

THINGS FALL APART

PART I

Chapter 1

1. How did Okonkwo bring honour to his village at 18 years old? Identify the time frame in which this occurred?
2. Why was Amalinze called 'the cat'?
3. Give a physical and psychological description of Okonkwo.
4. How was Unoka different from Okonkwo?
5. Why did Okoye visit Unoka?
6. Why did Okoye speak to Unoka using proverbs?
7. Recount Unoka's response to Okoye. What does this reveal about Unoka?
8. List the things that make Okonkwo one of the greatest men of his time?
9. Who was Ikemefuna?

Chapter 2

1. What message did the town crier give?
2. List some beliefs and practices that highlighted the fact that darkness held a vague terror for the people of Umuofia.
3. Interpret this Ibo proverb: 'When the moon is shining the cripple becomes hungry for a walk.' (Achebe, 7).
4. How many human heads did Okonkwo have? What does this imply about him?
5. What did Ogbuefi Ezengo tell Umuofia?
6. What ultimatum was given to Mbaino?
7. Why was Umuofia feared by its neighbours?
8. How did Ikemefuna come to live with Okonkwo? What happened to the girl?
9. What feeling dominated Okonkwo's life?
10. What is an 'agbala'?
11. What one passion ruled Okonkwo?
12. What characteristic, of Nwoye, caused Okonkwo great anxiety? How did he try to fix it?
13. Describe Okonkwo's household.
14. Why was Ikemefuna afraid?

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Chapter 3

1. 'Okonkwo did not have the start in life which many young men usually had.' (Achebe, 11). How?
2. What is Agbala and did people visit it?
3. Why was Unoka NOT buried? How did this affect Okonkwo?
4. Describe the ceremony that the men performed before conversation began.
5. Why was Igwelo given the privilege of drinking the last dregs of the palm oil?
6. What request did Okonkwo make of Nwakibie?
7. What were two disadvantages that Okonkwo faced while building his first barn?
8. What disaster happened the year that Okonkwo took 800 seed yams from Nwakibie?

Chapter 4

1. Give one example of Okonkwo's intolerance of less successful men.
2. Why was Okonkwo chosen to give the message of war to Umuofia's enemy?
3. How long was Ikemefuna in Okonkwo's care?
4. How did Okonkwo feel about Ikemefuna and how did he demonstrate this?
5. Recount how Okonkwo broke the peace. What was the significance of the Week of Peace?
6. How was Okonkwo expected to give penance?
7. List two punishments, given in the past, to those who broke the peace.
8. What happened after the Week of Peace?
9. Describe the process of planting yam.

Chapter 5

1. What are the details that are involved with the Feast of the New Yam?
2. Why did Okonkwo beat his second wife?
3. How did Ekwefi come to marry Okonkwo?
4. When Ekwefi is called, she answers: 'Is that me?' Why did people answer in this fashion?
5. What did the distant drumming indicate?
6. Why did the women have to cook quickly?
7. What is the true story of Abiageli's breaking of her water pot?
8. What is the tradition of meal time?

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Chapter 6

1. Where did the wrestling matches occur?
2. What was the significance of the ancient silk cotton tree?
3. Why was the wrestling contest started with the 15 to 16 year olds?
4. Describe the match between the 15 and 16 year olds.
5. Who fought the main, and last, match?
6. Who won the match?

Chapter 7

1. What did Okonkwo want, or wish, for Nwoye?
2. What difference existed between Okonkwo's stories and Nwoye's mother's stories?
3. What did Nwoye do to please Okonkwo?
4. When did the locusts come and what did they do?
5. Why did people pray that the locusts would camp in Umuofia?
6. What fate has the Oracle assigned to Ikemefuna?
7. What did Okonkwo tell Ikemefuna and how did Nwoye react?
8. What did Ikemefuna say before he died? How did Okonkwo react?
9. How many years did Ikemefuna live with Okonkwo?
10. How did Nwoye react to Ikemefuna's death?

Chapter 8

1. How did Okonkwo react to Ikemefuna's death?
2. What was Okonkwo worried about?
3. What was Obierika's perspective on Okonkwo's actions regarding Ikemefuna?
4. What news did Obierika come to tell Okonkwo?
5. What does having the ozo title entail?
6. Describe the ceremony to decide the bride-price.
7. What information does Okonkwo have about white men?

Chapter 9

1. What news awaited Okonkwo when he awoke?
2. Give a summary of Ekwefi's history.
3. What did the medicine-man diagnose as the problem with Ekwefi? What was his solution?
4. What were the names of Ekwefi's three children who died? What did each name mean?
5. What did the second medicine man do to solve Ekwefi's problem?
6. Summarize the story of the search, and location, of Ezinma's iyi-uwa?

7. What did Okonkwo do to relieve Ezinma's illness?

Chapter 10

1. Who did Evil Forest represent and where did the nine villages come from?
2. Recount Ozowulu's case.
3. Recount Odukwe's case.
4. How did the egwugwu settle the matter?

Chapter 11

1. What was Nwayieke famous for doing?
2. What message did Chielo deliver to Okonkwo, from Agbala?
3. Where did Chielo intend to carry Ezinma?
4. What did Ekwefi do after Chielo had taken Ezinma?
5. Who kept Ekwefi's company at the foot of the cave?

Chapter 12

1. Why were the women and children going to Obierika's compound?
2. Why was Okonkwo particularly tired and sleepy?
3. What interrupted the activities at Obierika's compound?
4. What did Obierika plan to present to his in laws?
5. Describe the courting ceremony.

Chapter 13

1. Who died and how did the villagers know?
2. Describe two egwugwu that made an appearance at the pre-funeral.
3. What tragedy occurred during the frenzy of the pre-funeral?
4. How was Okonkwo punished?
5. Where did Okonkwo and his family go?
6. How was the land cleansed?

Part II

Chapter 14

1. How did Okonkwo's family help him to restart his life?
2. Identify the changes in Okonkwo's attitude.
3. What did the final ceremony of confession entail?

4. What two questions does Uchendo pose to Okonkwo?
5. What is the answer to the questions?
6. Summarize Uchendo's speech to Okonkwo?

Chapter 15

1. What did Obierika take with him when he went to visit Okonkwo?
2. How much time had passed between Obierika's time of visit and Okonkwo's exile?
3. Why was Abame no more?
4. Summarize the story of mother kite. What is the dramatic significance of this story?
5. Why is Obierika afraid?
6. What did Obierika do with Okonkwo's yams?

Chapter 16

1. Why did Obierika visit Okonkwo? How much time had passed since the last visit?
2. Summarize the story that Nwoye's mother told Obierika.

Chapter 17

1. Where did the missionaries get their land?
2. What ironic turn of events occurred and why?
3. Why did Nneka join the missionaries?

Chapter 18

1. Recount the instances where the missionaries overstep their boundaries.
2. What were some rumours being told about the white man?
3. Who are the Osu? Why was Christianity attractive to them?
4. How did one of the Osu get the church in trouble with the clan?
5. What did Okoli's death signify to the clan?

Chapter 19

1. What were the names that Okonkwo gave his children who were born in exile? What did these names signify? What did they reveal about Okonkwo's state of mind?
2. What did Okonkwo do as soon as he entered his last year of exile?
3. Why did Okonkwo want to have a great feast before he left Mbanta?
4. Why did the oldest member of the Umunna fear for the young people of the clan?

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Part III

Chapter 20

1. What plans did Okonkwo have for his return to Umuofia?
2. What request did Okonkwo make of his daughters?
3. Explain the white man's government.
4. Summarize Obierika's speech to Okonkwo.

Chapter 21

1. What economic advantage did the coming of the white man bring?
2. Who was a difficult neighbor to restrain and why?
3. Why was Mr. Brown respected by the clan?
4. What made Mr. Brown form the conclusion that a frontal attack on the clan's religion would not succeed?
5. Why was it important for education and religion to go hand in hand?
6. How had Umuofia changed? Why was Okonkwo mourning for his clan?

Chapter 22

1. How was Reverend James Smith different from Mr. Brown?
2. Why was Enoch called 'The Outsider who wept louder than the bereaved'?
3. What did Enoch do to initiate the conflict between the church and the clan?
4. What was the result of Enoch's actions?

Chapter 23

1. Why was Okonkwo happy for the first time in many years?
2. Describe how the men of the clan were tricked.
3. Describe the treatment that the men received.
4. What message did the court messengers give the people of Umuofia?
5. What decision did the people of Umuofia take?

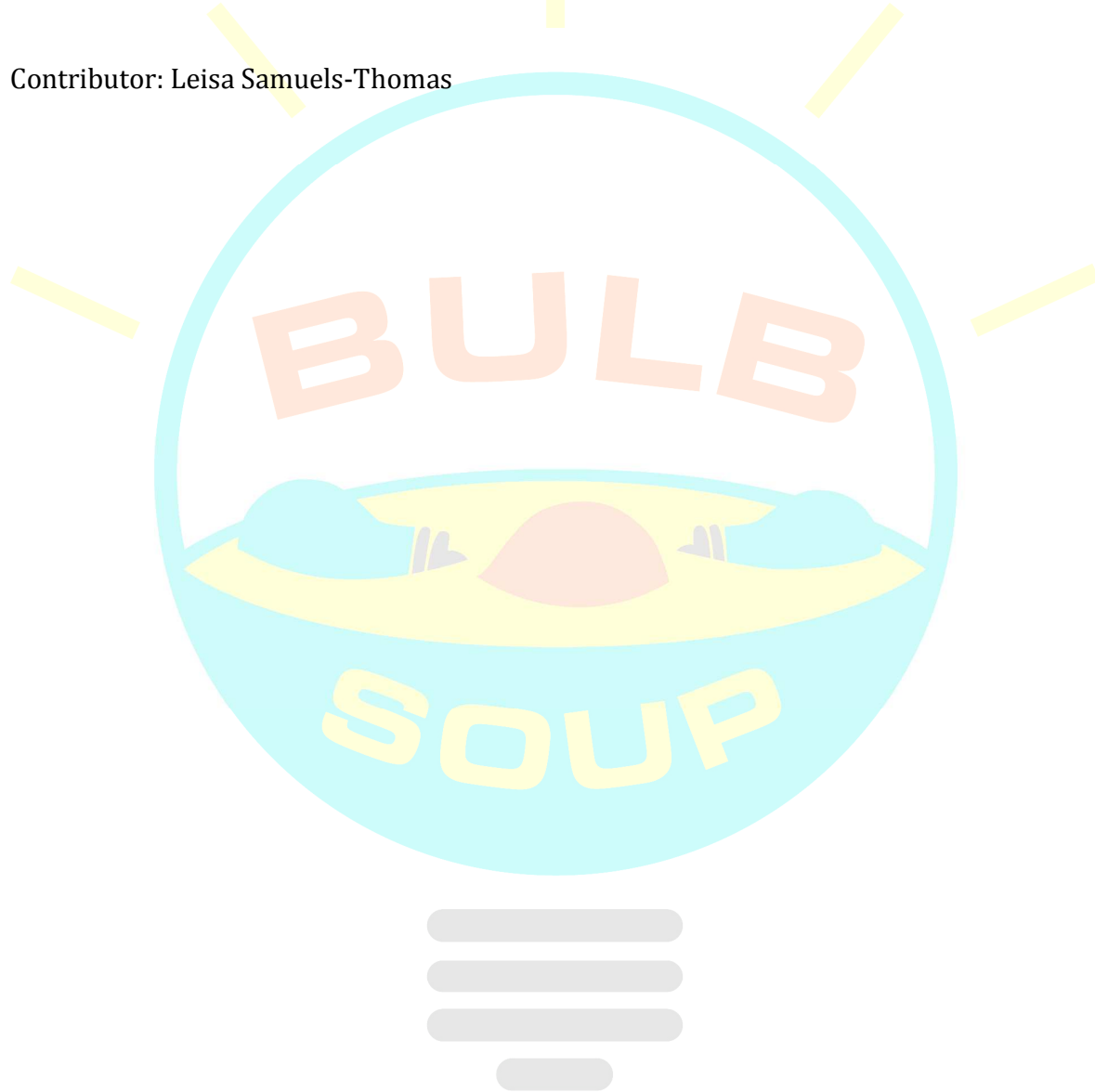
Chapter 24

1. What did the District Commissioner speak to the men about before they were released?
2. Whose tongue did Okonkwo fear and why?
3. What did Okonkwo do when the court messenger interrupted the meaning? How did the clan respond?

Chapter 25

1. Why could Obierika and the other clans men NOT handle Okonkwo's body?
2. How much space did the Commissioner plan to allot to Okonkwo's story in his book?
3. What is the title of the Commissioner's book?

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