

Hey, don't forget your

NAME:

Things Fall Apart: Chapters 7 - 8 Questions

Ch. 7 - Answer questions on a separate sheet of paper in at least 3 complete sentences.

1. At the beginning of ch. 7, Achebe describes Okonkwo's happiness at the changes he sees in his son, Nwoye. He describes Nwoye grumbling about women and listening to Okonkwo's "masculine stories of violence and bloodshed." Why does this please Okonkwo? Is this change in Nwoye *internal* or only *external*? Why is he changing?
2. On pg. 54, Achebe describes some stories as being for women and children and other stories as being for men. This passage from enjoying the stories of childhood to enjoying the stories of manhood would be considered a "rite of passage" or a transition from one status (boyhood) to another (manhood). What rites of passage can you identify in our own society? Why do you think rites of passage exist? What do you think would happen if we didn't have them?
3. On pg. 57, we are told that Ikemefuna is going to be killed because the Oracle has ordered it. How did this make you feel? What do you think of the Oracle (also consider pg. 67)? Can you identify any figures that have a similar status to the Oracle in our society? Are these figures good to have or not?
4. On pg. 61, Okonkwo states outright that, "he was afraid of being thought weak." Is this feeling more manly or childish? Why? Did you feel more pity or anger toward Okonkwo in this instance?

5. At the end of ch. 7, Achebe writes, "...Nwoye knew that Ikemefuna had been killed, and something seemed to give way inside him, like the snapping of a tightened bow." What has snapped inside Nwoye? *Predict*: What effect will this have on Nwoye? Will he recover?

Ch. 8 - Answer questions on a separate sheet of paper in at least 3 complete sentences.

6. What character traits make Okonkwo think that Ezinma should have been a boy?
7. At the bottom of pg. 68, Okonkwo and Obierika discuss different concepts of strength. What is the difference between their understandings of strength? Do you think strength can be lenient and receptive to others or not?
8. On pgs. 69 - 70, Okonkwo and Obierika discuss the different customs and social norms assigned to different titles in different villages. List some social norms or customs in our society that you see as positive. Then, list some that you think are negative.
9. On pg. 71, we are introduced to the custom of arranged marriage in Umuofia. How do you feel about this custom? Statistically, arranged marriages are *less* likely to end in divorce than love-based marriages. Why do you think this is?
10. On pg. 74, Obierika's eldest brother says, "...what is good in one place is bad in another place." Do you agree? Why or why not?

Please don't squint --

It's bad for your eyes.