

# Knowledge Organiser: We Should All Be Feminists

Writer’s Intent	Key Idea	Explanation	How it’s seen in the text	
We Should All Be Feminists is an <b>essay</b> written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie after the success of her TEDx talk of the same name. In it, Adichie <b>explores what feminism means in the twenty-first century</b> . She provides <b>examples from her own life to highlight some of the realities women face today</b> , as well as to show <b>why feminism is still important</b> – not just for women but <b>for everyone</b> . Throughout the essay, Adichie <b>attempts to persuade people to do something about the inequalities women face</b> and to make positive changes in society to counteract this.	<b>Feminism</b>	Feminism is the belief that <b>men and women should be equal</b> in all parts of society.	Adichie highlights that feminism is <b>not about women gaining a dominance, but about both genders being equal</b> . She notes that this means <b>men being free from the shackles of negative stereotypes as well as women</b> .	
	<b>Gendered Language</b>	The assumption that <b>certain words and phrases are inherently more masculine or feminine</b> .	Adichie looks at the way <b>assumptions about how women talk in a more passive manner, lead to women being criticised for asserting themselves</b> or expressing themselves in the same way as their male counterparts would.	
	<b>Inequality</b>	The condition of <b>being unequal</b> , or there being a <b>disparity between certain groups</b> .	Adichie explores how <b>stereotypes of women can lead to inequalities in all parts of day-to-day life</b> . She comments on how the <b>patriarchy also helps to reinforce these inequalities</b> and makes it difficult for women to overcome them.	
	<b>Masculinity</b>	The qualities or <b>attributes regarded as characteristic of men</b> . This can lead to anxiety felt by men who believe they are falling short of these cultural standards of manhood.	Adichie explores the <b>negative effects that these strongly held stereotypes about what makes a man have</b> . She looks at how it isn’t just problematic for women; but can cause severe issues for men too.	
Supporting Texts	<b>Socialisation</b>	The <b>process</b> beginning during childhood <b>by which individuals acquire the values, habits, and attitudes of a society</b>	Adichie looks at how <b>assumptions about gender and what interactions between genders looks like is embedded through their upbringing</b> . She states that one of the <b>solutions to gender inequality lies in changing how we raise our children</b> .	
The supporting texts studied in this unit encompass two other texts by Adichie, one of her short stories entitled <i>Jumping Monkey Hill</i> (2009), and her feminist manifesto, <i>Dear Ijeawele</i> (2017), as well as a range of contemporary journalism exploring some of themes raised by Adichie. <i>Jumping Monkey Hill</i> explores issues of sexual harassment and micro aggressions within a fictionalised African context whereas <i>Dear Ijeawele</i> crystallises Adichie’s some of the intuitions Adichie makes in <i>We Should All Be Feminists</i> into advice for new parents wanting to raise feminist daughters. Her <b>refutation of gendered language and traditional gender roles</b> is reflected in the chosen extracts from this text. Many of the same themes are echoed in the chosen articles at the end of the unit.				Writer’s Methods
	Method	Definition	Example	Purpose
	<b>Anecdote</b>	A <b>short amusing or interesting story</b> about a real incident or person.	<b>‘Now here’s a story from my childhood: When I was in Primary school in Nsukka [...] my teacher said...’</b>	Adds a <b>human aspect to an abstract concept</b> making it more <b>relatable</b> .
	<b>Imperatives</b>	Phrases used to give orders, <b>commands, warnings or instructions</b> .	<b>‘Close</b> your legs. <b>Cover</b> Yourself.’	It shows that the <b>action is a necessity</b> ; adds <b>emphasis</b> .
	<b>Anaphora</b>	<b>Repetition of a word or phrase</b> at the <b>beginning of successive clauses</b> .	<b>‘Teach her</b> self reliance... <b>Teach her</b> to try to fix physical things when they break’	It adds <b>emphasis</b> and a <b>sense of urgency</b> to the argument
	<b>Rhetorical Questions</b>	A rhetorical question is one for which <b>the questioner does not expect a direct answer</b> .	‘Why should a woman’s success be a threat to a man?’	It <b>gives us the speakers opinion</b> on the topic and <b>forces us to consider our own opinion</b> .
	<b>Parallelism</b>	Using phrasing that is <b>grammatically similar or identical in structure</b> .	‘We teach girls to shrink themselves, to make themselves smaller.’	It can be used for <b>emphasis</b> (it is a form of repetition) and also to give a <b>rhythmic tone to the text</b> .



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Key Word Glossary			
Word	Definition	Example	Word in Action
Analogy	A <b>comparison between one thing and another</b> , typically for the purpose of <b>explanation</b> or <b>clarification</b> .	You can draw an <b>analogy</b> between the human brain and a computer.	
Bias	An inclination or <b>prejudice for or against one person or group</b> .	It's important not to be <b>biased</b> against certain genders.	
Conventions	A way in which <b>something is usually done</b> .	The <b>conventions</b> of marriage are that the woman takes the man's last name.	
Ego	A person's <b>sense of self-esteem or self-importance</b> . Often used in a negative way.	Your <b>ego</b> is getting in the way of doing the job properly.	
Empathy	The ability to <b>understand and share the feelings</b> of another.	It is easy to <b>empathise</b> with how angry he is.	
Gender	The <b>social and cultural differences associated with being male or female</b> .	<b>Gendered</b> bathrooms stop males and females mixing.	
Hyperbole	<b>Exaggerated statements</b> or claims not meant to be taken literally.	Sometimes being <b>hyperbolic</b> can help prove a point.	
Intonation	The <b>rise and fall of the voice</b> in speaking.	Her <b>intonation</b> showed it wasn't a question.	
Irony	A state of affairs or <b>an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects</b> and is often amusing as a result.	The <b>irony</b> is they were fighting over a job neither of them wanted anyway.	
Objectify	To <b>treat a person like a tool or toy</b> , as if they had no feelings, opinions, or rights of their own.	You shouldn't <b>objectify</b> a woman.	
Patriarchy	A <b>system of society or government in which men hold the power</b> and women are largely excluded from it.	The <b>patriarchy</b> can mean that women are unable to occupy certain roles.	
Perspective	A particular attitude towards or way of regarding something; a <b>point of view</b> .	That may be your <b>perspective</b> on young people but it's not mine.	
Persuade	<b>Cause someone to believe something</b> .	You sometimes have to <b>persuade</b> people they're wrong.	
Power	The ability or <b>capacity to do something or act in a particular way</b> .	You have the <b>power</b> to walk away from a fight.	
Sarcasm	The use of <b>irony to mock or convey contempt</b> .	As the class continued to talk, she <b>sarcastically</b> thanked them for listening to her.	
Satire	The use of <b>humour, irony or exaggeration to expose and criticise people's views</b> .	The comedian used <b>satire</b> to show the politician's ignorance on the subject.	
Stereotypes	An <b>over-generalised belief about a particular category of people</b> .	It is a <b>stereotype</b> that all blondes are dumb.	
Stigma	A <b>mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person</b> .	A common <b>stigma</b> that feminists face is that they hate men.	
Tone	The <b>choice of writing style</b> the writer employs <b>to convey specific feelings, emotions or attitudes</b> .	The <b>tone</b> of the extract is quite aggressive.	
Tricolon	A rhetorical term for a <b>series of three parallel words, phrases, or clauses</b> .	He used a <b>tricolon</b> of emotions to emphasise how he was feeling.	

