

**Reviewer Username:** StarStudiez

**School:** Santa Margarita Catholic

**Grade:** Senior

**Book Title:** Purple Hibiscus

**Book Author:** Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

**Rate 1-5 (1-lowest to 5-highest) – 4.5**

Purple Hibiscus is a refreshing contemporary novel that presents a gripping story of cultural identity and family in an utterly compelling way. Taking place in the 1980's, Kambili is a 15-year-old girl who lives with her older brother Jaja, Mama, and Papa, under the roof of a comfortable house in Enugu, Nigeria. Conditioned to tolerate her father's meticulous and twisted ways – of juxtaposing religious revival and violence – she lives life unaware of the freedom and passion a fulfilling life could give her...and all the true love and sincerity it additionally provides. She finds just that when her and her brother visit her free-spirited, independent Auntie Ifeoma and her cousins in Nsukka. And when they eventually reencounter Papa's ways, they face the challenge of cultivating their freedom, like the blossoming purple hibiscus flowers Auntie Ifeoma had once encouraged them to grow.

This book was impossible to put down. Adichie paints a breathtaking world of vivid nature and unique personalities, simultaneously delving into the Nigeria's customs, values, lifestyle... My favorite characters would have to include the main protagonist, Kambili, for her resilience and curiosity, and Auntie Ifeoma, for her inspirational confidence and carefree way of life. I loved how Purple Hibiscus' story is told in a non-linear way: it begins from a point in the future before a recollection of past events...it makes for an undoubtedly encaptivating read!

I would recommend this book to teenagers who are looking for realistic fiction literature, or more specifically a coming-of-age story that focuses on valuing culture and traditions. I would also recommend this to fans of Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart.