

# Dear Ijeawele

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
(1977–present)

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5 Teach [Chizalum] about difference. Make difference ordinary. Make  
difference normal. Teach her not to attach value to difference. And the  
reason for this is not to be fair or to be nice, but merely to be human and  
practical. Because difference is the reality of our world. And by teaching  
her about difference, you are equipping her to survive in a diverse world.  
10 She must know and understand that people walk different paths in the  
world, and that as long as those paths do no harm to others, they are valid  
paths that she must respect. Teach her that we do not know—we cannot  
know everything about life. Both religion and science have spaces for the  
things we do not know, and it is enough to make peace with that...[W]hat  
I hope for Chizalum is this: that she will be full of opinions, and that her  
opinions will come from an informed, humane, and broad-minded place.