

The Silent Moving Discussion on *Things Fall Apart*

Activity: Posted one essential question on a sheet of paper and attach the paper to the wall. There might be as many as 15 different sheets. You may double sheets: that is, you may create two sheets for each question to allow students to have enough sheets to review and respond to. Students walk around, read each question, and write their answers on the paper on the wall. They sign their name after each comment. Students may have their book or their notes with them, if you wish. A fifth writer on the paper, for example, would not only answer the question, but might also respond to a previous respondent, agreeing or disagreeing with a response or qualifying it.

Support all answers with references to details or quotations from the text.

1. Pick a ritual or cultural event of Ibo life and explain what it tells us about Ibo values. Compare it to and contrast it with a similar or analogous ritual in our culture.
2. Pick an event where there is a clear clash of values between the Ibo and the white man's culture, and explain both sides' perspectives.
3. Pick a proverb from the novel, elucidate its meaning, and explain its significance for a character or event in the novel.
4. Pick a story and explain its role in the novel, as well as the role of storytelling in general in the novel.
5. Describe the relationships between Okonkwo and his father and his son. Why do you think there are such tensions?
6. Pick three characters with widely different reactions to Okonkwo. Name them and then describe their attitudes toward him.
7. Discuss the role of Ikemefuna in this novel. Be sure to discuss his relationship to the village of Umuofia as a whole as well as his relationship to Okonkwo and Nwoye.
8. Discuss the role of Ezinma in this novel. Be sure to include a discussion of *ogbanje*, her fever, Chielo, and her relationship to Okonkwo.
10. Discuss the status of women in this culture as it is represented in the novel.
11. How do the Ibo discern the will of the gods?
12. Is Christianity portrayed in a positive or negative light in this novel?
13. How are other aspects of European culture, aside from religion, portrayed in this novel?
14. Do you find Okonkwo's suicide surprising? Why or why not?
15. Discuss the end of this novel, by which I mean the very last paragraph.
16. What is this novel about?

**Questions for the Oral Exam or Silent Discussion on *Things Fall Apart*
2007-8**

Be sure to support all answers with references to details or quotations from the text. You may use your study guides, and you will be asked to submit your study guide to me on the day of the test.

1. Pick a ritual or cultural event of Ibo life and explain what it tells us about Ibo values. Compare it to and contrast it with a similar or analogous ritual in our culture.
2. Pick an event where there is a clear clash of values between the Ibo and the white man's culture, and explain both sides' perspectives.
3. Pick a proverb, elucidate its meaning, and explain its significance for a character or event in the novel.
4. Pick a story and explain its role in the novel, as well as the role of storytelling in general in the novel.
5. Describe the relationships between Okonkwo and his father and his son. Why do you think there were such tensions?
6. Pick three characters with widely different reactions to Okonkwo. Name them and then describe their attitudes toward him.
7. Do you find Okonkwo's suicide surprising? Why or why not?
8. Discuss the role of Ikemefuna in this novel. Be sure to discuss his relationship to the village of Umuofia as a whole as well as his relationship to Okonkwo and Nwoye.
9. Discuss the role of Ezinma in this novel. Be sure to include a discussion of *ogbanje*, her fever, Chielo, and her relationship to Okonkwo.
10. Discuss the status of women in this culture as it is represented in the novel.
11. What did you learn about the Ibo culture from reading this novel?
12. Is Christianity portrayed in a positive or negative light in this novel?
13. How are other aspects of European culture, aside from religion, portrayed in this novel?
14. Discuss the end of this novel, by which I mean the very last paragraph.
15. What is this novel about?

Questions for the Oral Exam or Silent Discussion on *Things Fall Apart*
^{6th} period [] indicates that it is being asked in the silent discussion. Italics indicates I should ask it of the oral group.

Be sure to support all answers with references to details or quotations from the text. You may use your study guides, and you will be asked to submit your study guide to me on the day of the test.

1. Pick a ritual or cultural event of Ibo life and explain what it tells us about Ibo values. Compare it to and contrast it with a similar or analogous ritual in our culture.

2. *Pick an event where there is a clear clash of values between the Ibo and the white man's culture, and explain both sides' perspectives.*

3. Pick a proverb, elucidate its meaning, and explain its significance for a character or event in the novel.

[4. Pick a story and explain its role in the novel, as well as the role of storytelling in general in the novel.]

5. Describe the relationships between Okonkwo and his father and his son. Why do you think there were such tensions?

[6. Pick three characters with widely different reactions to Okonkwo. Name them and then describe their attitudes toward him.]

7. *Do you find Okonkwo's suicide surprising? Why or why not?*

8. Discuss the role of Ikemefuna in this novel. Be sure to discuss his relationship to the village of Umuofia as a whole as well as his relationship to Okonkwo and Nwoye.

9. Discuss the role of Ezinma in this novel. Be sure to include a discussion of *ogbanje*, her fever, Chielo, and her relationship to Okonkwo.

[10. Discuss the status of women in this culture as it is represented in the novel.]

11. What did you learn about the Ibo culture from reading this novel?

12. *Is Christianity portrayed in a positive or negative light in this novel?*

13. How are other aspects of European culture, aside from religion, portrayed in this novel?

14. *Discuss the end of this novel, by which I mean the very last paragraph.*

[15. What is this novel about?]

Pick a story and explain its role in the novel, as well as the role of storytelling in general in the novel.

**Pick three characters with widely different reactions to Okonkwo.
Name them and then describe their attitudes toward him.**

Discuss the status of women in this culture as it is represented in the novel.

How are other aspects of European culture, aside from religion, portrayed in this novel?

What is this novel about?

Pick a story and explain its role in the novel, as well as the role of storytelling in general in the novel.

**Pick three characters with widely different reactions to Okonkwo.
Name them and then describe their attitudes toward him.**

Discuss the status of women in this culture as it is represented in the novel.

How are other aspects of European culture, aside from religion, portrayed in this novel?

What is this novel about?

Pick an event where there is a clear clash of values between the Ibo and the white man's culture, and explain both sides' perspectives.

Discuss the role of Ezinma in this novel. Be sure to include a discussion of *ogbanje*, her fever, Chielo, and her relationship to Okonkwo.

Do you find Okonkwo's suicide surprising? Why or why not?

Is Christianity portrayed in a positive or negative light in this novel?

Discuss the end of this novel, by which I mean the very last paragraph.

Pick an event where there is a clear clash of values between the Ibo and the white man's culture, and explain both sides' perspectives.

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Do you find Okonkwo's suicide surprising? Why or why not?

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