

THINGS FALL APART

1. Okonkwo and Unoka are two opposite characters.
 - a) Discuss two ways, each, that Okonkwo and Unoka are opposite in character.
 - b) Examine one way in which Unoka's character traits have affected Okonkwo in an adverse manner.
 - c) Discuss the irony that becomes apparent in Okonkwo's life, based on his attitude to his father.

2. Nwoye and Okonkwo are opposite in nature, despite being father and son.
 - a) Examine one way in which each character is the opposite of each other.
 - b) Discuss one example of Okonkwo's disappointment in his son, and how he treats Nwoye, based on this disappointing act.
 - c) Discuss the role of storytelling in Okonkwo's attempt to produce the perfect son.

3. A tragic hero is an individual who has one tragic flaw, or hamartia, that leads to his downfall.
 - a) Examine how Okonkwo can be viewed as a tragic hero, whose one tragic flaw led to him inflicting mental pain, or the negative judgment of others, upon himself.
 - b) Discuss the way in which Okonkwo's flaw affected his son, Nwoye.

4. Okonkwo changes after he goes to Mbanta.
 - a) Describe, using examples from the text, Okonkwo while he was in Umuofia.
 - b) Describe, using examples from the text, the change that Okonkwo undergoes while in Mbanta.
 - c) Discuss the irony that is associated with Okonkwo's return to Umuofia.

5. Okonkwo has been described, by critics, as being brusque.
 - a) Using two examples from the text, say how Okonkwo epitomizes brusqueness.
 - b) Using two examples from the text, say how Okonkwo defies the description of being brusque.

6. Nwoye can be described as a sensitive individual.
 - a) Discuss two ways that this aspect of his character is highlighted.
 - b) Examine how Nwoye's sensitivity affects Okonkwo

7. Story telling is an important element in the African culture.
 - a) Summarize the two stories that were told in Things Fall Apart.
 - b) Discuss the dramatic significance of each story, mentioned in section a), on the development of the plot in Things Fall Apart.

8. Things Fall Apart is a novel that deals with friendship, despite extenuating circumstances.
 - a) Discuss the circumstances that led to Okonkwo's exile, as well as the law that accommodated the exile in the first place.
 - b) Discuss two ways that Obierika has been a good friend to Okonkwo.

9. The missionaries play an important part in the changes that occur in the text Things Fall Apart.
 - a) Discuss one characteristic, each, of Mr. Kiaga, Mr. Brown and Rev. James Smith.
 - b) Using any one missionary, discuss how this individual's presence facilitated a change in the Igbo society.

10. Names are very important in any society.
 - a) Identify three names that Ekwefi gave her babies and discuss the circumstances that surround the names.
 - b) Identify the two names that Okonwo gave his children who were born in Mbanta and discuss the circumstances that surrounded the names.

11. Identify and discuss any two ironic situations in the text Things Fall Apart. Examine the dramatic significance of each of these ironies.

12. Gender roles are very stringent in the text Things Fall Apart.
 - a) Discuss, through Okonkwo's achievements, the expectations of men in Things Fall Apart.
 - b) Discuss, Through Unoka's life, the sanctions that are placed on men who do not conform to society's expectations.

13. The women in Things Fall Apart have paradoxically subservient roles, as well as important ones.
 - a) Discuss the role of Chielo and her importance to the society.
 - b) Discuss the roles of Ezinma and Ekwefi in relation to Okonkwo.

14. Identify and explain any three proverbs in the text Things Fall Apart. Discuss the dramatic significance of any one proverb that was highlighted.
15. 'Those whose palm kernels were cracked for them by a benevolent spirit should not forget to be humble'(Achebe, 17)
- Describe the circumstances under which this proverb was uttered, as well as the character trait that is highlighted about Okonkwo.
 - Examine one other incident that highlights the character trait mentioned in section a.
16. 'You can tell a ripe corn by its looks' (Achebe, 15)
- Explain the circumstances behind this proverb.
 - Examine how Okonkwo proves this proverb to be true.
17. Examine, in great detail, three ways in which Things Fall Apart aligns itself with the first stanza of the poem titled 'Second Coming' by William Butler Yeats.
18. Change is an integral part of Things Fall Apart.
- Identify, and discuss, one religious and political structure, each, that was highlighted in part one of Things Fall Apart.
 - Examine the changes that these structures underwent in parts two and three of the novel.
19. Mr. Kiaga, Mr. Brown and Reverend Smith are missionaries. Chart the culturally degenerative changes that occur in the society, through one incident that occurs under each man's watch.
20. The Commissioner's book is titled The Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger.
- Discuss how the title of this book highlights the European's agenda, and highlight two incidences that blatantly express this agenda.
 - Discuss the part that the missionaries, in the form of Mr. Kiaga, Mr. Brown and Reverend Smith, play in achieving the goal that the title of the book implies.

Contributor: Leisa Samuels-Thomas (19/02/2015) **For the bright spark in you!™**