

Literature/Composition 11 Summer Reading

- Please read *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe AND another book of your choice.
- The answers to the questions below are due to your Lit/Comp 11 teacher on the first day of the semester.
- You will have a writing assignment about *Things Fall Apart* early in the semester.

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Summer Reading for World Literature and Composition (Lit/Comp 11)

ANSWER EACH OF THE QUESTIONS ON ANOTHER SHEET OF PAPER.
BE SURE TO NUMBER THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWER THEM COMPLETELY.
YOU MAY WANT TO ANSWER AS YOU READ.

1. Use details from the novel to comment on the truth being taught by the following proverb:
"As our people say, a man who pays respect to the great paves the way for his own greatness" (page 19).
2. Compare Okonkwo's life to his father's. Which one do you think lives a happier life in the following areas: wealth, respect of his neighbors, happiness, and position with his ancestors.
3. In what sense does the Ibo culture show its approval or disapproval of spousal abuse?
4. List three examples of Okonkwo's cruel personality and relate how he justifies his behavior in each case.
5. Who are the egwugwu and what function do they fill in Ibo society?
6. Support or refute the following statement: The system of justice provided by the white man is much worse than the system of justice already available to the Ibo people.
7. Had Ikemefuna lived, do you think Nyoye would have joined the white church? Why or why not?

8. How does Okonkwo violate the rules of the Week of Peace? What is his punishment? Do you agree with the punishment? Why/not?
9. Discuss the significance of the novel's title to Okonkwo's life and the Ibo society as a whole.

For your "ANOTHER APPROPRIATE BOOK," please write its title and author on a separate sheet of paper. Write five good discussion questions to go along with your book. Write a paragraph to explain why this book was a good choice for you.