The Sociogram Visual and Written Creative Project for Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*

A literary **sociogram** is a *visual* representation of the relationships among characters within a literary work. Creating a **sociogram** may help you think more deeply about the characters and the story in general. A story's characters are interrelated often in unpredictable and very revealing ways. Stories are complex, multi-variable, and multi-level affairs that often lead us into many wonderings, speculations, and questions, some of which the mind never really answers completely, or continues to respond to as long as we live. Our minds can construct **sociograms** throughout the reading process. Constructing **sociograms** periodically throughout a reading will help you consider how your thinking has developed from beginning to end.

Guidelines:
Please note that this assignment was planned originally as a group project. If you can collaborate digitally, respecting the Shelter-In-Place law and working through distance learning, I think it would be great if you formed groups of 2 or 3 to complete this project. It is also completely okay for you to work independently.

In a **sociogram**, the central character or protagonist or another main character is usually placed at the center of the page, and the other characters are placed in the surrounding area. The relative space between characters should represent their relationships to the chosen character at the center and to each other (close or distant and how?). Also, consider the nature of their relationships –

> i.e. friend or enemy, strong or weak, members of the same socio-economic class or not, related or not by the same culture, related or not by the same politics, related or not by a significant location, event, conflict, related or not by personality trait, opposites or in plays foils, etc.

and then use lines constructed from a **symbolic** object to demonstrate this relationship. ****Arrange your **sociogram** in a way that reflects your understanding of the text.****

Directions:
➢ Choose your central character for your **sociogram**. You can choose from either column below.

➢ Depict a minimum of *three* (3) characters from Column One and *three* (3) characters from Column Two connected/related to your central character.

➢ Ultimately, you should build a **sociogram** relating a minimum of *seven* (7) characters in total.

Please see character choices by columns below:

<u>Cast of Characters to Choose From:</u>

Column One	**Column Two**
Orleanna Price	Methuselah
Rachel Price	the Underdowns
Leah Price	Mama Tataba
Adah Price	Pascal
Ruth May Price	Elisabet Ngembe
Nathan Price	Pascal Ngembe
Eeben Axelroot	Patrice Ngembe
Anatole Ngemba	Martin-Lothaire Ngembe
Brother Fowles	Natan Ngembe
Nelson	Sister Therese
Tata Ndu	Patrice Lumumba
Tata Kuvundu	Joseph Mbotu
	Agostino Neto

Further VISUAL Directions:

- Place your central character at the center of the **<u>sociogram</u>** or make sure they are the focal point.
- You **<u>must</u>** illustrate the character's personality through a creative **symbol** that has powerful metaphoric meaning in relation to the character's persona. You can also render the character him or herself and make that **symbol** a part of the character's depiction.
- You **<u>must</u>** represent a minimum of <u>*six*</u> (6) other characters with **symbols** as well.
- You may also add **archetypal**, **symbolic** color to represent your central character's and other characters' personae.
- You may also add **archetypal**, **symbolic** color to indicate the overall tone or theme of your represented relationships.
- The distance placed between characters on the page should reflect the perceived psychological distance between the characters in the story.
- Allow the character's **symbolic** shape, representation, and size to be a **metaphor** for their personality, importance, power, lack of power, socio-economic class, political significance, cultural significance etc.
- You **<u>must</u>** show the nature of a relationship by using repeated **symbolic** shapes to form the lines connecting the characters.
- Use solid lines to represent strong, explicit relationships and broken or discontinuous lines to represent broken or **ambiguous** relationships.
- You may also want to use solid lines to circle active characters and indicate less active, dead or otherwise missing characters with broken lines.
- You **<u>must</u>** also name/label each of your chosen characters with their name.
- You may also add descriptive words and/or other **symbolic** or metaphoric words around or near a character to help illustrate the qualities of relationships or characters.
- You may also want to use words or **symbols** to express how or what might influence the character.

WRITTEN Portion Directions:

- For each of the _six_ (6) relationship lines between your chosen _six_ (6) characters and your central character, you **must** construct an **interpretive analytical sentence** which explores the **thematic** meaning(s) of the relationship between these two characters.
- For each of the _six_ (6) relationship lines, you **must** also **cite a quotation** from the text that best delivers the **thematic** understanding in your **interpretive analytical sentence**. Please cite the quotation.
- You **must** embed a minimum of _seven_ (7) higher level, critical thinking vocabulary words in your interpretive analytical sentences, which you must <mark>highlight</mark> in some way in your written work.

It might be useful to arrange your written work in a T-chart.

1. <mark>poignantly</mark> interpretative analytical sentence	1. quotation expressive of theme (p.__)