

# *No Witchcraft For Sale*



Doris Lessing

# *Summary*



- The Farquars are a white family living in southern Rhodesia whose only child, Teddy, is a special favorite of their African cook, Gideon.

# *Summary continued*



- Gideon watches sadly as the boy grows older and his attitude toward Gideon becomes more like a white man who expects African people, including Gideon, to obey him.

# *Summary continued*



- One day a snake spits venom into Teddy's eyes.
- Gideon runs into the bush to retrieve a native remedy – a root that will save Teddy's eyesight.

# *Summary continued*



- The word spreads of the miraculous recovery of Teddy, and a scientist comes inquiring about the root and asks for a sample.

# *Summary continued*



- Gideon feels betrayed by the Farquars and refuses to cooperate.
- He leads them on a long hike (a wild goose chase) to “discover” common blue flowers.

# *Summary continued*



- After some time passes, the Farquars and Gideon seem to reconcile their differences, but a rift remains between them.

# *Theme*



- A man reaches a crossroads between two cultures and must decide between his loyalty to his African heritage or that to his employer.



# *Colonial Africa*



- Passed from British control in 1965.
- This story is set during this time.

# *Setting*



- Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) during British rule.

# *Teddy and Gideon*



- Teddy and Gideon are very close when Teddy is younger.
- Gideon becomes distant with Teddy when Teddy mistreats one of Gideon's children in a very insensitive manner.

# *Teddy's attitude*



- After Teddy has offended Gideon, he gives him an orange in apology; however, he is too proud to actually say he is sorry for the way he treated the other child.

# *Conflict*



- External – Gideon v/s the Farquars and the doctor
- Internal – Gideon v/s himself

# *Cultural Alienation*



- A feeling of separation or isolation.
- Alienation is most often associated with minorities, the poor, the unemployed, and other groups who have limited power to bring about changes in society.