

Things Fall Apart Chapters. 14-19

Due 1 week from the date assigned

Part I: Vocabulary

Define / describe the following terms and characters

- Mbanta
- Ochu
- Isa-ifi
- Umuada
- Osu

Part II: Questions

Write out the answers to the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 14

1. Who is Uchendu?
2. What had been Okonkwo's greatest passion? What does this say about his chi?
3. Why is Nnke such a common name for children in this village?
4. What concept does Okonkwo not understand?
5. Consider the meaning of the following saying. What do you think it means?
"For whom is it well? For whom is it well? There is no one for whom it is well."

Chapter 15

6. What news does Obierika bring about Abame?
7. What did the Oracle tell the Abame villagers? To what is the white man compared? Where has this creature been referenced before (earlier in the novel)?
8. What is an "iron horse"? Make an educated guess.
9. Explain how the villagers of Abame react to the visitor.
10. "What is good among one people is an abomination with others." To what is Uchendu referring? What does this say about the culture of the villagers?

Chapter 16

11. What happens when the missionaries come to Umuofia?
12. The early converts are the efulefu. Who are the efulefu?
13. Obierika is surprised to find whom among the converts, prompting his visit to Okonkwo? What is his reason for this person converting?
14. How do the people of Mbanta react to the arrival of the missionaries?
15. What do the missionaries call the gods worshipped by the clan?

Chapter 17

16. What land was given to the missionaries? Why?
17. How does Okonkwo react to his son's conversion? How does this affect their relationship?

Chapter 18

18. List five (5) negative and five (5) positive effects of the missionaries' work.
19. How do the people of Mbanta choose to deal with the Christians and their converts? What does Okonkwo think should be done?
20. Consider the following:

"It was not their custom to fight for our gods...Let us not presume to do so now. If a man kills a sacred python in the secrecy of his hut, the matter lies between him and god. We did not see it. If we put ourselves between the god and his victim, we receive the blows intended for the offender. When a man blasphemes, what do we do? Do we go and stoop his mouth? No. We put our fingers into our ears to stop us from hearing. This is a wise action."

How might this philosophy be detrimental to the clan?

21. Who became the strongest adherents to the new faith? Why?

Chapter 19

22. Why does Okonkwo regret his exile? What does this say about his character?
23. What does Okonkwo name the children born to him in exile? Why?
24. Why do the umunna fear for the younger generation?
25. What are the advantages and disadvantages of "a people that speak with one voice"?
26. Describe the change in tone of the story from Part One to Part Two.