**Quotes:**

*“They say Tata Undo wants to marry Rachel. She did her hope chest already so she can. But Tata Undo is Congolese. Can they marry us? I don’t know.” -* Page 271

→  Ruth may is so young and does not understand racism or other ideologies yet, but coming to the Congo has made her ask many questions of things that she didn’t think about back in Georgia. This shows her questioning the way “whites” see it back home and also is a step where Leah soon questions herself and beliefs.

*“Understand, first you are a girl. These boys are not accustomed to obeying their own grandmothers. If long division is really so important to a young man’s success in the world, how could a pretty girl know about it? This is what they are thinking. And understand, second, you are white.”* - Page 280

→ This is the first time Leah has experienced sexism along side with racism in the Congolese society. She is shocked and outraged the boys aren’t paying attention to her lesson and Anatole explains to her that women in the Congo are valued less and that she’s white, so she basically has it made in their minds.

*“They take turns leaning forward to point out their moves with shrewd congeniality, playing it like a chess match, the kind of game that  allows civilized men to play at make-believe murder. Between moves they tip their heads back, swirl blood-colored brandy in glass globes and watch it crawl down the curved glass in liquid veins”* - Page 317

→ In this passage Orleanna is describing western men play chess.  But I feel that is also shows the guilt and blames she places on herself and Nathan for moving to the Congo and how she blames the west for ruining Africa by choosing to colonize to make a profit.

**Characters:**

* Orleanna Price
  + Nathan’s wife
  + passively accepts everything her husband tells her (Until RM dies)
  + builds up courage to go against her husband after Ruth May dies
    - doesn’t even look back after she leaves
      * *maybe feels like N  betrayed her?*
  + rest of her life, overwhelmed with guilt over RM
  + sees religion as comfort & peace
* Nathan Price
  + Baptist minister
  + wounded & left during WW2
    - rest of company died in Bataan Death Merch (ridden w guilt)
  + stubborn
  + wields bible as a weapon
  + represents destructive side of religion
  + huge egomaniac
  + misogynist
  + abusive
    - His family is terrified when L disobeys him & all hide in 1 room
      * endangered their lives
        + RM did die
* Rachel Price
  + wishes she had a normal american life
  + white-supremacist
  + ignorant
  + egomaniac
  + vain
  + materialistic
* Ruth May
  + adventurer
  + constantly feels guilty
  + caught malaria
* Leah
  + religious as N (follows father’s beliefs)
  + idealistic
  + intelligent & compassionate
  + loses religion, doesn’t lose her idealism
  + has unwavering pursuit for social justice
  + anatole & nelson taught her how to hunt
  + tries to defy gender norms
  + lives her life much like her mother
    - difference, she believes same as anatole

\*\*\*ADAH PRICE\*\*\*

* Leah’s twin
* observer
* cynical
* born w hemiplegia
* smartest, most analytical of the family
* reads a lot, writes poetry
* likes to read backwards
* learns disabilities don’t control her
* doesn’t believe in god
* goes to med school
* learns she doesn’t have to limp
  + scared if she doesn’t limp, she’ll lose her id.

\*\*\*ANATOLE NGEMBA\*\*

* kilanga schoolteacher
* only english-speaker
* supporter for independence
* imprisoned many times for his political views

\*\*\*EEBEN AXELROOT\*\*\*

* pilot
* sleazy & selfish
* sells prices their mail
* smuggled diamonds & threatened RM

\*\*\*FYTAN FOWLES\*\*\*

* very different from Nathan
* “reverend santa”
* taught the family compassion
* people actually like him

**Events:**

* Nathan Price takes his family to Congo(1959)
* R hates everything and just wants to be normal
* the other girls appreciate the Congo
  + L: observe congo culture
  + A: Studies plants, animals, insects
  + RM: Playing w nature & other children
* N tries to grow a garden to show the village but fails (the plants cannot grow fruit)
* N tries to baptize the villagers and Mama Tataba deserts them
  + a young girl was eaten by a crocodile
* N throws out Anatole(only english-speaker)
  + The Chief Tata Ndu is scared to have his people to become Christian in fear of moral decline
* Ruth May breaks her arm
  + Nathan takes her to a doctor in Stanleyville
    - Dr discusses possibility of Congo gaining freedom
* Underdowns warn Price to leave before they get independence or they will get killed
  + girls beg N to listen to him but N refuses
  + N forbids them the get onto the plane
* Prices are awaken by hordes of ants eating everything
  + everyone flees to the river
  + A becomes upset when O saves RM instead of her
  + Leah tells Anatole she loves him
* R pretends to be engaged to Axelroot to avoid a proposal from Chief Ndu
  + she becomes infatuated
* Ruth May catches malaria
  + when recovered, she is a shadow of herself
* Olrleanna becomes sick & bedridden
  + Girls run the house & find out how difficult it is
* Kilanga gets a drought & the people start to starve
  + they organize a hunt
    - controversy whether Leah should join
      * a vote takes place-> Ndu & Tata Kuvundu (religious leader) outraged w idea of woman joining them
      * Leah gets in a fight w chief’s son on who killed the antelope
      * chief’s son doesn’t want to admit that a woman could best him
      * fight breaks out over this issue
* Anatole finds poisonous mamba snake by bed
* after hunt Nelson finds snake by coup
  + begs to spend night @ Price’s; N refuses
  + girl take pity and join him out
  + nelson sleeps at anatole’s
  + girls put ash on the ground to find out who it is
    - find 6-toed footprint of Tata Kuvundu
  + nelson pokes snake out w a pole
    - snake bites Ruth May on the shoulder(dies)
* after RM’s death, O takes girls out of Kilanga
  + after burying RM, O gives the village women household furniture and goods
  + it rains & N baptizes the children
  + they leave that night
* Bulungu: Leah catches malaria & too ill to cont.
* Rachel is flown to Johannesburg by Axelroot
  + A & O go to Belgium embassy in Leopoldville & then to Georgia
* Leah decides to stay & marry Anatole
  + has 4 sons & try to have true independence & justice for african nations
* Rachel marries 3 men
  + 1st axelroot
  + inherits a hotel from 2nd husband (The Equatorial)
* A goes to med school & becomes a successful epidemiologist
  + learns to walk w/out limp
  + works for CDC; investigates tropical diseases
  + becomes well-known for discovering AIDS & Ebola
* O lives with guilt & begs forgiveness from RM
  + becomes active in Civil Rights Movements

**Themes:**

1. Injustice on is a global scale by Leah i\not being able to teach the boys because she’s a woman and white, Axelroot forcing O to marry R to him to get her to safety, L fighting to join the hunt, & N not being able to respect his own daughters.
2. Being flexible in religion is important by showing that N being stiff in his beliefs got himself nowhere in converting the village but Brother Fowels having a more lenient view had more people converting.

**Paradox:**

1. Nathan constantly saying the “Poisonwood Bible.” This is contradicting himself by saying Poisonwood, is something good for them. This paradox can be resolved if Nathan wasn’t so hard-headed and listened to those around him by fixing his pronunciation.