

Homegoing

Gyasi's first novel is ambitious, uncomfortable for reading, uneven in its treatment of 7 generations from an *ur mother*. The book is "uneven" in the words of one reviewer, stronger on some themes than on others.

For example, Africa seems more nuanced to me than the American stories. The construct of the stories layered generations seem more like James Michener's historical novels about a particular place. That is, an attempt to show the reader a particular time and place in history with characters more like movable dolls than fully developed human beings.

We can complain about her style, but I think we will gain from examining particular themes.

Here are some of the threads she presented.

Family	Heritage vs Family memory	Names	
Scars	Race	Gender	inequality

We can discuss our impressions of these.

"The purchased princess above (the castle) and the tortured slave below become the twin ancestral mothers of *Homegoing*, the mitochondrial Eves for the saga's sprawling cast of characters."

Here are reviews from the national press. Isabel Wilkerson's (we read [The Warmth of Other Suns](#)) review is the most sympathetic and poignant.

Reviews from national press.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/05/30/yaa-gyasis-homegoing>

<https://www.npr.org/2016/06/07/480477931/homegoing-is-a-sprawling-epic-brimming-with-compassion>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/12/books/review/isabel-wilkerson-reviews-yaa-gyasis-homegoing.html>

<https://www.gradesaver.com/homegoing/study-guide/themes>