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Chapter 1 : Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart: Summary & Analysis " SchoolWorkHelper

From a general summary to chapter summaries to explanations of famous quotes, the SparkNotes Things Fall Apart Study Guide has everything you need to ace quizzes, tests, and essays.

In his youth, he brought honor to his village by beating Amalinze the Cat in a wrestling contest. Until his match with Okonkwo, the Cat had been undefeated for seven years. Okonkwo is completely unlike his now deceased father, Unoka, who feared the sight of blood and was always borrowing and losing money, which meant that his wife and children often went hungry. Unoka was, however, a skilled flute player and had a gift for, and love of, language. Chapter 2 One night, the town crier rings the ogene, or gong, and requests that all of the clansmen gather in the market in the morning. At the gathering, Ogbuefi Ezeugo, a noted orator, announces that someone from the village of Mbaino murdered the wife of an Umuofia tribesman while she was in their market. The crowd expresses anger and indignation, and Okonkwo travels to Mbaino to deliver the message that they must hand over to Umuofia a virgin and a young man. Should Mbaino refuse to do so, the two villages must go to war, and Umuofia has a fierce reputation for its skill in war and magic. Okonkwo is chosen to represent his clan because he is its fiercest warrior. Earlier in the chapter, as he remembers his past victories, we learn about the five human heads that he has taken in battle. On important occasions, he drinks palm-wine from the first head that he captured. The elders give the virgin to Ogbuefi Udo as his wife but are not sure what to do with the fifteen-year-old boy, Ikemefuna. The elders decide to turn him over to Okonkwo for safekeeping and instruction. Okonkwo, in turn, instructs his first wife to care for Ikemefuna. In addition to being a skilled warrior, Okonkwo is quite wealthy. He supports three wives and eight children, and each wife has her own hut. Okonkwo also has a barn full of yams, a shrine for his ancestors, and his own hut, called an obi. Okonkwo fears weakness, a trait that he associates with his father and with women. When Okonkwo was a child, another boy called Unoka agbala, which is used to refer to women as well as to men who have not taken a title. Because he dreads weakness, Okonkwo is extremely demanding of his family. He finds his twelve-year-old son, Nwoye, to be lazy, so he beats and nags the boy constantly. Chapter 3 Okonkwo built his fortune alone as a sharecropper because Unoka was never able to have a successful harvest. When he visited the Oracle, Unoka was told that he failed because of his laziness. Okonkwo succeeds in exceeding all the other clansmen as a warrior, a farmer, and a family provider. He begins by asking a wealthy clansman, Nwakibie, to give him seed yams to start a farm. Some farmers who were lazier than Okonkwo put off planting their yams and thus avoided the grave losses suffered by Okonkwo and the other industrious farmers. Although his father tried to offer some words of comfort, Okonkwo felt only disgust for someone who would turn to words at a time when either action or silence was called for.

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Chapter 2 : SparkNotes: Things Fall Apart: Chapters 1-3

Things Fall Apart study guide contains a biography of Chinua Achebe, literature essays, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis. About Things Fall Apart Things Fall Apart Summary.

An old man uses the following proverb to describe him: Everyone took sides with the other man, and Okonkwo apologized before the meeting continued. Active Themes Okonkwo struggled against poverty and misfortune, earning success at an early age as the greatest wrestler in the land. And this seems to be the case for Okonkwo, who earned his fame by working and struggling from poverty. The clan chooses him to carry the message of war based on his strength. When Okonkwo hears that Ikemefuna is refusing to eat, he stands over Ikemefuna with a big stick while he eats. Ikemefuna is again the perfect example of a character who lacks free will. Also note that the girl from Mbaino is given to Udo without dispute and considered a full replacement for his murdered wife, giving us a glimpse into Umuofia gender roles and the bias in favor of masculinity. The women are treated as interchangeable. Active Themes Ikemefuna becomes popular in the household, and he grows very close with Nwoye in particular. Even Okonkwo grows fond of Ikemefuna, though he refuses to show it, since he believes that showing affection is a sign of weakness. However, he lets Ikemefuna accompany him to big village meetings or ancestral feasts, and Ikemefuna calls him father. Ikemefuna came to the household only a few days before the Week of Peace, during which no work is done and no violence is tolerated in anticipation of the planting season. He beats her heavily when she returns, breaking the peace of the sacred week. Everyone gossips about the transgression over the week. Religion and nature are closely linked for the Igbo, since their survival depends on the land for harvest—the earth goddess is therefore very important. When Okonkwo angers her, he does feel sorry—but his ideal of manliness prevents him from saying so, and his lack of language makes him appear disrespectful to his neighbors. The fact that everyone gossips about the transgression shows how major it is—and how carried away Okonkwo gets with his anger and desire to look strong, even when it would be better to hold back. Nwoye and Ikemefuna help by counting, and occasionally Okonkwo allows them to prepare a few yams each. Still, because yams are a measure of manliness and ability, Okonkwo wants his son to start early. Also, Okonkwo has fully accepted Ikemefuna into the family by now, including him in activities with his own son. The men plant them, and then as the rain grows heavier, women plant other crops between the yam mounds—maize, melons, and beans. As the rain increases even more and the village rainmaker no longer claims to be able to intervene without danger to his health, children sit inside and listen to stories. The heavy rain season brings a brief period of rest between planting and harvest. Note how only the men are allowed to handle the yams—the most important crop in Umuofia—reflecting both their strength and status in society relative to women. Also note how storytelling is the main activity for children in the extreme rainy period, emphasizing the oral culture. Active Themes Ikemefuna feels like a member of the family, telling his own folktales from the Mbaino. He and Nwoye have become very close. Nwoye looks back on this period fondly. As the rain lightens and children go out to play, they sing a song about someone named Nnadi cooking and eating alone as the rain is falling. Retrieved November 9,

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Chapter 3 : Things Fall Apart Chapter 25 Summary and Analysis - calendrierdelascience.com

We meet Okonkwo at age 18 during a wrestling match - the moment that he first becomes famous among the local villages. Okonkwo is fighting against an undefeated wrestler called Amalinze the Cat, but in the end, Okonkwo throws the Cat and wins the contest.

Everyone in the clan looks forward to the festival, since it heralds a season of plenty, but Okonkwo can never match this enthusiasm for feasting. He prefers working on his farm. His wives and children, however, are excited with the preparations, cleaning and decorating, and Ikemefuna in particular is excited to experience the feast. Ikemefuna, on the other hand, is fully immersed in the activities of Umuofia. Active Themes Okonkwo finds an outlet for his anger, accusing his second wife of killing the banana tree—even though she only cut a few leaves off to wrap food. He beats her, leaving her and her daughter weeping. Okonkwo hears this and shoots his loaded gun at his wife, who scrambles away. He misses and goes off to hunt. Whenever Okonkwo feels uncomfortable it drives him to anger, just as how his shame at the mockery of his father made him angry when young. And when he is angry he loses control and gets violent. Active Themes The New Yam Festival is celebrated with joy, with in-laws arriving from different villages on the first day, before heading home after feasting. Many years ago, she had been the village beauty, and Okonkwo had won her heart by throwing the Cat. She married someone else because Okonkwo was too poor to pay her bride-price, but she ran away to live with Okonkwo a few years later. Wrestling is a big tradition for Umuofia, demonstrating masculine strength. She was attracted to his strength. Active Themes On the morning of the second day of the festival, Ekwefi and her only daughter Ezinma talk as she prepares a fowl to eat. She had been showing off to the other children when she broke her pot, but she makes up a sad story to tell her mother. When her brothers are about to tell on her, Ikemefuna silences them with a look. Names have power in Umuofia, and Ezinma calls her mother by her first name, showing how much power she has in the relationship. This makes sense, since he is particularly fond of both of them, even though he tried to shoot Ekwefi earlier. The scene with Ikemefuna also shows how much Ikemefuna has become part of the family. He has a leadership role among the siblings, silencing the younger ones when he has to in order to keep the peace. Her father is stern with her, berating her to sit like a woman and telling her she has little sense, but inwardly, he has a soft spot for Ezinma, who looks very much like her mother. He cares for Ezinma, but treats her sternly, just as he treats the other members of his household. Retrieved November 9,

Chapter 4 : Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe: Summary & Analysis

LitCharts assigns a color and icon to each theme in Things Fall Apart, which you can use to track the themes throughout the work. Cao, Diana. "Things Fall Apart Chapter 5." LitCharts. LitCharts LLC, 3 Nov Web. 2 Nov Cao, Diana. "Things Fall Apart Chapter 5." LitCharts. LitCharts LLC, 3.

He defeated Amalinze the Cat in a wrestling match and brought honor to his village. Amalinze was undefeated for 7 years, so the win caused some attention towards Okonkwo. Unoka feared the sight of blood; however he was a skilled flute player, and had a love for language. Chapter 2 The town crier rings the ogene and asks for all of the clansmen to gather in the market in the morning. At the gathering Ogbuefi Ezeugo announces that someone from the village of Mbaino murdered the wife of an Umuofia tribesman. Everyone was as mad as can be. So Okonkwo travels to Mbaino and delivers a message saying that they must hand over to Umuofia a virgin, and a young man. It sounds good for Umuofia, knowing that they have a good reputation for its skill in war and magic. Okonkwo has three wives and eight children, an obi a hut and can support all of them. Okonkwo fears weakness, which he associates with his father and women. He also constantly beats and nags his son, Nwoye because he finds him lazy. Chapter 3 Okonkwo talks about his childhood, and on how he was never able to have a successful harvest. Unoka, his father had bad fortune and died of an illness which caused swelling of the limbs and stomach. Things Fall Apart Precis Chapter We have so large base of authors that we can prepare a unique summary of any book. How fast would you like to get it? People donated many seeds to Okonkwo when he was preparing his first farm in yams, but the growing season later turned into a disaster as well as for other farmers in the village. The village suffered first a big drought, then next endless rain and floods. Chapter 4 The clan decides that Ikemefuna will stay with Okonkwo. The priest demands Okonkwo to pay a fine and sacrifice a nanny goat and a hen for his actions. It was the Week of Peace when that happened and after that villagers began to clear the land in preparation for planting their farms. Nwoye and Ikemefuna help Okonkwo with the deeds but are criticized in doing so. Chapter 5 Before the harvest, the village holds the Feast of the New Yam to give thanks to the earth goddess Ani. All the old yams left over from the old year must be thrown away. While everyone seems happy about the coming festival, Okonkwo knows he will get tired of it and would rather stay on his farm. Chapter 6 Second day of the festival and everyone gathers at the village playing field to watch the wrestling match between men of the village and neighboring one. The wrestling ends with a rematch between Ikezue and Okafo, just when people thought that it was going to be another draw a second year in a row, Okafo throws him and wins. Then the villagers sing a song of praise to Okafo. Chapter 7 Nwoye and Ikemefuna spend all their time together like brothers. During the evenings, they both sit next to Okonkwo in his hut and listen to stories of violence and bloodshed. Ogbuefi Ezeudu, the oldest man in the village, needs to have a talk with Okonkwo. He needs to speak to Okonkwo privately. Ogbuefi Ezeudu talks about how Ikemefuna needs to be killed as part of retribution to the killing of a woman three years back in Mbaino. Ogbuefi tells Okonkwo not to kill Ikemefuna, since the boy calls him father, but eventually Okonkwo kills Ikemefuna with his machete to make him not appear to be weak. Chapter 8 Okonkwo now goes into depression mode. Nwoye is now scared of his dad, because of the killing and now tries to avoid him. Okonkwo asks Ekwefi to make him a dish, and does it in his favorite way and has Ezinma bring the food to him. When Okonkwo meets his best friend Obierika, he goes on and on about Nwoye being soft and calls him out for not coming with him to kill Ikemefuna. Then all of a sudden, news comes in saying there has been a death of the oldest man in a neighboring village, shortly after his wife dies. Chapter 9 Okonkwo can finally sleep well again, and feeling like his old self. Okonkwo leaves and returns to gather herbs to heal his little daughter. Though she complains and struggles to be let loose, she is held down. Chapter 10 The village holds an interesting ceremony which draws the attention of a large crowd. The egwugwu take the form of masked men, but everyone suspects that Okonkwo is one of them. This makes the women and children fearful. Chapter 11 Ezinma survived her fever, and she and Ekwefi take turns telling each other

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folktales. Chapter 12 After Chielo took Ezinma away, Okonkwo was not able to sleep. He made several trips to the cave before he finally found and joined Ekwefi waiting outside the cave. The following day the village celebrates on the marriage of the daughter of Obierika. Chapter 13 Drums and cannons sound for the death of the oldest man in the village, Ezedu. His funeral was a big deal because he was one of the head honchos of the Umuofia. But during all this an accident occurred. It was Okonkwo who did it and he had to leave the village for 7 years.

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Chapter 5 : Things Fall Apart Chapter 5 Summary & Analysis from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

Things Fall Apart, published in 1952, is Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe's first novel. Simultaneously portraying the traditions and beliefs of Nigerian Ibo culture and engaging with the narrative of European colonialism in Africa, *Things Fall Apart* uses one man's story to speak for many.

He despises the way that Mr. Brown tried to lead the church. Smith finds many converts unfamiliar with important religious ideas and rituals, proving to himself that Mr. Brown cared only about recruiting converts rather than making them Christians. He vows to get the church back on the narrow path and soon demonstrates his intolerance of clan customs by suspending a young woman whose husband mutilated her dead ogbanje child in the traditional way. Each year, the Igbo clan holds a sacred ceremony to honor the earth deity. The egwugwu, ancestral spirits of the clan, dance in the tradition of the celebration. Enoch, an energetic and zealous convert, often provokes violent quarrels with people he sees as enemies. Approaching the egwugwu, who are keeping their distance from the Christians, Enoch dares the egwugwu to touch a Christian, so one of the egwugwu strikes him with a cane. The next day, the egwugwu from all the villages gather in the marketplace. Enoch takes refuge in the church compound, but the egwugwu follow him. Smith meets the men at the church door. Then the masked egwugwu begin to move toward the church, but they are quieted by their leader, who belittles Mr. Smith and his interpreter because they cannot understand what he is saying. He tells them that the egwugwu will not harm Mr. Smith for the sake of Mr. Brown, who was their friend. Smith will be able to stay safely in his house in Umuofia and worship his own god, but they intend to destroy the church that has caused the Igbo so many problems. Through his interpreter, Mr. Smith tries to calm them and asks that they leave the matter to him, but the egwugwu demolish his church to satisfy the clan spirit momentarily. When Achebe adds British characters, he gives two of them common and unremarkable British names, Brown and Smith. His third British character, the District Commissioner, is known only by his title. The choice of names, and lack thereof, is in itself a commentary by Achebe on the incoming faceless strangers. Smith as a stereotype of the inflexible Christian missionary in Africa. He is a fire-and-brimstone type of preacher, who likens Igbo religion to the pagan prophets of Baal of the Old Testament and brands traditional Igbo beliefs as the work of the devil. Achebe suggests that the issue between Mr. Smith and the local people may be more than one of religion: Smith saw things as black and white. And black was evil. Smith preaches an uncompromising interpretation of the scriptures. He suspends a woman convert who allows an old Igbo belief about the ogbanje to contaminate her new Christian way of life. He labels this incident as "pouring new wine into old bottles," an act prohibited in the New Testament of the Christian Bible – "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles" Matthew 9: Achebe implies that strict adherence to scripture and dogma produces religious fanaticism. In traditional Igbo religion, the ancestral spirit communicates through the mask in which it speaks. The Igbo believe that during this time, the human underneath the mask is not present; the mask is transformed into the spirit. Thus, unmasking the egwugwu kills the ancestral spirit. Consistent with his high-energy radicalism, Enoch is disappointed that his action and its consequences do not provoke a holy war against the Igbo nonbelievers. The reference to the Mother of Spirits is another foreshadowing of the decline of the Umuofians. Her wailing and crying signals the death of "the very soul of the tribe. Even the egwugwu leader acknowledges the cultural standoff between them: Smith is foolish because he does not know our ways, and perhaps he says we are foolish because we do not know his. In one, he refers to separating the sheep from the goats Matthew Smith was obviously much concerned about dividing the community between the good the Christian converts and the bad the traditional Igbo believers. Not coincidentally, his suspension of a convert is also based on a quotation from Matthew 9: Smith is comparing the pagan worship of the warrior god Baal, mentioned in the Old Testament I Kings 18 to the Igbo religion. The Israelites saw the worship of Baal as a rival to their worship of God, causing the prophet Elijah to challenge the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The body of the white man, I salute you. The egwugwu speak indirectly, using a formal language of

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immortal spirits.

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Chapter 6 : Things Fall Apart Chapter 4 Summary & Analysis from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

Things Fall Apart en Español How It All Goes Down Though Okonkwo is a respected leader in the Umuofia tribe of the Igbo people, he lives in fear of becoming his father - a man known for his laziness and cowardice.

Tradition dictates their role in life. These women are courageous and obedient. These women are nurturers above all and they are anything but weak. In the novel *Things Fall Apart*, Okonkwo has several wives. He orders them around like dogs. They are never to question what they are instructed to do; they are expected to be obedient. We clearly see this early in the story, when Okonkwo brings Ikemefuna into his home. Okonkwo tells his senior wife that Ikemefuna belongs to the tribe and that she is expected to look after him. She in turn asks him if he will be staying with them for a long period of time. This sends Okonkwo into a fury. When did you become one of the *ndichie* meaning elders of Umuofia? Later in the story we see this woman try to comfort Ikemefuna. She tries to put him at ease and can almost instinctively feel how much he misses his own mother. In keeping with the Igbo view of female nature, the tribe allows wife beating. Okonkwo beats his youngest wife one-day because she was visiting with a friend and did not get home in time to prepare a meal for him. Another one of his wives tries to cover for her when she is questioned as to whether or not the youngest wife has fed the children before she left. Certainly she does this in effort to protect the youngest wife, knowing full well what she faced. Okonkwo does not let them down, he beats his youngest wife severely until he is satisfied. Even in spite of pleas from his other wives reminding him that it is forbidden to beat your wife during the Week of Peace. Okonkwo will face consequences, not for beating another human being, but only because of his timing. The husband considers his wife as a property. He either wants his wife back or his bride price. The omniscient narrator acknowledges a near-invisibility of women in *Things Fall Apart*. They are not invited to stay when men are engaged in any discussion; they are not included in council of war; they do not form part of the masquerades representing the judiciary and ancestral spirits. Okonkwo views women to be weak and foolish. He has a different expectation for men and women. This can be seen clearly by the way that he raises his children. He tries his best to train Nwoye to be strong and brave while he feels sorry that Ezinma is a girl. This kind of contradiction comes up in the novel repeatedly. He is afraid of becoming like his father. He hates the fact that his father is so unsuccessful; therefore, he does not want to be like his father. The underlying theme for those examples is not to show that Okonkwo does not respect women at all. In fact they are used to show that Okonkwo does respect women for their ability if he does not fear to become like his father. Unoka is considered *agbala*, an untitled man or a woman. Yam, of smaller size and lesser value than other yams, is regarded as female. Such extreme accent on manliness, sex-role stereotyping, gender discriminations, and violence create an imbalance, resulting in denigration of the female principle. Achebe shows that the Igbo nonetheless assigns important roles to women. Clothed in the mystic mantle of the divinity she serves, Chielo transforms from the ordinary; she can reprimand Okonkwo and even scream curses at him: Does a man speak when a God speaks? Women, also, painted the houses of the *egwugwu*. Furthermore, the first wife of a man in the Igbo society is paid some respect. But when there is sorrow and bitterness he finds refuge in his motherland. Your mother is there to protect you. The only glory and satisfaction these women enjoyed was being a mother. They receive respect and love from their children. They are strong for their children. Women are viewed to be very gentle and caring. They are expected to take care of their children with the best of their ability. Women are trusted totally by their children. This presentation is necessary to show that women indeed play an important role in society.

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Chapter 7 : Things Fall Apart Summary Of Chapters 1 to 13

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Review major events and characters with this Things Fall Apart summary. This summary of Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe is meant as a review, not as a substitute for reading the novel. His elevated status began in his youth when he defeats Amalinze the Cat in a wrestling match. Okonkwo supports three wives and eight children, a barn full of yams, a shrine to his ancestors, a hut for himself, and a hut for each wife. He despises weakness and beats his children and wives. An Umuofia citizen is murdered in Mbaino and Okonkwo goes to demand reparations. His first harvest is disastrous, but Okonkwo survives it. The village celebrates the Feast of the New Yam. Bored, Okonkwo finds an excuse to beat Ekwefi, his second wife. He then tries to shoot her. The highlight of the festival is the wrestling match, pitting boys from each tribe against one another. Although Okonkwo has many desirable qualities--strength, work ethic, and perseverance--his temper causes problems. He beats his children and wives, gets bored easily, and is too demanding. Oprah would accuse him of not being affectionate enough with his children and every college football coach in the country would give him a scholarship. Okonkwo would tell them to stop judging him through their cultural lens, punch Oprah in the face, and sign with USC or Ohio St. On the way, a man takes out his machete to kill him. In fear, Ikemefuna runs to his "father," who kills him so as not to look weak. He chastises himself for being so weak-minded. Ekwefi wakes Okonkwo and tells him his daughter Ezinma is dying. The egwuwu, nine village spirits who rule on tribal matters, who are actually clan leaders in really scary masks, appear. They solve a dispute between a husband and wife, who returned to live with her brothers because her husband beat her. Ekwefi tells Ezinma a story about a greedy turtle who tricks birds into giving him wings and taking him to a feast. Chielo, the priestess of Agbala, arrives and informs Ekwefi that the oracle wishes to see Ezinma, who cries at having to leave. A great warrior dies and a large ceremony follows. He is forced into exile for seven years. His hut and all his property is burned. How do these guys remember so many gods? Most Westerners have enough trouble remembering one. Okonkwo displays tenderness toward his daughter and second wife. That little thing about killing his son, however, would probably be big on Youtube today and pretty much cancel out all the tenderness he displays toward Ezinma. Uchendu lectures Okonkwo on the importance of staying strong. Obierika shows up to give Okonkwo money from the sale of his yams. He tells about Abame, a village destroyed by white men in retaliation for the killing of one of their associates. Obierika returns two-years later and reports that Nwoye has become a Christian missionary. Okonkwo refuses to discuss it. The story of Nwoye is told. The Christian missionaries ask for a plot of land to build a church. The missionaries rejoice and build a church. The clan expects evil spirits to destroy the Christians. They wait in vain. This causes many of the tribe to join them, including Nwoye. Okonkwo beats him when he finds out. The church attracts the titleless and the outcasts of the village. Okonkwo advises the elders of Mbanta to destroy the church and its members and considers them weak for not doing so. He holds a feast of thanksgiving for his family and expresses his concern for the youth of the tribe and their disregarding of tribal customs in favor of the new religion. He harbors resentment over the missed opportunities caused by seven years in exile. Okonkwo learns many valuable lessons: Okonkwo returns and realizes much has changed. Okonkwo is upset that Umuofia has not driven away the white man. Obierika explains the white men came peacefully and were welcomed before turning arrogant and oppressive. The local church is lead by Mr. Brown, a tolerant man who forbids his congregation from harassing non-believers. The two become friends, despite their differences. Brown encourages the tribe to send their children to his school. Okonkwo is disappointed in the lack of attention his return receives. Reverend James Smith replaces Mr. Brown and establishes an era of intolerance. The district commissioner summons six men, including Okonkwo to discuss the burning of the church. They are imprisoned, treated poorly, and ordered to pay a large fine if they wish to be released. The sullen prisoners

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return. An emergency meeting is called. Five court messengers arrive to break up the meeting. Okonkwo chops off the head of one of the messengers, which sends the remaining messengers scurrying and prematurely ends the meeting. The district commissioner and a few soldiers arrive in Umuofia and ask for the whereabouts of Okonkwo. Obierika agrees to show them and says they need their help. Obierika leads them to a bush where Okonkwo has hanged himself. The messengers learn an important lesson: Okonkwo learns an important lesson: The district commissioner learns nothing.

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Chapter 8 : Things Fall Apart Part Three, Chapter 20 Summary and Analysis - calendrierdelascience.com

Things Fall Apart Homework Help Questions. What was the most significant theme in Achebe's Things Fall Apart? While there are several significant themes in Things Fall Apart, such as individual.

Okonkwo is a respected and influential leader within the Igbo community of Umuofia in eastern Nigeria. He first earns personal fame and distinction, and brings honor to his village, when he defeats Amalinze the Cat in a wrestling contest. He often borrowed money and then squandered it on palm-wine and merrymaking with friends. Consequently, his wife and children often went hungry. Within the community, Unoka was considered a failure and a laughingstock. He was referred to as agbala, one who resembles the weakness of a woman and has no property. Unoka died a shameful death and left numerous debts. Because Okonkwo is a leader of his community, he is asked to care for a young boy named Ikemefuna, who is given to the village as a peace offering by neighboring Mbaino to avoid war with Umuofia. Over the years, Okonkwo becomes an extremely volatile man; he is apt to explode at the slightest provocation. Later, he severely beats and shoots a gun at his second wife, Ekwefi, because she took leaves from his banana plant to wrap food for the Feast of the New Yam. After the coming of the locusts, Ogbuefi Ezeuder, the oldest man in the village, relays to Okonkwo a message from the Oracle. The Oracle says that Ikemefuna must be killed as part of the retribution for the Umuofian woman killed three years earlier in Mbaino. He feels that not participating would be a sign of weakness. Consequently, Okonkwo kills Ikemefuna with his machete. Nwoye realizes that his father has murdered Ikemefuna and begins to distance himself from his father and the clansmen. Their daughter Ezinma, whom Okonkwo is fond of, is dying. Okonkwo gathers grasses, barks, and leaves to prepare medicine for Ezinma. A public trial is held on the village commons. Nine clan leaders, including Okonkwo, represent the spirits of their ancestors. The nine clan leaders, or egwugwu, also represent the nine villages of Umuofia. Okonkwo does not sit among the other eight leaders, or elders, while they listen to a dispute between an estranged husband and wife. The wife, Mgbafo, had been severely beaten by her husband. The egwugwu tell the husband to take wine to his in-laws and beg his wife to come home. One elder wonders why such a trivial dispute would come before the egwugwu. Although Okonkwo and Ekwefi protest, Chielo takes a terrified Ezinma on her back and forbids anyone to follow. Okonkwo surprises Ekwefi by arriving at the cave, and he also waits with her. When Ogbuefi Ezeudu dies, Okonkwo worries because the last time that Ezeudu visited him was when he warned Okonkwo against participating in the killing of Ikemefuna. Because the accidental killing of a clansman is a crime against the earth goddess, Okonkwo and his family must be exiled from Umuofia for seven years. Okonkwo is welcomed to Mbanta by his maternal uncle, Uchendu, a village elder. He gives Okonkwo a plot of land on which to farm and build a compound for his family. But Okonkwo is depressed, and he blames his chi or personal spirit for his failure to achieve lasting greatness. After a white man rode into the village on a bicycle, the elders of Abame consulted their Oracle, which told them that the white man would destroy their clan and other clans. Consequently, the villagers killed the white man. But weeks later, a large group of men slaughtered the villagers in retribution. The village of Abame is now deserted. Okonkwo and Uchendu agree that the villagers were foolish to kill a man whom they knew nothing about. Six missionaries, including one white man, arrive in Mbanta. The white man speaks to the people about Christianity. Okonkwo believes that the man speaks nonsense, but his son, Nwoye, is captivated and becomes a convert of Christianity. The Christian missionaries build a church on land given to them by the village leaders. However, the land is a part of the Evil Forest, and according to tradition, the villagers believe that the missionaries will die because they built their church on cursed land. But when nothing happens to the missionaries, the people of Mbanta conclude that the missionaries possess extraordinary power and magic. The first recruits of the missionaries are efulefu, the weak and worthless men of the village. Other villagers, including a woman, soon convert to Christianity. The missionaries then go to Umuofia and start a school. When Okonkwo returns to Umuofia, he discovers that the village has changed during his absence. Many men

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have renounced their titles and have converted to Christianity. Some members of the Igbo clan like the changes in Umuofia. Brown, the white missionary, respects the Igbo traditions. He makes an effort to learn about the Igbo culture and becomes friendly with some of the clan leaders. He also encourages Igbo people of all ages to get an education. Brown tells Okonkwo that Nwoye, who has taken the name Isaac, is attending a teaching college. Nevertheless, Okonkwo is unhappy about the changes in Umuofia. Brown becomes ill and is forced to return to his homeland, Reverend James Smith becomes the new head of the Christian church. But Reverend Smith is nothing like Mr. Brown; he is intolerant of clan customs and is very strict. Violence arises after Enoch, an overzealous convert to Christianity, unmasks an egwugwu. When the District Commissioner returns to Umuofia, he learns about the destruction of the church and asks six leaders of the village, including Okonkwo, to meet with him. The men are jailed until they pay a fine of two hundred and fifty bags of cowries. The people of Umuofia collect the money and pay the fine, and the men are set free. The next day at a meeting for clansmen, five court messengers who intend to stop the gathering approach the group. Suddenly, Okonkwo jumps forward and beheads the man in charge of the messengers with his machete. When none of the other clansmen attempt to stop the messengers who escape, Okonkwo realizes that they will never go to war and that Umuofia will surrender. Everything has fallen apart for Okonkwo; he commits suicide by hanging himself.

Chapter 9 : Things Fall Apart Notes

In Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, women of the Igbo tribe are terribly mistreated, and viewed as weak and receive little or no respect outside of their role as a mother. Tradition dictates their role in life. These women are courageous and obedient. These women are nurturers above all and they.