*Poisonwood Bible* Allusions- Judges

**“King James Bible”** (192): A translation of the Bible created in 1611 by the Church of England,

Connection to Novel: “If it catches you in the wrong frame of mind, the King James Bible can make you want to drink poison in no uncertain terms” (192). This quote comes from Orleanna’s point of view looking back the role the Bible played in her story.

**“Great Depression**” (192): A period during the early 20th century when the U.S. Stock Market collapsed along with the rest of the of the world’s economy. During this era many families experienced a loss of all their savings in the bank.

Connection to Novel: “Jackson, Mississippi, in the Great Depression wasn’t so different from the Congo thirty years later, except that in Jackson we knew some had plenty” (192). Kingsolver uses this allusion to compare the similar situations she is in, but in the Great Depression she knew there were luxuries around and in the Congo there is no such thing.

**“Frigidaire”** (192): The first self-contained refrigerator, this refrigerator was developed in 1916 and used in American homes for cooling and preservation of food.

Connection to Novel: In Kilanga people knew nothing of things they might have had—a Frigidaire?” (192). Kingsolver uses this as an example as to one of the many appliances and luxuries the Congolese people do not have or know what they are missing out on.

**“General MacArthur”** (196): an American general who lead the Philippine army.

Connection to Novel: “He was trucked…stand for General MacArthur.” Nathan was shipped to the Philippines to fight for the general, when he was told from the beginning his profession would prevent him from fighting in the Army.

**“Death March from Bataan”** (197): A march of nearly 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers from the Bataan Peninsula to Japanese prison camps. The camps murdered and abused their prisoners. Many of the soldiers died during the march, and those that did not, faced the terror of the prison camps.

Connection to Novel: “Nathan’s company died, to the man, on the Death March from Bataan. Nathan feels cowardly for having abandoned his fellow soldiers. This experience causes him to force his family to stay in the Congo, rather than to abandon a mission a second time.

**“Independence [of Congo]”** (205): The Independence of Congo occurred in May of 1960, when Congo officially declared itself free of the Belgian rule, which had been in control for about a century (“Democratic Republic of the Congo.” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to Novel: “On account of Independence, I’d been thinking more than anything about money than ever before in my life, aside from my story problems in sixth-grade math” (206). Kingsolver refers to the Independence because of the indirect impact it has had on the lives of the Price family. Because of the Independence they are suffering from the effects it has on white people.

**“Noah’s ark”** (211): In Genesis, God commands Noah to build a vessel to save himself from the destruction God is going to create in a huge flood. Noah gathers two of each animal so that when the flood is over each animal can continue to reproduce (“Noah’s Ark.” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to Novel: “I turned the page on our lesson in business correspondence, and began to work on elaborate pencil drawings of Noah’s ark” (211). Adah tries to explain to Nelson that there is nothing wrong with twins and so she uses Noah’s ark and the phrase ‘*two of everything’* as examples to justify twins.

**“Jesus”** (212): One of the central figures of Christianity, he is considered the Messiah and the Son of God. It is believed that he died on the cross and rose again to save his people. Although he is one of central figure in Christianity, he is also acknowledged as a prophet in Islam and Judaism (“Jesus of Nazareth.” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to Novel: “Clearly my twinhood was a danger to society. ‘Tata Jesus, what does he say?’ ” (212). Nelson understands that Price family is very religious and that they have a deep belief in Jesus so he asks them what does Jesus think because he knows that every action they do they consider Jesus.

**“Bible”** (212): The Christian religious text composed of the Old Testament and the New Testament. It includes writings on moral conduct, the commandments to live by, and the history of early Judaism and the early Christian movement (“Bible.” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to Novel: “He would not believe that the Jesus Bible, with its absolutely prodigious abundance of words, gave no specific instructions to mothers of new born twins” (212). Kingsolver utilizes this allusion to the Bible to show the contrast between the traditions of Christianity of the Congolese people. The Bible does not have rules on specific conduct but more moral conduct, while the Congolese have specific rules and traditions for what the Prices consider as trivial.

**“Tribes of Ham”** (214): Ham, one of the sons of Noah cursed for mocking Noah. He is of the land of Africa and the Middle East and the Price family believed that because they were cursed they are of a darker color and a negative connotation (“Ham, Sons of Noah.” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to Novel: “I dreamed I climbed up to the top of the alligator pear tree and was a-looking down at all of them, the teeny little children with crooked cowboy legs and their big eyes looking up and the teeniest wrapped up babies with little hands and faces that are just as fair till they get older and turn black, for it takes a spell I guess before God notices they are the Tribes of Ham” (215). Kingsolver uses this to show the prejudice and the justification people try to use for treating Africans as inferior to White or Caucasian people.

**“Phonograph Record”** (218): A device used to play sound recordings from the late 1870’s to the 1980’s. It is often called a record player or gramophone. The term you sound like a broken record player is derived from this device (“Phonograph.” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to Novel: “At night we overheard strange, tearful arguments, in which mother spoke in a quiet, slurred, slow motion voice, like a phonograph record on the wrong speed, outlining the possibilities for our family’s demise” (218). When played improperly the phonograph makes an annoying and horrible sound.

“**Carnation milk powder**” (219): A brand of powdered milk developed in 1899, it has been used for evaporated milk, hot chocolate, syrups and instant breakfast (“Carnation Brand.” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to Novel: “On the pantry shelves in the kitchen house we still had some flour, sugar, Carnation milk powder, tea five cans of sardines, and the Underdown prunes; I recorded all this in a column in my notebook” (219) This product shows the lack of American necessities the Price family has to use.

**“Mother May I?”** (219): A children’s game that involves a “mother” and “children.” For example the children ask “Mother may I take four steps forward?” and the mother replies either yes or no. The object of the game is to get to the mother first.

Connection to Novel: “Had I felt like entering the discussion, I would have pointed out that to Mother Mwanza his profession probably resembles the game of Mother May I consisting of very long strings of nonsense words in a row” (219). Kingsolver utilizes this allusion because it serves to show the type of relationship Nathan Price has with the native people. Ruth May also plays the game with the village children, which shows the type of relationship the Price family has with the natives.

**“Little Red Hen”** (221): A folk tale based on a hen that plants seeds and asks for assistance but no one helps her. When finally the hen makes the bread all the other animals eagerly offer to help she refuses because they did not help her when she needed it. The story is a lesson in initiative and work ethic. (“The Little Red Hen.” *Wikipedia*)

Connection to Novel: “She’s never lifted a finger around here and now all of a sudden she’s the Little Red Hen?” (221). Adah describes how Rachel used to never help around the house doing chores and all of the sudden she tries to victimize herself and act as if she does all the work.

**“Donna Reed”** (222): An America film and television actress, Donna Reed is best known for her role as housewife and mother on the ABC show The Donna Reed Show. She also was in the movie Here From Eternity and the TV show Dallas. (“Donna Reed.” *Wikipedia*)

Connection to Novel: “Having Rachel in Charge was very much as if Mrs. Donna Reed from television showed up to be your mother” (222). Kingsolver utilizes this allusion because Donna Reed represents the quintessential housewife and mother: member of charities, adorned in frocks, pearls, and heels.

**“Moise Tshombe”** (229): A Congolese politician, Tshombe was elected president of Katanga at the same time that Congo became independent, which led to secession of Katanga from Congo. The reason he decided to secede was because he preferred to maintain ties with Belgium. (“Moise Tshombe.” *Wikipedia*)

Connection to Novel: “Do you know the name Moise Tshombe?” (229). In the book, Kingsolver uses Tshombe because he plays a pivotal role during the Congolese crisis and in the secession of Katanga.

**“Katanga Province”** (229): A province in south Congo, The Katanga province is one of the richest areas of the Congo, supplying the land with oil, tin, diamonds, and radium. (“Katanga Province.” *Wikipedia*)

Connection to Novel: “For all practical purpose he is leader of Katanga Province” (229). Anatole is talking about Katanga’s decision to secede from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the impact it will have on the people and country.

**“United Nations”** (232): The United Nations is an organization founded to promote international peace, law, and human rights. Founded in 1945, the United Nations is involved in solving social, economic, and humanitarian problems. The U.N. is made up of 192 member states with ambassadors and representatives from every sovereign state.

Connection to Novel: “He has asked the United Nations to bring an army to restore unity” (232) Kingsolver shows the importance of global issues and the importance of the United Nations in assisting Congo.

**“Mr. Khrushchev”** (233): A Soviet politician during the Cold War era, he focused on the de-Stalinization of the Soviet Union. Patrice Lumumba threatened to go him for aid during the Independence of the Republic of Congo.

Connection to Novel: “If they won’t come, the Prime Minister has threatened to ask Mr. Khrushchev for help” (233). This signifies the potential danger and conflict this could create in the Congo and it could affect the lives of the Price family even more.

**“Communist”** (233): A social structure that is based on equality and the lack of social classes. Derived from Karl Marx, countries such as the Soviet Union, China, and Vietnam lived or still live under this type of government.

Connection to Novel: “The communist would help the Congo?” (233). The communist are considered evil by Americans and the Price family, so for Leah the aid from the Soviets is shocking and disloyal on the part of the Congolese, but she does not realize it may be the only option.

**“Cinderella”** (242): a heroine of a fairy tale who is maltreated by a malevolent stepmother but achieves happiness and marries a prince

Connection to Novel: “[Rachel]” look[s] like Cinderella in reverse, stepped out from her life at the ball for a day of misery among the ashes”(242). Kingsolver uses this allusion to demonstrate Rachel’s misfortune in that she now becomes the care-taker of the home since her mother’s sickness prohibits her to do the duties. By describing Rachel as “Cinderella,” it allows the reader to have sympathy for her for Rachel has never been exposed to such hard work and shows she matures for assuming a major role in the family.

**“Chef Boyardee”** (245): a brand of canned pasta products founded by Ettore Boiardi.

Connection to Novel: “Being the new Chef Boy-ar-dee of the Price family, I had no time for fun and games” (245). Kingsolver uses this allusion to describe the misfortune Rachel encounters: Deteriorating circumstances force Rachel to start participating in the survival of the family. Since Orleanna’s malaria confines her to bed, Rachel assumes the position of care-giver of the family. Because Rachel has never had to do work around the house, she feels that she has become the family’s servant and personal chef, leading back to the allusion “Chef Boyardee.

**“King James”** (247): he was the King of England in 1603 to 1625. Under his realm, the King James Version of the Bible was issued, which was a new translation of accepted biblical books.

Connection to Novel: “Darling, did you think God wrote it all down in the English of King James himself?” (247) Kingsolver uses this allusion to prove that there have been many translations of the Bible, such as the King James’ translation, and that no one interpretation can be correct since they the translations do not come directly from God. With this allusion, she justifies Brother Fowles’ interpretation just as Nathan believes that his personal interpretation should be universal.

**“Paul”** (248): Also known as Paul the Apostle or Saint Paul. He is considered to be one of the most notable early Christian Missionaries. He wrote thirteen epistles of the New Testament.

Connection to Novel: “Think of all the duties that were perfectly obvious to Paul or Matthew in that old Arabian desert that pure nonsense to us now. All that foot washing.” (248). Kingsolver uses this allusion to justify that not even Jesus’ apostles knew what was the real word of God but they worship according to their interpretation of the word of God.

**“Matthew”** (248): Also known as Saint Matthew. He was one of the twelve apostles and one of the four Evangelists. He composed the Gospel of Christ.

Connection to Novel: “Think of all the duties that were perfectly obvious to Paul or Matthew in that old Arabian desert that pure nonsense to us now. All that foot washing.” (248). Kingsolver uses this allusion to show how stories from the Bible come from a desert culture and that literal translations could be based off of a very narrow way of interpreting the Bible; people should be aware of the cultural context in which the Bible was written.

**“Donald Duck and Snow White, they got married”** (251): Donald Duck is an American cartoon character and is known for his explosive temper. Snow White is the protagonist of a fairy tale in which Snow White is forced to leave her kingdom because he jealous stepmother desires to be the “fairest of them all.” She befriends dwarfs, and is put under a sleeping poison. A prince comes and rescues her.

Connection to Novel: ‘The little girl sitting on the floor with Ruth May said something in their language. Ruth May whispered, “Donald Duck and Snow White, they got married’” (251). Kingsolver uses this allusion to foreshadow Rachel’s engagement to Mr. Axelroot. She uses Snow White to represent Rachel for both have a pale complexion and known to be beautiful. Axelroot parallels Donald Duck in that they can be temperamental, ugly, and Axelroot proves to be morally incorrect most times. With this subtle allusion, the reader knows that Snow White and Donald Duck are a mix-matched pair, that other than a complete misunderstanding or error, they will never marry, such as Rachel’s and Axelroot’s relationship: if it was not for desperation to get out of the Congo and avoid angering the Chief of Kilanga, they will never marry.

**“Acts of the Apostles”** (251): It is the fifth book of the Apostles which outlines the history of the twelve apostles.

Connection to Novel: ‘“Paul and Silas to their jailer, yes, after the angels so considerately set them free with an earth-quake. The Acts of the Apostles, chapter sixteen, is it?”’ (251). Kingsolver uses this allusion to depict how knowledgeable both Brother Fowles and Nathan happen to be, stressing the fact that being a minister requires lengthy study of the Bible and the word of God.

**“Children of Israel”** (252): refers to the Israelites, which were descendants from Jacob. According to the Hebrew Bible, they were promised the land of Israel.

Connection to Novel: ‘”That verse refers to the children of Israel”’ (252). Kingsolver uses this allusion referring to the Children of Israel to state how extreme close-mindedness Nathan possesses. For example, with the allusion in context, he takes the Bible literally and secretly thinks that the Bible cannot translate to any other meanings. This character trait gives the reader greater insight into why he becomes unsuccessful in his missionary work: he does not allow room for interpretation which consequently the religion does not provide the necessary aspects for the Congolese to join – his translation does not include them in any manner.

**“National Geographic Society”** (254): It is one of the largest scientific and education institution. Its interests include geography, archaeology and natural science, the promotion of environmental and historical conservation, and the study of world culture and history.

Connection to Novel: “’I even get a little stipend form the National Geographic Society.’”(Pg. 254). Kingsolver uses this allusion to further characterize Brother Fowles. Using a sarcastic tone, she gives the reader insight in how little unsanctioned missionaries earn. Kingsolver gives Brother Fowles this allusion for he prides himself on knowing information on insects in the area. Ultimately, Kingsolver uses this allusion to underscore his open-mind and knowledge of his surrounding environment, although Nathan thinks otherwise.

**“Scripture”** (261): A compilation of the scared writings of the Old and New Testament. These texts are believed to either inspired or directly given by God and are the “absolute truth.”

Connection to Novel: “Our Father, who now made a point of being home to receive Tata Ndu, would pull up one of the other chairs, sit backward with his arms draped over the back, and talk Scripture.” (261). Kingsolver uses this allusion to provide more in depth, the extent Nathan willingly goes to try to convince the chief that the village should convert. Nathan’s excitement becomes prone to Tata Ndu’s plan, to get Nathan’s acceptance, then obtain a new wife, Rachel. The allusion shows that when religion becomes involved, Nathan lets his guard down and just cares with spreading the word of God.

**“Passed over…just as the plague did ... in Egypt”** (267): Refers to the ten calamities that hit Egypt according to the Book Exodus in the Bible. God imposed these Plagues to convince the Pharaoh of Egypt to let the Israelites go, with the help of Moses.

Connection to the Novel: “The Independence seemed to have passes over our village, just as the plague did on that long ago night in Egypt, sparing those who had the right symbol marked over their doorsills” (267). Kingsolver uses the allusion from Exodus to underscore how unaware the people become toward their Independence from Belgium that they do not even notice. Just the people with the symbol on their doors, the villagers do not realize the importance of the event because the Congolese Independence does not even affect their village.

**“Elizabeth Taylor”** (269): She is an American actress and is considered to be one of the “great actresses of Hollywood’s golden years. She starred in films such as *Hot Tin* *Roof*.

Connection to the Novel: “I slapped him hard like Elizabeth Taylor in the *Hot Tin Roof* and I guess that showed him a thing or two.” (269). Kingsolver uses Taylor for she describes one of her film roles. For example, in this sentence, Rachel describes herself slapping Axelroot like Elizabeth Taylor, but she refers to Taylor’s character in the film Hot Tin Roof. This illustrates the relationship between Rachel and Mr. Axelroot as one without respect, or trust but the effect of this reference to Taylor’s film accentuate the humor in Rachel’s narration that allows for there to be a cut in the tense undertones of the passages.

**“Hot Tin Roof”** (269): “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” is a film based on a play by Tennessee Williams. Its protagonists include Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman, and Burl Ives.

Connection to Novel: “I slapped him hard like Elizabeth Taylor in the *Hot Tin Roof* and I guess that showed him a thing or two.” (269).With this allusion, Kingsolver demonstrates the drama between Rachel and Axelroot by the fact that they do not respect each other because their situation together comes across as a mistake. By slapping him like Elizabeth Taylor, the reader has a moment of comic relief from the actual seriousness of the desperation the Price family lives with, new dangers from the chief and the revolution arising for the Independence of the Congo.

**“Brigitte Bardot and all those soldiers”** (269): Mrs. Bardot is a French actress, singer, and fashion model. Although she mainly acted on the French silver screen, she had some American films, including the film *Babette Goes to War*.

Connection to Novel: “I’m willing to be a philanderist for peace, but a lady can only go so far where perspiration odor is concerned. I kept thinking of Brigitte Bardot and all those soldiers” (269). With this allusion, Kingsolver describes Rachel’s meetings with the unclean Axelroot. With such imagery, the reader humors himself with the thought that Rachel suffers under such circumstances, such as smelling “perspiration odor,” similar too Bardot’s encounter with soldiers in the movie *Babette Goes to War*. In a similar manner, Rachel like Bardot in the film, become victims of this filth from attention of both male parties.

**“CIA”** (270): The Central Intelligence Agency is a civilian intelligence agency of the United States government responsible for providing national security intelligence to senior United States policymakers.

Connection to Novel: “Sometimes he rattles off all these names of people I can never keep straight: CIA Deputy Chief, Congo Station Chief” (270). According to Axelroot himself, he supposedly works for the CIA as an undercover agent, spying on Patrice Lumumba’s ability to cause a revolution. The importance behind Mr. Axelroot’s story lies in that Rachel begins to lose faith in her government, the United States, because she comes to realize that her government tries to commit a great injustice toward the Congo, especially the Congolese.

**“Zorro”** (270): Zorro is a fictional character created in 1919 by writer Johnston McCulley. Zorro is the secret identity of Don Diego de la Vega, a nobleman and master living in the Spanish colonial era of California. Zorro is depicted as an outlaw who defends the people of the land against tyrannical officials and other villains.

Connection to the Novel: “A man of his age might seem too old to be playing Zorro, but then consider some.” (Pg. 270). Kingsolver uses this allusion to compare Axelroot and Zorro. According to Axelroot, he works for the CIA and has to be undercover. Like Zorro, he protects the people of bad influences, which the reader can assume to be Patrice Lumumba. Using Rachel’s narration and use of allusion, Kingsolver depicts Axelroot’s character as deceiving because he lies to make himself sound “influential” and powerful when in reality, he does not actually have the qualities he flaunts about.

**“Bayer aspirins”** (272): This brand of aspirins is recognized as being the original brand of aspirin, which serves as a painkiller, antifever, and anticoagulant medicine.

Connection to the Novel: “I saw where she put it, on the shelf with the Bayer aspirins we ran out of.” (272). Kingsolver uses this allusion as a reminder of the life they had, in that they began badly in the Congo because they are simply unprepared. The bottle of aspirins accentuates the fact that their life has extreme dangerous, so much so that a simply bottle of “Bayer aspirins” cannot cure, unlike the problems they have to encounter back home in the United States.

**“Gulliver among the Lepidopterans”** (269): This phrase refers to the novel “Gulliver’s Travels,” by Jonathan Swift that is both a satire on human nature and a parody of travelers’ tales. Lepidoptera is an order of insects that include butterflies and moths.

Connection to the Novel: “Normally the clamber around me until I feel like Gulliver among the Lepidopterans.” (269). Kingsolver uses this allusion to describe how Rachel feels when the children surround her, as if she surrounds herself with insects. Like Gulliver, Rachel becomes exposed to other beings that find her interesting, which alleviates the tense tone with humor.

**“Single War”** (195): Refers to World War II. The War was fought between the Allies and the Axis powers of the world. It is known for being the deadliest war in all of history. Millions of Americans were drafted into the Armed forces to help the cause.

Connection to the Novel: “By the end of that infamous week, half the men in all this world were pledged to a single war, Nathan included.” (195). Kingsolver, with his allusion, refers to World War II and the United States’ reaction. She ardently describes Nathan’s great endeavor, how as a result of the drama and horrifying scenes, he becomes a more distant husband toward his wife.

**“Fort Sill”** (195): It is a United States Army for near Lawton, Oklahoma built during the American Indian Wars in 1869.

Connection to the Novel: “At Fort Sill, his captain made not of Nathan’s faith and vouched that he’d serve as a hospital cleric or chaplain, decently removed from enemy lines.” (195) Kingsolver uses this allusion to essentially represent how the story unfolds. For example, Nathan transfers to the hospital at Fort Sill, which allows Nathan to take the trip to Bataan Peninsula, which changes his outlook on life forever. With this allusion, Kingsolver explains the inciting incident that allows for there to actually be a story.

**“Free Will Baptist”** (193): Refers to a domination of churches that accept Armenian theory of free grace, free salvation, and free will and believe in the autonomous power of the local church.

Connection to the Novel: “I don’t think that Dad ever forgave me, later on , for becoming a Free Will Baptist.” (193). By defining Orleanna as a Free Will Baptist, with this allusion, Kingsolver creates irony in that Orleanna gives up her free will to alleviate Nathan’s anxieties against what he believes represents the “word of God.”

**“Madonna”** (260): It is a statue representing the Virgin Mary.

Connection to the Novel: “We were curious to inspect and handle these intriguing objects, especially the little pink madonna, but Mother felt we should not show excessive interest.” (260). By Tat Ndu wearing the madonna, Kingsolver utilizes this allusion to further personify the chief as a man who will do the necessary to obtain what he desires, even if it means to wear a madonna, which resonates in Christian beliefs, not Pagan, or his villages beliefs.

**“to market, to market”** (259): "To market, to market, to buy a fat pig" or is a nursery rhyme which is based upon the traditional rural activity of going to a market or fair where agricultural produce would be bought and sold.

Connection to the Novel: “To market to market to buy a fat pig! Pigfat a buy! To market to market! But wherever you might look, no pigs now… In the way of herbivores, nothing left here to kill.” (259). Kingsolver uses this nursery rhyme in Adah’s narration to accentuate the Price’s economic situation. She explains that the family barely survives with the pay that the Missionary Services grants Nathan and that Brother Fowles’ aid, most of all, helps the women during their sickness for he provides the only medicine they can obtain.

**“One score and seven years”** (274): 27 yrs; the first words of President Lincoln’s most famous speech, Gettysburg address.

Connection to novel: “I am one score and seven years old” Rachel mistakenly believes that she has just turned one score and seven years old; however she quickly finds that one score and seven years ago is actually twenty seven years rather than seventeen. Additionally, the Gettysburg address can be applied to the current state of the Congo, and the fractions between the Belgians and the Congolese.

**“Phonograph records”** (274): a vinyl record

Connection to the Novel: “I didn’t get any…lowest a girl can go.” Rachel voices her complaint about how she did not receive any nice presents, such as a vinyl or phonograph record.

**“Bobbie Girdle”** (274): during the 1960s, Bobbie Brooks was one of the largest garment manufacturers in the U.S. A “Bobbie girdle” was a short had name for a Bobbie Brooks Girdle. (“Girdle.”*Wikipedia*)

Connection to the Novel: “Never did I…no place for Junior Figure Control.” Rachel hints that the family’s clothes have now “grown shabby,” except for a Bobbie Girdle she brought with her, which she has no use for in the Congo. This relates to the underlying theme that the Price family does not belong to the Congo, and did not come properly prepared. In other words they “brought all the wrong things.”

**“Dr. Jekyll”** (276): a character in R.L. Stevenson’s book The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The book revolves around the character Dr. Jekyll, who transitions between the kind doctor Jekyll, and his darker alter ego, Mr. Hyde.

Connection to the Novel: “We go…wake up changed.” Adah comments on the recent changes the family experiences as a result of the Congo with her allusion to Dr. Jekyll, who changes into the darker Mr. Hyde over night.

**“Hookworm”** (277): An intestinal parasite. (“Hookworms.” *Dictionary*).

Connection to the Novel: “Despite the…her shoes.”

**“Mirror Mirror on the Wall”** (277): a quote from the fairytale, *Snow White*. The Evil Queen in the fairytale possesses a magic mirror. She repeatedly asks the mirror “Mirror Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?”

Connection to the Novel: “The engagement…upcoming marriage.” Adah mocks Rachel’s obsession with her mirror, comparing the relationship Rachel has with it to that of the vain Queen in the fairytale *Snow White*.

**“‘Hope’ in Miss Dickinson’s poem”** (277): Emily Dickinson, a 19th century poet, wrote the poem “Hope is the thing with feathers,” about the feeling hope brings. The poem expresses the soaring nature of hope and compares hope to a bird. (“Emily Dickinson.” Robson).

Connection to the Novel: “Anatole gave…our former parrot.” Adah darkly comments on the irony concerning the similarities between Leah’s quiver of arrows, Dickinson’s heart warming poem “Hope is the thing with feathers,” and her dead parrot, Methusela.

**“Hester Prynne”** (278): The main character of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s novel *The Scarlet Letter*. After committing adultery and becoming pregnant, Hester Prynne is forced by her Puritan community to forever wear a scarlet letter A on her chest, as a sign of her sin.

Connection to the Novel: “Like an obvious…over her shoulder.” Adah explains that Leah’s breaking of the social rules in Kilanga marks her as an outcast. She compares the western idea of an outcast, a sinner, with the African idea of an outcast, a breaker of tradition.

**“Diana of the Hunt”** (278): Diana, the equivalent of the Greek goddess Artemis, was the goddess of the hunt, being associated with the wonders of nature and the woodlands. (“Artemis” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to the Novel: “D for…the arrows behind.” The narrator, Adah, compares Leah to the Roman goddess, Diana of the Hunt, commenting on Leah’s newly found interest in the art of archery.

**“Pharaoh or a god in an Egyptian painting”** (279): Several pharaohs, or Kings of Egypt, appear in Egyptian painting with down slanted eyes, drawn with excessive make- up that created the look of down-slanted eyes.

Connection to the Novel: “Anatole’s face…Egyptian painting.” Leah begins to feel respect and affection for Anatole. Her comparison of a Pharaoh or god of Egypt to Anatole demonstrates her growing admiration for him.

**“Globe”** (287): a spherical map of the earth, representing the earth’s natural shape in the form of a map. (“Globe.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*).

Connection to the Novel: “Really you’ve never seen a globe?” Leah cannot believe that Anatole has never once seen a globe before, and does not know the shape of the earth. Her knowledge in the subject of geography seems impossible to Anatole, and he wisely tells her that her knowledge would be incomprehensible to many of the Congolese people.

**“Lucky Strikes”** (289): A type of cigarette.

Connection to the Novel: “Axelroot took…toward me.” Axelroot offers Rachel a cigarette, and Rachel nearly refuses before coming to the realization that she has recently turned seventeen and may smoke if she wants. She smokes, and this marks her coming of age as she experiences her first American luxury of being a legal adult.

**“Humphrey Bogart”** (290): an American actor and international icon. Probably best known for his role in *Casablanca*, his theatre persona became a cynical and mostly laid back. (“Humphrey Bogart.” *Wikipedia).*

Connection to the Novel: “Right there…Humphrey Bogart” Rachel romanticizes her time with Eeben Axelroot, comparing him to Humphrey Bogart, a well known American actor of the time.

**“Presentment…about to pass.”** (295): A poem written by Emily Dickinson, indicating or foreboding a tragic event to come.

Connection to the Novel: The poem foreshadows the events within Adah’s chapter, in which she learns of the assassination plot of President Lumumba.

**“Miss Emily Dickinson”** (295): An American poet, considered one of the greatest American poets of the 19th century. She lived an unusual life in self inflicted seclusion. (“Emily Dickinson.” *Wikipedia*).

Connection to the Novel: Adah compares Emily Dickinson’s years of seclusion with her own internal seclusion and believes that in this way the two share several similarities, both socially and personality wise.

**“President: Eisenhower, We Like Ike”** (297): Eisenhower was the U.S. president between 1959 and 1961. His slogan “We Like Ike” became a popular phrase during his candidacy in the United States. (“Eisenhower.” *Wikipedia*).

**“Moses and the Egyptians” (301) “Pharaoh’s army and the Plagues”** (307): Moses, a prophet of god, goes to the Pharaoh of Egypt and asks him to release the people of God, the Israelites. When he refuses, God inflicts Egypt with ten plagues. The pharaoh then agrees to let the Israelites go, but then he changes his mind and follows them with his army. Moses parts the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to flee, and the Pharaoh’s army is destroyed by the Sea when Moses releases the water.

Connection to the Novel: Reverend Price tries to reveal to the Congolese a parallel between this Old Testament parable and their situation with the aunts in order to show the Congolese people the powers of God and win over supporters, while the tragic event takes place. He ignores the needs of his family in order to provide salvation to the Congolese. (“Moses.” *Wikipedia*).

**“Simon Peter**” (300): An apostle of Jesus who loses faith in his word, and denies Jesus three times.

Connection to the Novel: She compares Peter’s sins against Jesus to her sins against her sister, having left her sister to fend for herself in the swarm of ants. (“Saint Peter.” *Wikipedia*).

**“*How to Survive 101 Calamities*”** (302): a fictional book, made up by Kingsolver. The book describes what a person should do in any number of dire situations. (“List of Fictional Books.” *Wikipedia*).

**“Hush, Little Baby”** (303): A traditional American lullaby, the exact origin of which is unknown. (“Hush, Little Baby.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*)

**“*Live was I ere I saw evil*”** (305): a popular palindrome. (“Palindromes.” *Wikipedia*)

Connection to the Novel: Adah feels betrayed by her mother. She saw her mother commit an act of evil by leaving her to die, and saving Ruth May instead.

**“Keds sneakers**” (309): a popular shoe brand in America.

Connection to the Novel: Leah begins to question her faith in not only her father, but also God’s divine plan, and her carefree life in America after seeing so much disaster and strife in Africa.

**“When I walk through the valley of the shadow”** (309): The passage of the bible continues to say “when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Connection to the Novel: Leah’s questioning of faith, represented in this chapter, results from her inability to understand how her faith in God does not stop the evil, nor does it comfort her in a desperate this situation. (“Scripture.” *Wikipedia*)