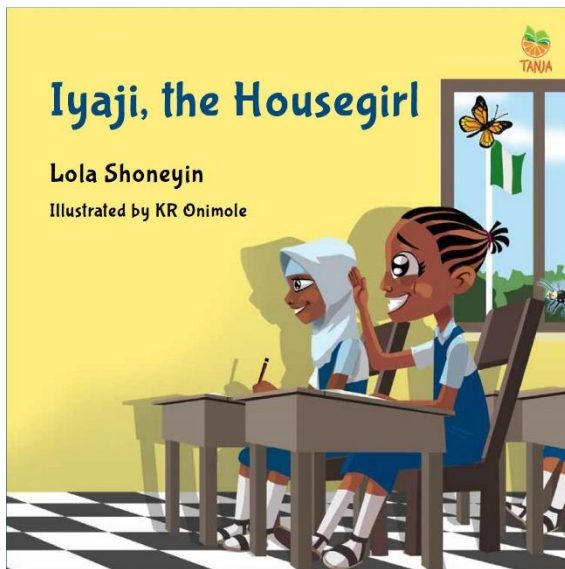
Summary

Sulwe, a beautifully crafted work by Lupita Nyong'o, tells a poignant story of self-discovery and self-acceptance. The book revolves around Sulwe, a young girl who struggles with her dark

complexion, facing hurtful taunts and teasing from those around her. Her journey is marked by an inferiority complex, as she tries various ways to lighten her skin. However, everything changes when she embarks on a magical midnight adventure with a shooting star.

Through this enchanting tale, Lupita Nyong'o masterfully conveys the importance of embracing one's true self and finding beauty in individuality. The vivid imagery in the book perfectly complements the plot, drawing the reader into Sulwe's world. As Sulwe learns to see her beauty, the story conveys a powerful message to black children worldwide: that they are beautiful, both inside and out.

The book highlights the significance of inner beauty, kindness, and self-acceptance. It reminds us that true beauty shines from within, and that being kind to oneself and others is what truly matters. Lupita's work is a testament to the importance of self-love and the need to celebrate our unique qualities, rather than trying to conform to societal standards. Sulwe is available in Kiswahili and Dholuo languages.



Iyaji, The Housegirl

Author: Lola Shoneyin

Illustrator: KR Onimole

Publisher: Tanja, an imprint of Ouida Books

ISBN: 978-978-998-647-7

Country: Nigeria

Language: English

Summary

"Iyaji, the Housegirl" by Lola Shoneyin is a delightful read, much like savoring a plate of one's favorite delicacy. This children's story is a visual and lexical treat that offers more than just entertainment. The didactic lessons, vivid descriptions, and beauty woven throughout the book will leave even adult readers amazed and satisfied.

The story revolves around Iyaji, a young girl who becomes a victim of her father's thoughtless decision. She's forced to drop out of school and work as a housegirl in Lagos, a situation that could have derailed her academic dreams if not for the intervention of a kind-hearted policewoman. Readers will be troubled by the fact that Iyaji's father isn't held accountable for his actions. With a powerful core message, "Iyaji, the Housegirl" is a beautiful and timeless tale.



Beyond the Surface

Author: Chigozie Anuli Mbadugha

Illustrator: Samuel Miracle

Publisher: CambaBooks

ISBN: 978-978-788-543-7 (eBook), 978-978-788-542-0 (Paperback)

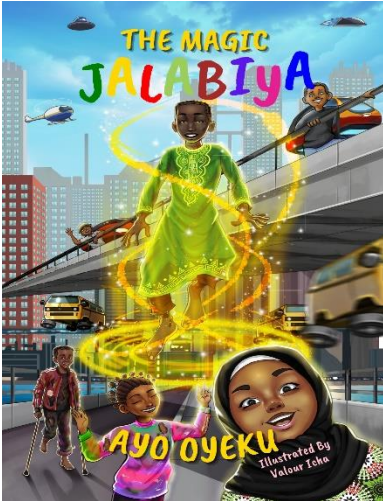
Country: Nigeria

Language: English

Summary

"Beyond the Surface" is a powerful story of courage and resilience, as 13-year-old Leila Danjuma navigates the challenges of Pacific College while battling cancer. Despite the harsh effects of cancer medicine on her appearance, Leila finds strength in her new friendships with Aisha, Zara, and Dave. Together, they face discrimination and bullying, learning the true value of friendship and resilience. When a critical incident tests their resolve, Leila and her friends are forced to choose between retaliation and compassion. In a moment of profound empathy, Leila shows that even in the darkest moments, kindness and understanding can prevail.

This story is not only a testament to the power of friendship but also a relatable exploration of themes relevant to SDG 10, highlighting the importance of reducing inequalities. With its engaging narrative and impactful pictorial content, "Beyond the Surface" is a compelling read for young adults, particularly those aged 12 and above.



The Magic Jalabiya

Author: Ayo Oyekun

Illustrator: Valour Icha

Publisher: Eleventh House Publishing House

ISBN: 978-978-785-977-3

Country: Nigeria

Language: English

Summary

"The Magic Jalabiya" by Ayo Oyekun is a poignant tale that explores the lives of two friends, Bashir and Hamza, as they navigate poverty and banditry in Nigeria. A magic jalabiya transports them to various destinations, showcasing the authors' perfectionism and shedding light on inequality.

The story highlights the struggles faced by young people, particularly males, in Lagos, where they encounter rejection, scorn, and abuse. In contrast, girls and women receive more sympathy and support. Through Shola's resourcefulness and Hamza's kindness, the novel encourages readers to reflect on empathy, kindness, and understanding in bridging social and economic gaps.

"The Magic Jalabiya" offers a powerful exploration of social and economic challenges in Nigeria, promoting reflection on inequality and the importance of human connection.