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**Creating home on a hostile land in  
Imbolo Mbues' Behold the Dreamers**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of Master in Language and  
Culture**

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## *Dedication*

To my cherished family and friends, and especially to my father, whose integrity and character have been my constant source of hope and security, my guide and essence in life. I extend my deepest gratitude to my professors for their invaluable guidance and support.

To the immigrants around the world, whose stories of resilience and hope perpetually inspire me.

*Marwa*

## ***Dedication***

I offer thanks and blessings to God.

To my mother and father, thank you for believing in me even when I doubted myself; your sacrifices have paved the way for this achievement.

To my incredible brothers and friends, I am grateful for the unwavering friendship that has made this journey unforgettable. Special thanks to Bilel, Ali, Islem, Adel, Oussama, Samir, my brothers Islem, Amine, Idriss, my little Nesta Ilyes, and my girlfriend Ghizlen, for being my constant support system.

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### *Abstract*

This thesis provides an in-depth analysis of Imbolo Mbue's novel "Behold the Dreamers," exploring its portrayal of home, identity, immigration, and the American Dream. Through the narrative of Jende and Neni Jonga, immigrants from Cameroon who move to New York City, the novel examines the multifaceted challenges and experiences faced by immigrants in their pursuit of a better life. Employing New Historicism, this study contextualizes the novel within its socio-political and economic backdrop, offering a comprehensive understanding of its themes.

The analysis highlights how Mbue encapsulates the struggle of maintaining one's cultural roots while adapting to a new environment, the systemic barriers faced by immigrants, and the duality of the American Dream as both an inspiring ideal and a harsh reality. By critically examining the Jongas' journey, this thesis sheds light on the broader societal implications of immigration and the pursuit of the American Dream, presenting a nuanced critique of the socio-economic structures that shape the immigrant experience. This work contributes to the field of English Literature by providing a detailed examination of contemporary immigrant narratives and their relevance in today's globalized world.

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# **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

## **1. Introduction to the Topic:**

In "Behold the Dreamers" by Imbolo Mbue, the narratives of home, immigration, identity, and the American Dream are intricately woven together through the lives of Jende and Neni Jonga, a couple from Cameroon who move to New York City in search of better opportunities. The concept of home is depicted as both a physical place and an emotional state, highlighting the tension between the Jongas' nostalgic ties to Cameroon and their desire to establish a new life in America. This duality underscores the complexities of creating a sense of belonging in a foreign land.

Immigration is portrayed as a multifaceted journey filled with aspirations and uncertainties, mirroring the broader experiences of immigrants in the United States. The Jongas' quest for stability and success is fraught with legal, financial, and social challenges, reflecting the systemic barriers that immigrants often face. These struggles emphasize the harsh realities of the immigration process and the resilience required to navigate it.

Identity is a central theme as the characters confront the challenge of preserving their cultural heritage while integrating into American society. This duality of identity explores the internal and external conflicts that arise from adapting to a new cultural environment while staying true to one's roots. The Jongas' experiences highlight the fluid nature of identity and the ongoing process of self-discovery in the immigrant journey.

The American Dream, a prominent motif throughout the novel, is depicted as both an inspiring ideal and a complex, often elusive reality. The narrative examines the allure of the American Dream, with its promises of prosperity and success, while also scrutinizing the sacrifices and moral compromises that sometimes accompany its pursuit. Through the Jongas' story, Mbue questions the attainability of the American Dream and its true cost, offering a nuanced critique of the socio-economic structures in America.

Overall, "Behold the Dreamers" provides a rich and insightful exploration of the immigrant experience, shedding light on the multifaceted struggles and aspirations that define the pursuit of a better life in a new country. Through the lens of the Jongas' journey, Mbue invites readers to reflect on the broader implications of home, identity, and the American Dream in contemporary society.



## **1.1 Literature Review :**

In "Behold the Dreamers," Imbolo Mbue skillfully navigates the intricate web of human emotions and societal pressures, presenting a panoramic view of the immigrant experience in America. Through the trials and triumphs of the Jonga family as they strive for a better life in a foreign land, juxtaposed with the affluence and fragility of the Edwards family, Mbue sheds light on the intersecting forces of privilege, ambition, and resilience. With lyrical prose and keen insight, the novel delves deep into the universal quest for belonging and the relentless pursuit of hope amidst adversity. Mbue's exploration of the immigrant narrative resonates powerfully, offering readers a poignant reflection on the complexities of identity, culture, and the elusive promise of the American Dream. Delving further into the narrative, Mbue examines the complex dynamics of immigration, race, socioeconomic disparity, and the pursuit of the American Dream. Through the intertwined narratives of the Jonga family, recent immigrants from Cameroon, and the affluent Edwards family of New York, Mbue crafts a rich tapestry of characters grappling with their aspirations, identities, and the harsh realities of contemporary America. The novel's exploration of these themes garnered widespread praise for its compelling storytelling and profound examination of the immigrant experience.

## **1.2 Identity :**

Identity is a crucial theme as characters navigate their sense of self in a new and often unwelcoming environment. The Jonga family, who immigrated from Cameroon, faces the challenge of preserving their cultural identity while assimilating into American society.

- *\*Cultural Identity\**: Jende and Neni struggle to maintain their Cameroonian heritage while adjusting to life in America. Their efforts to provide a better future for their children highlight the tension between their cultural roots and the new environment.

- *\*Personal Identity\**: The journey of each character toward self-understanding is pivotal. Jende, in particular, undergoes significant personal transformation as he navigates his new life, balancing his roles as a father, husband, and individual with aspirations.

## **1.3 The American Dream :**

The novel critically examines the pursuit of the American Dream, a prominent theme throughout.

- *\*Aspiration and Disillusionment\**: Jende and Neni arrive in America with high hopes for a better future. However, their initial optimism is challenged by the harsh realities of economic

and social barriers. The novel portrays the American Dream as complex and often unattainable, highlighting the gap between aspiration and reality.

- **\*Success and Failure\***: The contrasting lives of the Jongas and the Edwards family illustrate different outcomes of the American Dream. While the Edwards family seems to epitomize success, their personal struggles reveal that wealth does not ensure happiness or fulfillment.

#### **1.4 Home :**

The novel intricately explores the concept of home, with characters constantly negotiating their sense of belonging.

- **\*Physical and Emotional Home\***: For the Jongas, home is more than a physical place; it is an emotional state. Their Harlem apartment symbolizes both their achievements and struggles. The tension between their life in America and their memories of Cameroon creates a complex sense of belonging.

- **\*Return to Roots\***: The idea of returning to Cameroon recurs, especially for Jende. The contrast between their life in America and the life they left behind forces the characters to question where they truly belong and what "home" means to them.

#### **1.5 Immigration :**

At the heart of "Behold the Dreamers" is the immigrant experience, offering a nuanced portrayal of the challenges and hopes associated with starting anew in a foreign land.

- **\*Legal and Social Challenges\***: The Jongas' precarious immigration status adds tension to their lives. Their interactions with the immigration system highlight its bureaucratic and often dehumanizing aspects. The looming fear of deportation affects their daily decisions and mental health.

- **\*Economic Hardship\***: The novel underscores the economic difficulties faced by immigrants. Jende's job as a chauffeur and Neni's work as a domestic helper expose the vulnerabilities of low-wage workers and the exploitation they often endure.

- **\*Community and Isolation\***: The immigrant community in New York provides support for the Jongas, yet they also experience isolation. While community is crucial for their survival and adaptation, their struggles also highlight the loneliness and alienation that can accompany the immigrant experience.

## **1.6 Research Questions :**

1. In what ways does the American Dream influence the decisions and lives of the Jonga family and other characters in the novel?
2. How are the four topics of post-colonialism joined within the story of "Behold the Dreamers"?

## **1.7 Research Methodology :**

This research employs New Historicism as the primary literary approach to analyze "Behold the Dreamers." New Historicism focuses on understanding literary works within the cultural and historical contexts of their time. By examining the socio-political and economic conditions surrounding the characters in the novel, this approach provides a comprehensive understanding of the themes of home, post-colonialism, and immigration.

## **1.8 Research Structure :**

### **1. Chapter One: Definitions and Concepts**

- This chapter provides a detailed exploration of the definitions of key concepts such as home, post-colonialism, immigration, the American Dream, and identity. It sets the foundation for the subsequent analysis by outlining how these concepts are understood and applied in the thesis.

### **2. Chapter Two: Theoretical Framework and Methodology**

- This chapter explains the theoretical underpinnings of New Historicism and its relevance to the study. It also details the research methodology by analyze the quotes with their meaning

# CHAPTER ONE

## **2. Definition of home :**

Home is an intriguing concept explored by various scholars, each approaching it from unique perspectives. Setha Low, for instance, investigates home as a "spatialized practice." She emphasizes how individuals actively create and maintain their sense of home through everyday practices and interactions within a space. This view highlights the dynamic and participatory nature of home, showing it as something actively constructed rather than a static physical location (Pink, 2004).

Sarah Pink's research on home focuses on the idea of home as a "sensory and embodied experience." Pink delves into how sensory perceptions and bodily experiences play a crucial role in shaping individuals' sense of home and belonging. This perspective adds another layer to our understanding of home, suggesting that it is not only spatially but also sensorially constituted. The importance of sensory experiences in creating a sense of home and belonging emphasizes how intimately our physical senses are tied to our emotional and psychological sense of place (Pink, 2004).

Bella Dicks explores the concept of home as a "spatially and temporally situated process." This perspective stresses that home is not merely a physical location but also a process that unfolds over time, shaped by individual experiences and social contexts. This view underscores the temporal dimension of home, suggesting that our understanding and experience of home evolve continuously, influenced by our personal histories and the broader social environment (Dicks, 2003).

Elisa J. Sobo and Sandra Bell describe home as a "dynamic and contested social space." This definition highlights the ever-changing nature of what home means to individuals and how it can be influenced by various social, cultural, and personal factors. Their study emphasizes that home is not a fixed concept but a fluid and evolving idea, constantly redefined by the interplay of different forces and contexts (Sobo & Bell, 2001).

In summary, the concept of home is multifaceted and complex, as demonstrated by these scholarly perspectives. Whether seen as a spatialized practice, a sensory and embodied experience, a temporally situated process, or a dynamic social space, home is a rich and evolving concept that reflects the diversity of human experiences and interactions with space.

### **2.2. Definition of post-colonial :**

"Post-colonial" refers to the period following the end of colonialism, where former colonies seek to redefine themselves politically, economically, and culturally after gaining independence

from colonial powers. It is a time of transition and readjustment for these societies as they strive to break free from colonial influences and forge their own identity (Ashcroft, Griffiths, & Tiffin, 2006).

The post-colonial era is marked by efforts to establish national identities and independence, involving a process of self-discovery and redefining societal structures outside of colonial influence. This period is characterized by former colonies working to reconstruct their political, economic, and cultural frameworks, thus reclaiming their heritage and identity from the vestiges of colonial rule.

In the context of post-colonial studies, scholars analyze how the legacy of colonialism continues to affect former colonies even after independence. This includes examining how colonial power dynamics and cultural impositions persist and how these nations navigate their path toward self-determination and cultural revival.

Post-colonialism encapsulates the era that comes after the colonial period, where formerly colonized nations work to establish their own identities and independence after gaining freedom from colonial rule. This involves a profound process of self-discovery, redefining societal structures, and developing new national narratives that are free from colonial influence.

### **2.3. Definition of immigration :**

Immigration, a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, has been defined and studied from various perspectives by anthropologists and sociologists. Caroline B. Brettell, an anthropologist, defines immigration as "the process of moving to a new country or region with the intention of living there permanently or for an extended period." This definition emphasizes the long-term aspect of settling in a new place (Brettell, 2014).

Sociologist Alejandro Portes offers another perspective, defining immigration as "the movement of people across national borders in a way that involves a change of residence and is motivated by the search for better economic opportunities, social mobility, or political asylum." This definition highlights the diverse reasons behind individuals' decisions to migrate, such as economic improvement, social advancement, and the pursuit of safety and freedom (Portes, 1996).

Saskia Sassen, also a sociologist, provides a specific definition of immigration, describing it as "the movement of people across national borders, involving a change of residence that is intended to be permanent or semi-permanent." Sassen's definition underscores the intention of long-term relocation and settlement in a new country (Sassen, 1988).

Each of these scholars contributes to a broader understanding of immigration, highlighting different aspects and motivations behind the movement of people. Brettell emphasizes the permanence and long-term nature of immigration, Portes focuses on the economic, social, and political motivations, and Sassen underscores the intention of settling for an extended period. In summary, immigration can be understood through various lenses, each providing unique insights into why and how people move across borders. These definitions collectively contribute to a comprehensive understanding of immigration as a process influenced by a multitude of factors and intentions.

#### **2.4. Definition of the American dream :**

The concept of the American Dream has been analyzed and defined by various scholars, each bringing unique insights and perspectives to this multifaceted idea. Economist and social theorist Richard D. Wolff emphasizes the economic aspects of the American Dream, highlighting issues of class, wealth distribution, and social mobility. Wolff's perspective adds a valuable dimension to the ongoing dialogue about what the American Dream means today, focusing on economic disparities and the challenges to achieving upward mobility (Wolff, n.d.). Historian and author Howard Zinn offers a critical perspective on the American Dream in his book "A People's History of the United States." Zinn examines the American Dream through the experiences of marginalized groups, challenging traditional narratives of American history. His work provides a different lens through which to understand the complexities of the American Dream and its impact on society, emphasizing the struggles and contributions of those often overlooked in mainstream historical accounts (Zinn, 1980).

Similarly, historian and sociologist James W. Loewen critically analyzes the American Dream in his work "Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong." Loewen examines the American Dream within the context of historical narratives, challenging traditional interpretations. His analysis sheds light on the complexities and contradictions inherent in the American Dream as a cultural and social construct, questioning the validity of the idealized version often presented in textbooks (Loewen, 1995).

Historian and writer Lawrence Samuel explores the evolving concept of the American Dream in his book "The American Dream: A Cultural History." Samuel highlights the cultural significance and impact of the American Dream on society, tracing its development and transformation over time. His perspective adds to the diverse interpretations and understandings of this fundamental aspect of American identity, emphasizing its role in shaping cultural norms and aspirations (Samuel, 2012).

James Truslow Adams, in his book "The Epic of America," famously described the American Dream as "that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." This definition emphasizes the idea of equal opportunity and the pursuit of a better life for all individuals in the United States, encapsulating the core ideals of the American Dream that continue to resonate with many (Adams, 1931).

In summary, the American Dream is a complex and evolving concept that has been interpreted and redefined by various scholars. From economic analyses to critical historical perspectives and cultural interpretations, these diverse viewpoints contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the American Dream and its significance in American society.

### **2.5. Definition of identity :**

In school, discussions about identity typically refer to a person's sense of self, including their beliefs, values, personality, and characteristics that make them unique. This understanding emphasizes the importance of recognizing and understanding who you are as an individual.

The American Psychological Association provides a comprehensive definition of identity: "Identity is the qualities, beliefs, personality, looks, and/or expressions that make a person (self-identity) or group (particular social category or social group) different from others." This definition highlights the various dimensions that constitute identity, whether on an individual level (self-identity) or within a group context (APA, n.d.).

A prominent scholar in the field of identity development is Erik Erikson, a German American psychologist renowned for his work on psychosocial development. Erikson defines identity as the sense of self that evolves as we progress through different stages of life, influenced by our interactions with others and our personal experiences. This perspective emphasizes the dynamic and social nature of identity formation, recognizing that our social environment and experiences play crucial roles in shaping who we are (Erikson, 1968).

Building on Erikson's work, James Marcia developed a theory of identity development that focuses on the exploration and commitment individuals undergo to form their identity. According to Marcia, identity formation involves a process of exploring different roles and making commitments, highlighting the importance of active engagement in self-discovery and decision-making. This approach underscores the proactive aspects of identity development, where individuals actively explore and commit to different aspects of their identity (Marcia, 1966).



"The Oxford Handbook of Identity Development," edited by Kate C. McLean and Moin Syed, offers a comprehensive exploration of identity development. This resource delves into various aspects of how individuals form their sense of self through relationships, experiences, and social interactions. It provides a multifaceted view of identity, emphasizing the interplay between personal experiences and social context in shaping one's identity (McLean & Syed, 2015).

From a sociological perspective, Steph Lawler's "Identity: Sociological Perspectives" examines how identity is constructed and understood through social interactions, culture, and power dynamics. Lawler's work provides valuable insights into the sociological aspects of identity formation, exploring how societal factors influence and shape individual identities (Lawler, 2014).

In summary, identity is a complex and multifaceted concept influenced by personal beliefs, values, and experiences, as well as social interactions and cultural contexts. The various perspectives from psychology and sociology provide a comprehensive understanding of how identity is formed and developed over time.

## **2.6. The critical of the American dream :**

The negative points of the American dream can include issues like unrealistic expectations, inequality, and the pressure to constantly strive for material success. Sometimes, it can lead to feelings of inadequacy or disappointment if individuals feel they haven't achieved the traditional markers of success associated with the American dream – the potential for excessive individualism and materialism. This focus on personal success and wealth accumulation can sometimes overshadow the importance of community, relationships, and well-being. Additionally, the pursuit of the American dream can lead to a high level of competition, which may result in stress, burnout, and a lack of work-life balance for some individuals.

## **2.7. The causes of living according to the American dream :**

In "Behold the Dreamers" by Imbolo Mbue, the American Dream is a major focus of the story. The book tells the intertwined stories of two families, the Jonga family from Cameroon and the Edwards family from America, during the 2008 financial crisis.

The American Dream serves as a powerful motivator for the characters to leave their homes and seek a better life in America. It represents the belief that with hard work, determination, and perseverance, individuals can achieve social mobility and improve their economic situations.

For the Jonga family, the American Dream becomes a source of hope, inspiring them to take risks and venture into the unknown.

Throughout the novel, Mbue explores the complexities and challenges that arise as the characters pursue their dreams. The pursuit of the American Dream is not without obstacles, and the characters face hardships, setbacks, and moments of disillusionment. Mbue skillfully portrays the tension between the idealized concept of the American Dream and the harsh realities that the characters encounter in their quest for a better life.

By delving into themes of immigration, socioeconomic disparities, and the pursuit of happiness, "Behold the Dreamers" offers a thought-provoking exploration of the American Dream.

The novel "Behold the Dreamers," social media plays a limited role in pushing the two families to immigrate. The main driving forces behind their decision to leave Cameroon are the financial difficulties and job instability caused by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, where Jende worked. While social media may have some influence on their perceptions and aspirations, the primary factors leading to their immigration are rooted in economic challenges and the pursuit of a better life. Another significant role that pushes the two families to immigrate is the desire for social connection and a sense of belonging. The characters seek better opportunities and a more stable future for themselves and their loved ones.

### **2.8. How does the American dream impact the characters' decisions? :**

In the novel "Behold the Dreamers," the American Dream plays a significant role in the decision of the characters to leave Cameroon and pursue a better life in America. The idea of the American Dream, with its promise of opportunity, success, and upward mobility, motivates the characters to seek a new beginning in the United States. The dream of a better future, improved social status, and economic stability drives them to make the difficult choice of leaving their current circumstances behind the search for a brighter tomorrow.

# **CHAPTER TWO**

### 3. The identity :

**(Chapter 18 page 96):** "And yet, despite this portrait of a self-assured woman, Cindy seemed to have a near obsession with being where everyone was and doing what everyone was doing."; The quote mentions Cindy, who may seem self-assured but actually has a deep desire to be part of popular activities and always be where everyone else is. This hints at an inner insecurity or fear of missing out, which contrasts with her confident exterior.

**(Chapter 12 page 66):** "Germany was his favorite place to live, he said, because, even as a child, he could tell how much the Germans loved Americans, and it felt great to be loved for his nationality. "The quote means that the person enjoyed living in Germany because, even from a young age, he noticed that Germans had a strong affection for Americans. This admiration made him feel good about himself because it was tied to his identity as an American.

**(chapter 53 page 264):** " Let me put this another way, are you happy with who you're becoming? " Is a poignant inquiry that delves deep into the theme of identity. It serves as a catalyst for self-reflection and encourages individuals to evaluate their personal growth and development. By posing this question, it challenges individuals to ponder whether they are content with the trajectory of their lives and the person they are evolving into. Encouraging self-evaluation, this quote prompts individuals to critically assess their values, beliefs, and actions. It invites them to consider whether their current choices align with their aspirations and ideals. This introspection can lead to a deeper understanding of oneself and one's place in the world. Moreover, this question fosters a sense of accountability. It urges individuals to take ownership of their journey and actively shape their future. By contemplating whether they are happy with their evolving identity, individuals are motivated to make intentional decisions that align with their authentic selves. In essence, this quote prompts individuals to embark on a journey of self-discovery and introspection. It challenges them to strive for personal fulfillment and authenticity, ultimately empowering them to shape their identities in a way that brings them true happiness and fulfillment.

**(chapter 53 page 263):**" I don't like how people say to a woman, oh you want so many things, why do you want so many things "This quote illuminates the challenges women confront in society as they strive to pursue their aspirations, shedding light on pervasive gender biases and inequalities. It questions the societal expectation that women should be satisfied with limited ambitions, emphasizing the stark contrast in how society perceives and supports women's dreams compared to men's.

In many societies, particularly those rooted in tradition and patriarchy, there is an ingrained belief that women should prioritize domestic duties and caregiving roles over their personal ambitions. Women often encounter discouragement or dismissal when expressing their desires for fulfillment, with their aspirations dismissed as excessive or unnecessary. These societal attitudes reflect entrenched gender biases and reinforce harmful stereotypes about women's capabilities and roles. They perpetuate the idea that a woman's value lies solely in her ability to meet societal expectations, disregarding her individual aspirations and talents. Moreover, this quote underscores the importance of challenging and dismantling these societal norms. It advocates for the recognition and empowerment of women's autonomy and agency in pursuing their dreams without judgment or restriction. While more progressive societies may show greater acceptance of women's aspirations, subtle forms of gender inequality persist. Women may still face barriers such as glass ceilings, unequal opportunities for advancement, and pressure to conform to traditional gender roles. Ultimately, this quote serves as a rallying cry to address gender inequality and empower women to pursue their aspirations freely. It calls upon society to recognize and support women's dreams as valid and worthy pursuits, fostering greater gender equality and societal progress.

**(chapter 2 page 18):** "She was going to make herself proud, make Jende proud of his wife" This quote reflects a profound shift in how women's roles are perceived and pursued within American society. It portrays the protagonist's resolute determination to challenge conventional gender norms and carve out her own path towards fulfillment and achievement. Within the narrative of "Behold the Dreamers," this shift symbolizes a departure from the constraints imposed by societal expectations, heralding a movement towards empowerment and self-realization for women. In traditional patriarchal societies, similar to those depicted in the novel, women are often expected to prioritize their roles as wives and mothers above all else. Their value and identity are frequently defined by their ability to fulfill domestic responsibilities and support their families. However, this quote challenges such a narrow conception of women's roles by highlighting the protagonist's aspiration to derive pride from her personal accomplishments, independent of her husband's approval. This transformation in perspective reflects a broader societal evolution towards recognizing and honoring women's autonomy, agency, and aspirations. Over time, American society has undergone a gradual yet significant shift in attitudes towards gender roles, acknowledging and appreciating women's contributions across various domains, including the workforce, politics, and cultural spheres.

Today, women are increasingly encouraged and empowered to pursue their unique goals and aspirations, spanning from professional advancement to personal growth and creative pursuits.

This evolving perspective acknowledges the intrinsic worth and potential of women beyond their traditional familial roles. Moreover, the quote underscores the significance of mutual support and partnership within relationships. Rather than seeking validation solely from her husband, the protagonist's desire to earn Jende's pride in his wife exemplifies a dynamic where both partners mutually uplift and inspire each other towards personal fulfillment. In essence, this quote signifies a significant departure from entrenched gender norms and celebrates women's agency, autonomy, and aspirations within American society. It signifies a movement towards greater equality and empowerment, allowing women the freedom to pursue their dreams and derive pride from their achievements on their own terms.

### **3.1. The analysis of the theme "the identity" :**

Is an individual's sense of self and belonging. It takes the course of who we are, where we come from, and how we define ourselves. The source that delves into this theme is the novel 'Behold the Dreamers' by ImboloMbue. This book traces the lives of the two families and how they shape their identities through their backgrounds, ambitions, and the challenges they face to achieve their dreams and explore themselves.

### **3.2. The Home :**

**(chapter 3 page 22):** " Who traveled to America only to return to a future of nothingness in Cameroon after mere three months? Not young men like him, not people facing a future of poverty and despondency in their own country", This quote eloquently juxtaposes the promising opportunities that America offers with the grim realities awaiting individuals in their homeland of Cameroon. It underscores the magnetic allure of the American Dream for those in pursuit of a brighter future, juxtaposed against the grim prospect of returning to a life marked by despair and limited prospects back home. By intertwining the themes of home and the American Dream, it underscores the profound reluctance of immigrants to relinquish their newfound sense of belonging in America, fearing the loss of the paradise promised by the American Dream. For countless immigrants, America symbolizes a realm of boundless opportunity, where dedication and perseverance can pave the way to prosperity and fulfillment. The tantalizing prospect of upward mobility and the chance to craft a better life for themselves and their loved ones entices them to leave behind their familiar surroundings and embark on the journey to a foreign land. Yet, the quote serves as a poignant reminder that the decision to migrate is not made lightly, particularly for those grappling with poverty and hopelessness in their native land.

Upon arriving in America, immigrants often discover a sense of belonging and potential that eluded them in their country of origin. They toil tirelessly to carve out a niche for themselves, establishing careers and forging a new sense of home in a foreign land. However, the haunting specter of returning to the same bleak existence and dearth of opportunities they once fled weighs heavily on their conscience. This apprehension is compounded by the sobering realization that the American Dream is not a guarantee, and success in America is not a foregone conclusion for everyone. Despite the trials and uncertainties, they encounter, immigrants frequently opt to remain in America, clinging fervently to the prospect of a brighter tomorrow and the chance to continue cultivating their newfound sense of home. In essence, the quote underscores the intricate interplay between the themes of home and the American Dream for immigrants. It underscores the magnetic pull of the American Dream and the deep-seated reluctance to return to a homeland plagued by scarcity of opportunities. Immigrants' preference to remain and cultivate a new sense of home in America reflects their unwavering resolve to preserve the promise of a better life, even in the face of adversity and unknowns.

**(chapter 4 page 30):** " We try really hard, we can save five thousand a year "this quote shows the character's efforts to save money, and their financial stability, hard work, and striving for a better future through saving, This quote illuminates the character's diligent efforts to save money and their commitment to financial stability. It speaks to their perseverance and dedication towards securing a better future through diligent saving practices. While the theme of home may not directly relate to this quote, it underscores the universal aspiration for financial security and the pursuit of a brighter tomorrow through disciplined saving habits.

**(chapter 56 page 276):** " if God cuts off your fingers, he will reach you how to eat with your toes " This quote conveys the idea of resilience and adaptation in the face of adversity, suggesting that even in the most challenging circumstances, there are opportunities to learn and grow. It speaks to the belief in a guiding force, whether divine or internal, that helps individuals overcome obstacles and find innovative solutions to their problems. While the quote may not directly relate to the theme of home, one could interpret it metaphorically as symbolizing the process of adjusting to a new environment and forging a sense of belonging after experiencing detachment from one's homeland. Just as one learns to adapt and thrive despite losing the use of their fingers, immigrants may find ways to navigate and flourish in their new home, drawing on their resilience and resourcefulness to overcome barriers and build a fulfilling life.

**(chapter 60 page 290):**" My son is Happy because I tell him about all the fun things, I will take him to do back home " Jende's words reveal a deep-seated desire to ensure his son's

happiness, even in the face of uncertainty. By promising fun experiences back home, he seeks to provide reassurance and convince himself that happiness exists beyond their current circumstances. This underscores the significance of family bonds, and the lengths parents go to in order to create joyful memories for their children. Amidst doubts about their decision to return home, Jende seeks solace in the belief that their happiness awaits them there, highlighting the resilience and hope inherent in familial love.

**(chapter 60 page 290):**" I feel a little bit of sadness that I might never see this city again " This quote highlights a father's earnest effort to ensure his son's happiness by promising enjoyable experiences upon their return to Cameroon. It underscores the significance of family, and the lengths parents go to create joyful and memorable moments for their children. Jende's words reflect his attempt to find solace and reassurance in the decision to return home, convincing both himself and his son that happiness can be found back in their homeland. Jende's portrayal of future happiness for his son reveals his dedication to maintaining his child's joy and well-being, even amid the uncertainties and challenges associated with their return. By vividly describing the fun activities they will enjoy in Cameroon, Jende not only aims to keep his son cheerful but also strives to affirm his own belief that returning home is a positive and valid choice. He wants to reassure himself that the happiness they seek is not exclusive to America but can indeed be found in their native country.

This need for reassurance underscores the emotional complexity of Jende's predicament. As an immigrant who has invested significant time, effort, and aspirations in building a life in America, the thought of returning home without achieving certain milestones, such as obtaining a Green Card, can evoke feelings of disappointment and failure. By emphasizing the potential for joy in their homeland, Jende attempts to alleviate these negative emotions and convince himself that their happiness is not bound to a specific location. In essence, Jende's words serve to cope with the emotional turmoil of their situation. They reflect his desire to see his son happy and his effort to validate the decision to return home. This act of envisioning a joyful future in Cameroon is both a way to ease his son's transition and a personal endeavor to accept and find peace with their chosen path.

**(chapter 60 page 291):**" My parents will be moving from California so they can be close to us" This quote is talking about family connection and sacrifice reflects the important decision made by parents to move to be close to their lives and maintain relationships for the sake of family unity.



**(chapter 60 page 295):** "Please tell her I have gone back to Cameroon but maybe one day, by the grace of God, I will come to visit America..."The quote expresses a deep yearning and optimism, blending feelings of longing and hope within the intricate interplay of belonging and identity. It articulates the speaker's profound emotional attachment to both their native Cameroon and their past home, America, delving into a nuanced exploration of personal heritage and aspirations. Beginning with the acknowledgment of their return to Cameroon, the speaker acknowledges the pull of familial ties and cultural roots drawing them back to their homeland. This decision to return reflects a nostalgic longing for the familiarity and traditions that have shaped their sense of self. It signifies a poignant departure from America, with all its promises and challenges, in favor of reconnecting with the cultural heritage and familial bonds of their native land. Yet, within this acknowledgment of their return to Cameroon, there lies a glimmer of hope, articulated through the phrase "maybe one day, by the grace of God, I will come to visit America." This hopefulness underscores the enduring emotional attachment the speaker holds for America, despite their physical departure. It symbolizes the aspiration to revisit the place that once served as their home, where they cultivated memories, dreams, and ambitions.

This desire to return to America highlights the intricate relationship that immigrants often have with their adopted countries. While Cameroon represents a sense of familiarity and cultural grounding, America embodies a realm of opportunity, freedom, and pursuit of dreams. The longing to visit America again extends beyond nostalgia; it encompasses a reclaiming of their identity and a reconnection with the dreams and potentials that fueled their journey. Moreover, the invocation of "the grace of God" adds a spiritual depth to the speaker's optimism, suggesting a belief in divine guidance and providence. This faith underscores an acceptance of life's uncertainties and a trust in unforeseen blessings and opportunities. It reflects a humility in recognizing the twists and turns of life's journey and a confidence in the potential for divine intervention. Ultimately, the quote encapsulates a profound blend of longing and hope, illustrating the intricate tapestry of emotions woven within the immigrant experience. It speaks to the deep emotional tie's individuals maintain with both their past and present homes, and the enduring optimism that guides their aspirations for the future.

**(chapter 60 page 293):**"I forgot to ask you why you're going back home. You seemed so eager to come here, and now you're leaving. What happened?" the quote explores the intricate mix of motivations and feelings involved in the decision to return home after initially venturing out for a new life elsewhere. It conveys a sense of curiosity and possibly puzzlement from the speaker, who notices the seeming contradiction between the excitement of leaving one's

homeland and the subsequent choice to go back. It implies a shift from the initial enthusiasm that may have accompanied the departure from home to the later realization or change in circumstances that led to the decision to return. This prompts an examination of the factors and experiences that influenced this change of heart, urging contemplation of the individual's journey and the reasons behind their desire to return. Moreover, the quote touches on themes like belonging, identity, and the pursuit of aspirations. It raises questions about the significance of home and the influence of external factors such as economic opportunities, societal expectations, or personal experiences on one's sense of belonging and satisfaction. Additionally, it underscores the complexities of the immigrant experience, including the challenges of adapting to a new environment, navigating cultural differences, and reconciling conflicting desires and goals. In essence, the quote encourages an exploration of the nuanced nature of human experiences and the motivations driving decisions to leave or return home. It prompts reflection on the interplay between personal desires, external pressures, and the quest for fulfillment and purpose in life.

**(chapter 14 page 81):**" We are setting in the center of the world " this quote depicts a sense of importance and centrality in the character's life and how it becomes a new home and deep connection with their surroundings and perception of their place in the world.

**(chapter 6 page 39):**" Just to have somewhere that you can wake up in the morning and go to is a good thing “, The quote emphasizes the importance of having a secure and comforting place to call home, underscoring the significance of belonging and stability despite the challenges one may face in obtaining it. Initially, it highlights the essential need for shelter and safety, recognizing that having a place to wake up in the morning is more than just a necessity—it provides a sense of stability and security amidst life's uncertainties. A home serves as a refuge from the outside world, offering protection and solace. Furthermore, the quote delves into the emotional value of having a place to call one's own, symbolizing a sense of belonging and rootedness where one can establish routines, create memories, and connect with loved ones. Despite the obstacles encountered in obtaining a home, the sense of ownership and belonging it provides outweighs the challenges along the way. Moreover, the statement acknowledges the resilience and determination required to secure a home, highlighting the perseverance and sacrifices involved in achieving this goal. It recognizes the intrinsic worth of having a place to belong to and the sense of achievement that accompanies it. Additionally, the quote speaks to the universal desire for a place to call home, transcending cultural and socioeconomic

differences. It resonates with individuals from diverse backgrounds who share the common longing for stability and a sense of belonging.

In summary, the quote underscores the profound importance of having a safe and stable home, recognizing it as a fundamental aspect of human well-being and fulfillment. It acknowledges the resilience needed to attain and maintain a home and celebrates the sense of security and belonging it brings to individuals' lives. Ultimately, having a place to wake up in the morning is not merely a luxury—it is essential for human flourishing.

### **3.3. The analysis of the theme " the home" :**

Home emerges as a rich and multifaceted theme in literature, transcending its mere physical manifestation to embody a spectrum of emotions and meanings. It encompasses the profound concepts of belonging, identity, safety, comfort, and emotional attachment. Across literary epochs, authors have delved into the theme of home, offering diverse perspectives and insights into its profound impact on characters' lives and narratives. A poignant excerpt from Toni Morrison's "Beloved" encapsulates the theme's essence: "Definitions belong to the definers, not the defined." This quote underscores the fluid and subjective nature of home, suggesting that its definition is not fixed but rather molded by individual experiences and perspectives. Insight: In literature, home assumes a symbolic significance, serving as an anchor that reflects characters' deepest desires, fears, and aspirations. It embodies a sanctuary where individuals seek solace amidst life's challenges, allowing them to express their true selves without fear of judgment. However, home can also be a site of conflict, trauma, and displacement, prompting characters to confront their loss of belonging due to physical displacement or internal struggles.

### **3.4. Justification :**

Numerous literary works echo the theme of home as a central motif. For instance, Jhumpa Lahiri's "The Namesake" explores the protagonist's struggle with dual identity as an Indian American, torn between two cultures and never feeling entirely at home in either. Similarly, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "Americanah" follows the protagonist's migration from Nigeria to America and back, delving into themes of belonging and the quest for a place to call home. Moreover, scholarly analyses corroborate the theme's significance in literature. Research studies have scrutinized how authors employ home as a lens to examine complex social issues like race, class, gender, and displacement. Additionally, scholarly inquiries have probed into the psychological dimensions of home, emphasizing its role in shaping individual identity and well-being. In summary, the theme of home reverberates profoundly in literature, offering a rich

tapestry of narratives that mirror the human experience. Through characters' journeys, conflicts, and triumphs, authors shed light on the intrinsic importance of home as a fundamental aspect of human existence. It serves as a poignant reminder of the universal yearning for a sense of belonging and the transformative power of finding home, whether in physical spaces, cultural affiliations, or emotional connections.

### **3.5. The American dream :**

**(Chapter 10 page 59):** "you are going to graduate high school with a grade and go to a good college and become a doctor or a lawyer", The quote encapsulates the high expectations immigrant parents often have for their children, envisioning them graduating high school with distinction, attending prestigious colleges, and pursuing careers as doctors or lawyers. It reflects the common aspiration within immigrant families for their children to excel academically and professionally, driven by the desire for a better future. This aspiration mirrors the immigrant experience of striving for socio-economic advancement and assimilation into the perceived American dream. The emphasis on academic and professional achievement underscores the importance immigrant families place on education as a means of upward mobility and integration into American society. Parents, motivated by their own aspirations for a better life, instill in their children a strong work ethic and a dedication to academic excellence.

They see education as pivotal in unlocking opportunities and overcoming socio-economic barriers, thus prioritizing their children's educational success.

Furthermore, the mention of professions like doctors or lawyers symbolizes the aspirational nature of immigrant dreams, representing financial stability, social prestige, and professional accomplishment. Immigrant parents aspire for their children to attain these positions to secure a prosperous and fulfilling future, fulfilling their own dreams of success and upward mobility through their children's achievements. However, the quote also underscores the pressures and expectations placed on immigrant children to meet these lofty standards. The pursuit of academic and professional success may entail significant challenges, including intense academic pressure, cultural adjustments, and the need to balance familial expectations with personal aspirations. Immigrant children may grapple with reconciling their parents' ambitions with their own identities and desires, navigating a delicate balance between tradition and assimilation, and familial duty and individual fulfillment. In essence, the quote highlights the intricate dynamics within immigrant families as they strive for socio-economic advancement and integration into American society. It reflects the complexities and sacrifices inherent in

pursuing the American dream, underscoring the challenges and aspirations that shape the immigrant experience and familial expectations.

**(chapter 11 page 64)** "The police is for the protection of white people, my brother, maybe black women and black children sometimes, but not black men, never black men, black men and police are palm oil and water" The quote explores the strained relationship between black men and law enforcement, highlighting the pervasive systemic racism they encounter. It suggests that while police may protect white individuals and occasionally black women and children, black men consistently face marginalization and targeting by law enforcement. Comparing black men to "palm oil" and the police to "water" emphasizes the irreconcilable conflict between them. This imagery underscores the deep-seated animosity and distrust between black men and the police, stemming from historical tensions like racial profiling and police brutality. Additionally, the quote acknowledges the intersection of race and gender, recognizing that while black women and children also face discrimination, black men endure the brunt of police violence and systemic oppression. This highlights the unique challenges black men face within society, navigating both racism and sexism. In essence, the quote serves as a poignant commentary on the systemic racism and police violence experienced by black men. It underscores the need for systemic change and social justice reform to address these persistent inequalities and injustices.

**(chapter 16 page 87)** : "they continue to go down a path of achievement and accomplishment and material success, and shit that means nothing because that's what America's all about , and now they're trapped, and they don't get it " here it talks about the topic of striving for success and the American dream , it criticize the pursuit of material wealth as a trap and emphasizes the idea the true fulfillment may not found in material possessions alone .they continue to go down a path of achievement and accomplishment and material success, and shit that means nothing because that's what Americans all about, and now they are trapped, and they don't get it," criticizes the relentless pursuit of success and material wealth, a core aspect of the American Dream. It emphasizes that this pursuit can become a trap, ultimately failing to provide true fulfillment or happiness. Firstly, the quote highlights the societal pressure to achieve and accumulate wealth as a defining trait of American culture. It suggests that individuals are often conditioned to equate success with tangible accomplishments and material possessions, such as high-status jobs, expensive homes, and luxury items. This mindset is deeply ingrained, driven by societal norms, media portrayals, and cultural values that glorify financial prosperity and external achievements. However, the quote also points out a critical flaw in this pursuit: the

emptiness that can accompany it. By referring to material success as "shit that means nothing," the speaker emphasizes that these accomplishments and possessions, often seen as indicators of success, do not necessarily lead to genuine happiness or a sense of fulfillment. This critique aligns with a broader philosophical and existential perspective that questions the true value of material wealth and external success in contributing to a meaningful and satisfying life. Moreover, the idea of being "trapped" suggests that individuals who follow this path may find themselves in a cycle of continuous striving, never quite reaching a state of contentment. This entrapment can lead to feelings of dissatisfaction and disillusionment as people realize that the societal promises of the American Dream do not align with their personal experiences of fulfillment. The quote implies that despite achieving what society deems as success, individuals may still feel an inner void, highlighting the disconnect between societal expectations and personal well-being. Additionally, the phrase "they don't get it" underscores a lack of awareness or understanding among those caught in this cycle. It suggests that many people fail to recognize the futility of their pursuit and the possibility of finding true fulfillment beyond material possessions. This ignorance perpetuates the cycle of striving and dissatisfaction, as individuals continue to chase external markers of success without addressing their deeper emotional and existential needs. This critique resonates with themes explored in various literary and philosophical works that challenge the notion of the American Dream. For instance, in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," the protagonist's pursuit of wealth and status ultimately leads to his downfall, illustrating the hollowness of material success. Similarly, modern critiques of consumerism and capitalist culture often highlight the adverse effects of equating self-worth with financial prosperity, advocating for a more holistic approach to fulfillment that includes emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. In conclusion, the quote powerfully critiques the pursuit of material success as a central tenet of the American Dream, arguing that it can become a trap that fails to deliver true fulfillment. It calls for a reevaluation of what constitutes a meaningful and satisfying life, suggesting that genuine happiness may lie beyond the accumulation of wealth and accomplishments. This perspective invites readers to reflect on their own values and aspirations, considering the deeper sources of fulfillment and well-being in their lives.

**(chapter 27 page 150):** " He thought about how strange and sad scary it was that Americans were talking about an "economic crisis" The quote captures a profound observation about the economic turmoil in America and its emotional repercussions. It reflects the dissonance between the widely held perception of America as a land of opportunity and the grim realities that surface during periods of economic hardship. When one is in the United States, they witness firsthand

the anxiety and sorrow that accompany financial instability, which starkly contrasts with the idealized vision of American prosperity. This scenario brings to light the other, often hidden, face of America—one where people grapple with fear and sadness as they navigate through economic challenges, revealing a vulnerability that is not apparent from a distance.

**(chapter 2 page 16):** That's how long it's been since I came to America " the quote signifies the character's contemplation of the length of time they have spent in the United States. This reflection not only marks the duration of their stay but also encompasses their journey of adapting to a new environment. Over this period, they have encountered various experiences that have significantly influenced and shaped their perspective on life. This extended reflection highlights the passage of time and underscores the personal growth and transformation that come with the challenges and triumphs of navigating and assimilating into a different culture and society. It paints a picture of the character's evolving identity and understanding as they become more integrated into their new surroundings.

**(chapter 47 page 239):** "actually, I had other dreams but you know...in life you have to " it reflects the idea of resilience in the face of facts and the realization the life does not always go as we had planned, and sometimes we need to adjust our dreams to suit the path we are on .

**(chapter 29 page 157 ) :** " Just working and working all the time , it is not easy for a woman, any woman , madam , it is hard for my wife , too , with me not coming home until late most of the time " reflects the challenges and difficulties face by woman in dividing time between work and family responsibilities, and for resulting from long working hours and its impact on resulting from long working hours and its impact on family life.

**(chapter 50 page 250):**" America might have flowed, but it was still a beautiful country" it points out America's flaws and positive aspects, and the coexistence of shortcomings and beautiful qualities within the nation.

**(chapter 50 page 251):** " why are you guys acting like little children? Life is hard everywhere, you know that maybe it will get better, nobody knows tomorrow, but we keep on trying" this quote conveys hope that clings to despite life's challenges, continuing the struggle for a better future encourages optimism and the importance of continuing despite the difficulties.

**(chapter 52 page 258):** " You say this country has passed you, eh? I believe you, sometimes this country passes me too, America can be hell, I know, man has seen suffering until the day I enter America " This quote deeply reflects the intricacies of the American Dream, exposing its illusionary nature. While America is often seen as a land of endless opportunities, it also harbors

struggles and pain. The speaker acknowledges experiencing the sense of being overlooked by the fast-paced American society, revealing the disillusionment that can arise when faced with the harsh realities beneath the surface. Furthermore, the statement "America can be hell" emphasizes the profound challenges individuals face within the country, challenging the idealized image of America as a place of boundless potential. It suggests that the pursuit of the American Dream is often fraught with obstacles and setbacks. In essence, this quote serves as a poignant reminder that the American Dream doesn't guarantee success or happiness for everyone. It acknowledges America's dual nature, where alongside opportunities exist hardships, and where dreams can sometimes lead to disappointment.

### **3.6. The analysis of the theme " the American Dream" :**

Often symbolizes the belief that anyone can achieve their own version and life of success in a society despite the class they were born into and despite where they were born. To explore this theme further we have the book "Behold the Dreamers" by ImboloMbue as a solid reference. This novel delves into the explanation of the American dream through the lives of two families - an immigrant family and a wealthy American family - and everything that the two families experienced. It provides a realistic explanation and represents what the two families faced to achieve the American dream.

### **3.7. The immigration :**

**(chapter 22 page 13):** "But you're in the country legally for the term, correct? ", This quote symbolizes the challenge faced by immigrants who strive to secure legal status in the United States to settle down and achieve their dreams. It addresses the quest for a better life in the context of the American dream.

**(chapter 9 page 53 ) :** " He looked out the window at the people walking on Amsterdam avenue none of them seemed concerned that the day might be one of his last in America" => As the protagonist gazes out at the bustling activity along Amsterdam Avenue, he senses a profound farewell in the air, noting the casual demeanor of the passersby who seem oblivious to the gravity of his imminent departure from America. This reflection on the street scene serves as a poignant reminder of the hurdles posed by illegal immigration on the path to realizing the American Dream, highlighting the disconnect between societal aspirations and the harsh realities faced by those living in the shadows.

**(chapter 48 page 245):** " I don't like what my life has become in this country", The character's feeling of "I'm unhappy with how my life has turned out in this country" reveals a deep



discontent with their current situation in their adopted homeland. This discontent is mixed with disappointment and frustration, particularly given the difficulties they faced to get to where they are now. This recognition signifies a loss of faith in the once firmly held belief in the American Dream, emphasizing the harsh reality that achieving the dream isn't assured, and its name implies an aspiration rather than a definite outcome.

**(chapter 49 page 246):**" How long will I keep on washing dishes, only until you get papier" the quote captures the character's predicament of being stuck in a low-paying job, such as dishwashing, while they wait for the opportunity to achieve something greater, like obtaining legal documentation. This emphasizes the hardships immigrants encounter, showcasing the hurdles and constraints they endure while pursuing a brighter future. It reflects the challenges of realizing the American Dream, especially for undocumented individuals, illustrating its difficulty amid legal and societal challenges.

**(chapter 49 page 245):**" I don't know how long I can continue living like this, the suffering in limb was bad “, it explains the character's struggle with their current living situation, the difficulties they faced in limb, and the impact of past experiences on their current condition.

**(chapter 14 page 75):**" People act as if things in America have to be better than things everywhere else. America doesn't have the best of everything”, the quote challenges the belief in America's superiority in all areas. It highlights that no country is perfect and that America, too, has its shortcomings. This perspective reinforces the idea of the American Dream's futility by pointing out that the assumption of America's unparalleled greatness is often unfounded.

**(chapter 20 page 107):**" We cannot go around worrying about what the judge is going to decide, we have to keep living " , The importance of living in the present despite uncertainties about the future , it suggests a mindset of preventing and focusing on one's actions and choices.

**(chapter 11 page 64):**" Stay away from any place where you can run into police “, The quote highlights a deep sense of caution or fear regarding encounters with law enforcement. This fear stems from the significant impact the legal system can have on individuals' lives, especially immigrants. Undocumented immigrants live in constant fear of being apprehended, deported, and separated from their families. This perpetual anxiety forces them to be extremely careful about where they go and whom they associate with to avoid detection. The quote emphasizes the harsh reality that immigrants face, living in a state of insecurity due to the threat of legal consequences. It illustrates a major obstacle to achieving the American Dream, as this constant

fear of law enforcement complicates their efforts to create stable and successful lives in the United States.

**(chapter 14 page 77):**" She didn't have a single non-African friend and hadn't even come close to being friends with a white person “, Here the character's lack of diverse social friendships, especially the absence of non-African and white friends in their lives .

**(chapter 49 page 264):** “In America today, having documents is not enough. Look at how many people with papers are struggling “, this quote highlights that even possessing the proper documentation doesn't guarantee success or an easy life. Despite having the required papers, many individuals encounter challenges and difficulties. This illustrates the economic instability present in America, mirroring issues found in other countries, which shatters the dream of achieving prosperity. The quote underscores the fact that legal status alone doesn't ensure economic security or success. It challenges the notion that merely obtaining legal documentation is enough to fulfill the American Dream, revealing the complexities of economic life and the uncertainties faced by individuals regardless of their legal status.

### **3.8. The analysis of the theme "the immigration” :**

Is an important aspect that delves into the experiences of immigrants from A country that is unstable or does not provide what an individual desires in terms of a comfortable life. He must go to the West to achieve that because of the American dream. As we see as our reference Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue, it explains the realities that immigrants face as they move to a new culture, seek a better life, and explore the immigrant experience of seeking opportunities in a new land.

# CONCLUSION

In concluding this thesis on Imbolo Mbue's "Behold the Dreamers," it is imperative to acknowledge the profound depth and intricacy with which the novel addresses the themes of home, immigration, identity, and the American Dream. Through the journey of Jende and Neni Jonga, Mbue crafts a narrative that is both a microcosm of the immigrant experience and a poignant critique of contemporary societal structures.

The concept of home, as portrayed in the novel, transcends its physical manifestation, embodying an emotional and psychological sanctuary that the characters yearn for amidst their tumultuous journey. The tension between their nostalgic ties to Cameroon and their aspirations in America encapsulates the duality faced by many immigrants. This nuanced depiction underscores the existential struggle of maintaining one's roots while striving to assimilate into a new cultural milieu.

Immigration, depicted through the multifaceted experiences of the Jonga family, serves as a lens to examine broader societal issues. Mbue adeptly highlights the systemic barriers and adversities that immigrants confront, from legal uncertainties to economic exploitation. The resilience and perseverance of the Jongas illuminate the indomitable spirit of those who traverse these perilous paths in search of better opportunities.

Identity emerges as a central theme, intricately woven into the fabric of the narrative. The characters' struggle to reconcile their Cameroonian heritage with their new American identities reflects the fluid and evolving nature of self-perception in the context of immigration. Mbue's exploration of identity is not just a personal journey for the characters but a commentary on the broader immigrant narrative of cultural preservation and adaptation.

The American Dream, a motif that pervades the novel, is scrutinized with both reverence and skepticism. Mbue portrays it as an aspirational ideal that inspires hope and ambition, yet simultaneously exposes the harsh realities and moral compromises that often accompany its pursuit. The Jongas' experiences serve as a critical examination of the attainability of the American Dream, questioning its viability and the socio-economic structures that underpin it.

This thesis has employed New Historicism to contextualize "Behold the Dreamers" within its socio-political and economic milieu, providing a comprehensive analysis of its themes. By examining the historical and cultural contexts, this approach has illuminated the intricate dynamics between the characters' personal experiences and the broader societal forces at play.

Ultimately, "Behold the Dreamers" offers a rich and evocative portrayal of the immigrant experience, shedding light on the complexities of home, identity, and the American Dream.

Mbue's narrative invites readers to reflect on the multifaceted struggles and aspirations that define the quest for a better life. The novel stands as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring pursuit of hope amidst adversity.

In summation, this thesis has sought to dissect and interpret the layers of meaning within "Behold the Dreamers," demonstrating how Imbolo Mbue's work transcends mere storytelling to provide a profound commentary on contemporary societal issues. The novel not only resonates with the immigrant experience but also challenges readers to question the constructs of home, identity, and the American Dream in our modern world.

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# **SUMMARY**

## *Summary*

This thesis delves deeply into Imbolo Mbue's novel "Behold the Dreamers," highlighting key themes such as the concept of home, identity, immigration, and the American Dream. The novel narrates the story of Jende and Neni Jonga, a couple from Cameroon who moved to New York City in search of better opportunities. It captures the psychological and social complexities faced by immigrants, emphasizing the economic and legal challenges that impede their path.

The thesis employs New Historicism to understand the literary work within its cultural and historical context, providing a comprehensive understanding of the discussed themes. By analyzing the personal journey of the family, Mbue reveals the dual challenges of maintaining cultural identity while integrating into American society.

The novel questions the attainability of the American Dream, highlighting the sacrifices and moral compromises involved in its pursuit. Mbue invites readers to reflect on the broader implications of these concepts in contemporary society, offering a nuanced critique of the socio-economic structures shaping the immigrant experience.

These sections should provide a comprehensive overview and contextualization of your thesis, fitting the scholarly tone and sophistication required for a master's degree in English literature.

## المخلص

تستكشف هذه الأطروحة بعمق رواية "تأملوا الحالمين" للكاتبة إمبولو مبوي، مسلطة الضوء على الموضوعات الرئيسية مثل مفهوم الوطن، الهوية، الهجرة، والحلم الأمريكي. تروي الرواية قصة جيندي وني ني جونجا، وهما زوجان من الكاميرون انتقلا إلى نيويورك بحثاً عن فرص أفضل. تعبر الرواية عن التعقيدات النفسية والاجتماعية التي يواجهها المهاجرون، مشيرة إلى الصعوبات الاقتصادية والقانونية التي تعترض طريقهم.

تعتمد الأطروحة على منهجية التاريخ الجديد لفهم العمل الأدبي في سياقه الثقافي والتاريخي، مما يوفر فهماً شاملاً للموضوعات المطروحة. من خلال تحليل الرحلة الشخصية للعائلة، تُظهر مبوي التحديات المزوجة للحفاظ على الهوية الثقافية أثناء الاندماج في المجتمع الأمريكي.

تتساءل الرواية عن مدى إمكانية تحقيق الحلم الأمريكي، مسلطة الضوء على التضحيات والمساومات الأخلاقية التي ترافق هذا السعي. تدعو مبوي القراء إلى التأمل في التأثيرات الأوسع لهذه المفاهيم على المجتمع المعاصر، مقدماً نقداً دقيقاً للهياكل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية التي تشكل تجربة المهاجرين.