

## Summer Assignment for AP English Language and Composition

Check out a copy of *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and also a copy of the *Holt Handbook, 5<sup>th</sup> Course* (gold grammar book).

**The summer assignment is due the first day of school.**

### Part A: **Things Fall Apart** Chapter Prompts

Please type your responses and identify the chapter. Your responses should be concise but also thoughtful and logical. Answer in complete sentences.

Chapter One: What do we learn about the tribe's values? It may help you to consider those values under the following headings . . .

Moral

Social

Cultural

Sporting

Economic

Chapter Three: Why do you think Achebe gives prominence at this early point in the story to Okonkwo's failures?

Chapter Seven: How does Achebe create the feeling that Ikemefuna's death is an inevitable part of things? Consider in your answer the arrival of the locusts, the part played in the death of tribal beliefs, Okonkwo's character, and the way this part of the story is told.

Chapter Ten: How effective is the tribe's system of justice as illustrated here? What is significant, as far as the story is concerned, about the fact that Odukwe is one of the egwugwu?

Chapter Eleven: What conflicting forces are probably at work within each of the four characters in this chapter?

Chapter Twelve: How does Achebe want us to view the life of the tribe, as evidenced here? Why might you expect this chapter to be something of a preparation for the novel's turning-point?

Chapter Fourteen: How does Uchendu's advice to Okonkwo suggest some directions the story may take from this point on? Imagine you write a "personal advice" column for a newspaper or magazine. Re-express Uchendo's advice in modern terms (and more briefly).

Chapter Sixteen: How does Achebe show the great gap between the two sets of beliefs (tribal and Christian)? How does Achebe suggest why Christianity appeals to some members of the tribe (including Nwoye)?

Chapter Eighteen: What do we learn from this chapter about how people of differing beliefs become hostile towards each other? Note the parts played not only by the voices of extremism, but also by those of moderation.

Chapter Twenty: What are "the things that held [the tribe] together," and how have they been cut? What advice do you think Uchendu might have given Okonkwo now, if he had been there? (Read again the advice he gives him at the end of Chapter Fourteen).

Chapter Twenty-Two: How does the chapter hold out hope for peaceful compromise? What signs are there that this may not be achieved easily?

Chapter Twenty-Three: How are the tribe's leaders betrayed by a) the District Commissioner; b) the court messengers; c) their own standards of conduct?

Chapter Twenty-Five: Explain the ironies in this chapter.

Part B: **Proverbs in *Things Fall Apart***

Make a list of five or more proverbs found in the novel. Interpret what three of them mean and find the same or a similar idea in English.

### Part C: Essay prompts

Select one of the following prompts to write a reflective essay. Show care in presentation. Your audience is educated readers. Length: 2-3 pages, double-spaced typed, MLA Heading, Title

1. "Novels from earlier centuries and novels about distant places take us into worlds different from our own but must have something to say about issues of importance in the world to which we, the readers, will return."

Show how issues relevant to today's world are raised in *Things Fall Apart*.

2. Examine Okonkwo's attempts, as the story develops, to understand both himself and what is happening around him. Has he made any progress in either of those attempts by the end of the novel?
- 3.

### Part D: Grammar Review

*Handbook, 5<sup>th</sup> course*. Leave the handbook at home. Your instructor will have a class set of the handbook. You will have a quiz on Friday, August 24.

Do the following review assignments from Chapter 1 (Parts of Speech) to help you prepare for the quiz. However, if it has been awhile since you studied these, I recommend you study the definitions and examples. Be able to identify the different kinds of pronouns: subject, object, indefinite, reflexive, relative, demonstrative. Also, be able to distinguish between a pronoun and an adverb, and an adverb and an adjective.

- Chapter 1: Parts of Speech--Review G, page 26; Chapter Review (1-50), pages 27-29.

#### Parts of Speech

1. Noun, both common and proper
2. Pronoun, all kinds
3. Adjective
4. Action Verb
5. Linking Verb
6. Adverb
7. Preposition
8. Conjunction
9. Interjection