EXTRA WRITING ASSIGNMENT/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - *Things Fall Apart*

**Interpretive**

1. From what point of view is the novel written? How does this affect your understanding of the story?

2. Discuss Okonkwo’s views on society, especially manliness.

3. Discuss the main themes in the novel.

4. What does Okonkwo’s reaction to the poor yam crop tell about his personality?

5. Discuss the type of family structure portrayed in the novel.

6. What does Okonkwo’s treatment of his family tell about his personality?

7. Compare and contrast Nwoye’s feelings about the stories his mother tells and those his father tells.

8. The villagers used the words “white skin” when talking about leprosy. How was the coming of the white man like leprosy to the Africans?

9. Discuss the use of emotions in the novel.

10. Did Obierika’s observations about Okonkwo’s part in the murder of Ikemefuna have any influence on Okonkwo’s later life? If so, how?

11. Compare and contrast the Christian religion and that of the villagers.

12. What did Okonkwo mean when he said “living fire begets cold, impotent ash?”

13. Where is the climax of the novel? Justify your answer.

14. Which events in the novel are “turning points” which affect the course of the plot?

15. Discuss the role of superstition in the lives of the villagers.
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**Critical**
16. What is foreshadowing? Discuss the use of foreshadowing in the novel.

17. Explain the significance of the title *Things Fall Apart*.

18. What purpose do the folk tales in the story serve?

19. Do any of the characters change in the course of the novel? If so, who, and how?

20. *Things Fall Apart* has been compared to the great Greek tragedies. Do you agree or disagree? Justify your answer.

21. Discuss the use and effectiveness of irony in the novel.

22. Discuss the use of proverbs in the novel. Which ones were particularly effective? Which were ineffective?

23. Discuss the effectiveness of the use of darkness in the novel.

**Personal Response**
24. Did you enjoy the novel? Why or why not?

25. If you were Chinua Achebe’s editor, what changes would you suggest? Why?

26. Would you recommend this book to a friend?

27. How did you feel about Okonkwo as a person?

28. How did you feel about the Christian missionaries?

29. Did you like the ending of the novel? Why or why not?

30. Okonkwo was described as a “strong man.” Was he, in your opinion, strong? Justify your answer.