

Examining Motif in Purple Hibiscus: Insects and Other Invertebrates

Name _____

One significant motif (repeated symbol) in Purple Hibiscus is the presence of insects, bugs, and other critters. Please examine and explore how these repeated references may give us further insight into the story.

1. Find the references to insects and record in the space below.
2. Observe / note what (if anything) this quote may reveal about themes and ideas.

Insect Type	Page	Quotation from Text	Observations / Ideas
Fly	70		
	143		
	119		
	138		
	151		
	163		
	166		

Based on your observations thus far, choose one insect and theorize how Adichie is using that insect to represent a larger idea. Write 3-4 sentences in the space below:

Pay attention to the way Adichie embeds bug and insect references in the story. Fill out the chart below as you read.

Insect Type	Page	Quotation from Text	Observations / Ideas
	218		
	232		
	238		
	238-9		
	242		
	250		
	262		
	267		
	270		
	275		
	277		
	284-5		

Now that you've found many references, consider: What are some common patterns, themes, or common ideas that emerge?