

“IGBO FEMINIST WITH A CAPITAL ‘F’”

TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE ONYEBUCHI “BUCHI” EMECHETA

BORN: (JULY 21, 1944, YABA, LAGOS, NIGERIA)

DIED: JANUARY 25, 2017, LONDON, ENGLAND)

Profession: Novelist, Children’s Literature Writer, Playwright, Sociologist, Educator, Essayist, Womanist

Awards: Jock Campbell Award for *The Slave Girl* in 1978

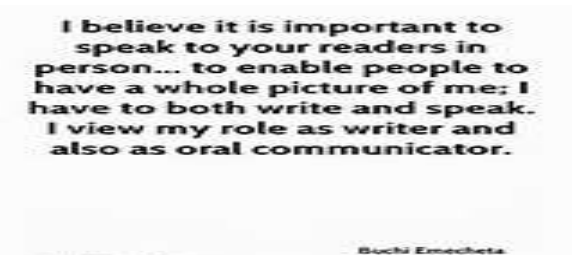
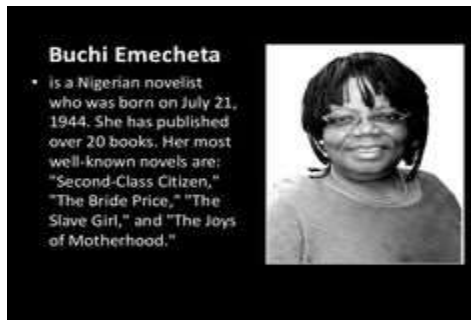
Member, British Home Secretary’s Advisory Council on Race, in the *New Statesman* magazine in 1979

Listed among 20 Best Young British Novelists, alongside such rising stars as Martin Amis, Ian McEwan and Salman Rushdie in *Granta* magazine in 1983

Honorary Doctorate in Literature from Farleigh Dickinson University in 1992

Listed among 50 Black and Asian Writers at the British Library for contributions to contemporary British Literature in 2004

Order of the British Empire (OBE) for literature in 2005



“Apart from telling stories, I don’t have a particular mission. I like to tell the world our part of the story while using the voices of women,” Emecheta once said.

“I thought to myself, ‘No life could be more important than this.’ So when people asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up, I told them I wanted to be a storyteller — which is what I’m doing now,” Emecheta told *The Voice Literary Supplement*.



"Black women all over the world should re-unite and re-examine the way history has portrayed us."

Buchi Emecheta



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Yesterday at 4:36pm · 0

Buchi Emecheta
We are able to speak because you first spoke.
Thank you for your courage.
Thank you for your art.
Nodu na ndokwa.
~CNA



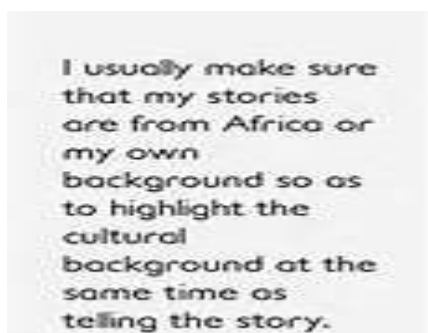
Few things are as bad as a guilty conscience.

Buchi Emecheta



A hungry man is an angry one.

Buchi Emecheta



I usually make sure that my stories are from Africa or my own background so as to highlight the cultural background at the same time as telling the story.



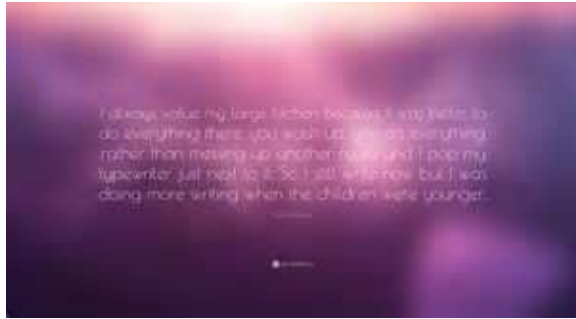
I came to England in 1962 as a very young bride, in my teens, hoping just to stay two years and go back.

Buchi Emecheta

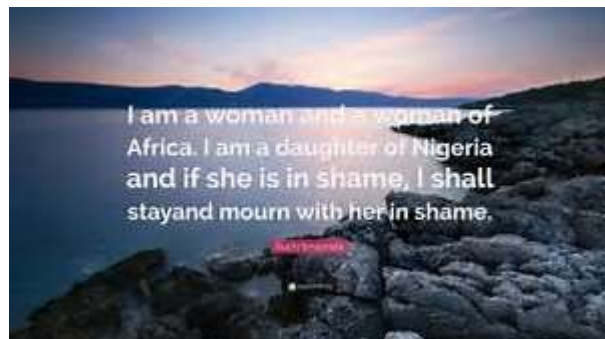
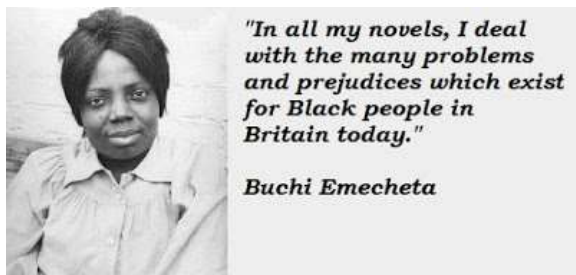


Being a woman writer, I would be deceiving myself if I said I write completely through the eye of a man. There's nothing bad in it, but that does not make me a feminist writer. I hate that name. The tag is from the Western world – like we are called the Third World.





“Emecheta’s women do not simply lie down and die,” *The Voice Literary Supplement* wrote in 1982. “Always there is resistance, a challenge to fate, a need to renegotiate the terms of the uneasy peace that exists between them and accepted traditions.”



Signed by the Executive Management Team of the Igbo Studies Association (USA)

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*Images and writings for this TRIBUTE were taken from the free Web and the eulogy, “Buchi Emecheta, Nigerian Novelist, Dies at 72,” by William Grimes, February 10, 2017, which eulogy can more fully be found on Page B4 of the *New York Times* edition with the headline: “Buchi Emecheta, Nigerian Novelist, Is Dead at 72,” February 13, 2017.