

English 4AP Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment

DUE DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 2023
THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!!!!
Summer Reading Assignment

Things Fall Apart
by Chinua Achebe

After reading the novel, please complete the following assignment. There are nine study questions for *Things Fall Apart* listed below. Select **one** of the questions and respond in a **400-500 word** paper. Develop a controlling idea and then support your thesis with specific examples from the text. Do not simply write a plot summary. Take the time to prepare a sophisticated thesis that illustrates an insightful reading of the text.

It is important to support your analysis with textual support. Without quotes, your paper is less credible. Write this paper for someone who has read the book but has not thought about it.

Grading will be based on knowledge of text, ability to develop a sophisticated thesis, incorporation of textual support, usage, and mechanics.

This paper must be typed and double-spaced, and you must submit your work through turnitin.com. Please refer to the last page for directions on how to submit a paper.

Class Assignment Login Info:

Class ID: 39206584

Password: okonkwo

Study Questions for *Things Fall Apart*

1. Traditional societies are often thought to be generally free of internal conflicts about values, and to be fixed and essentially unchanging over time. What aspects of the society depicted in *Things Fall Apart* might resist those assumptions?
2. When Europeans arrive in Okonkwo's village, one result is a new kind of government and a new kind of law. How do the new legal and governmental practices and institutions differ from those that preceded them? Are the changes good, bad, or something more complicated, and why?
3. Okonkwo's self-understanding is deeply bound up with his need to affirm and protect what he thinks of as his "manliness." What are the main features of Okonkwo's view of masculinity, and how does his view relate to that of other important characters in the novel?
4. What should we make of the role of women in the novel? Are the female characters just dispensable appendages of the male characters in the story?
5. Stories and storytelling play a central role in the novel. What are some of the most important aspects of that role, for instance, in the preservation of social customs, and the shaping of individual identities?
6. Okonkwo's friend Obierika is described as "a man who thought about things"(125). What does Obierika think about, and how does that reflection ultimately put him at odds with Okonkwo?
7. It is said of Okonkwo at one point that "Clearly his personal god or *chi* was not made for great things. A man could not rise beyond the destiny of his *chi*. The saying of the elders was not true—that if a man said yea his *chi* also affirmed. Here was a man whose *chi* said nay despite his own affirmation." (131). How should we understand the roles of fate and individual responsibility in the novel in light of the role that the Ibo notion of *chi* plays throughout the story?
8. In "English and the African Writer," Achebe writes that his work represents "a new voice coming out of Africa, speaking of African experience in a world-wide language." What features of the novel embody this ambition? Do they help or hinder Achebe's attempt to make the world depicted in the novel accessible to a broad audience?
9. An important assumption in the novel is the close connection between an individual's action and the communal fate of all. Okonkwo is told by the priest of the earth goddess, Ani, "The evil you have done can ruin the whole clan." (30) Does this explain why, strong willed as he is, Okonkwo accepts without question the communal sanctions prescribed for his misdeeds?

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2. Select the “Create Account” button in the top right corner.
3. You will arrive at a page titled “Create a User Profile.” Select “STUDENT.”
***If you already have an account, you can click on the Login button from this page, or the homepage.
4. Enter the class ID and enrollment password along with the rest of the required information, and login.

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The student homepage is the first page you see after logging in to Turnitin. You'll see a list of all the classes that you are currently enrolled in. Select the name of your class to open your assignment inbox.

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