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***Citizen*: Chapters I-III Summary**

The first chapter of “Citizen” by Claudia Rankine is comprised of semi-poetic social interactions that the author portrays that “you” had in your life. These are heavily implied to have been experienced by Mrs. Rankine herself and each of them highlights the unfair treatments and prejudices that Afro-Americans face. Examples of these interactions include, her childhood friend confusing her name for that of her housekeeper of the same race, a conversation with a co-worker who was slandering affirmative action, and a little girl not wanting to sit next to her on a plane ride(12, 18, 17).

The next chapter then goes into detail about a certain type of anger that people of color possess due to the daily racism they face based on their skin color. However, when these people express their frustration and anger, they are simply labeled as “insane” (27). Mrs. Rankine then goes into the specific case of tennis player Serena Williams where she faced discrimination in the form of bad referee calls against her which gave her a great disadvantage on the tennis field. However, when she showed her outrage, she was fined, punished, critiqued, and, of course, labeled as “insane” (29). Mrs. Williams then became quiet and more passive to which people responded with admiration, but she still is ridiculed with examples such as Caroline Wozniacki who stuffed herself with towels to imitate Mrs. William’s opulent curves.

The third chapter mirrors the first one since it is also a collection of prejudice and racism within social interactions. However, in this chapter, the character of “you” responds to these injustices with respectful but firm comebacks which incite the transgressor to re-consider what he or she just said or did so that their behavior would hopefully be corrected in the future. Examples of these comebacks include “What did you say?”, simply leaving the conversation, and correcting a manager on the fact that the case wasn’t that he did not want to say his racist comment, he just didn’t want to say it “Aloud” (35,38,37).