

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

First Week Review

Chapter 1 Questions:

1. Achebe's choice of an excerpt from "The Second Coming" as his title
 - a. reveals his love of English literature.
 - b. establishes an optimistic tone for the book.
 - c. foreshadows the tragedy that will unfold.
 - d. criticizes the impact of European colonialism.
2. Which of the following best describes the relationship between Okonkwo and his father, Unoka?
 - a. Okonkwo and his father were different from each other but shared a mutual respect.
 - b. Okonkwo despised his father and made it a priority to be perceived as different from his father.
 - c. Unoka was an embarrassing failure for his entire life, much the opposite of Okonkwo.
 - d. Unoka had a great musical talent that was shared by his son.
3. "If a child washed his hands he could eat with kings." Interpret this proverb from p. 8, and explain what it reveals about Okonkwo.
4. Describe how Achebe characterizes Okonkwo in chapter 1. Use specific details from the chapter to support your answer.

Chapter 2 Questions:

1. Which of the following most accurately characterizes the village of Umuofia?
 - a. picturesque but dangerous
 - b. dominant but fair
 - c. capricious and terrifying
 - d. plaintive and peaceful

2. What do we learn most about Okonkwo from Achebe's use of Unoka as a foil for Okonkwo?
 - a. We learn that Okonkwo is driven by a fear of being weak and lazy.
 - b. We learn that Okonkwo hates his father and is embarrassed by him.
 - c. We learn that Okonkwo is a respected figure in his village.
 - d. We learn that Okonkwo is hard on his son, Nwoye.
3. Which evidence best supports the answer to question 2?
 - a. p. 10 ("He was a man...look of blood.")
 - b. p. 13 ("Perhaps down...failure and weakness.")
 - c. p. 13 ("And so...another was idleness.")
 - d. p. 14 ("Okonkwo's prosperity...red walls.")
4. How does Achebe reveal and develop the theme of identity and/or individual and community in the first two chapters of the novel? Choose one and explain using examples from the text.

Chapter 3 Questions:

1. With which of the following statements about Unoka would the oracle most likely agree?
 - a. He was unlucky because he had offended the gods.
 - b. He was unsuccessful in farming because he was lazy.
 - c. He was insufficiently frightened of the Oracle at Agbala.
 - d. He was faithful in his sacrifices and in his work.
2. The main purpose of the detailed description of the palm-wine ritual on pp. 19–21 is to _____.
 - a. introduce the reader to each member of Nwakibie's family.
 - b. illustrate Okonkwo's consistently plaintive nature.
 - c. describe Okonkwo's intentions in asking to meet with Nwakibie.
 - d. depict Igbo culture, customs, and complex social relationships.
3. Identify and explain at least one technique Achebe uses to offer a perspective of the Igbo people that counters European stereotypes present in *Things Fall Apart*. Use evidence from the novel to support your answer.

Chapter 4 Questions:

1. Over the course of the chapter, the main focus shifts from a
 - a. depiction of an important clan elder meeting to an analysis of Okonkwo's turbulent family life.
 - b. symbolic representation of Okonkwo's tragic flaw to a list of separate ways in which that flaw has manifested.
 - c. story about Okonkwo's insulting of one man to a portrayal of the harm his hyper masculinity brings on all of those around him.
 - d. general explanation of what caused Okonkwo to be so revered to providing multiple examples of his failures as a man and as a member of the tribe.

2. The main purpose of the line "my father told me that he had been told that in the past a man who broke the peace was dragged on the ground until he died," on p. 31, is to
 - a. show that the clan has always, perhaps even more so in the past, valued the security of the community over the desires of the individual.
 - b. question whether the clan has, over time, become too lenient in its punishment of those who commit crimes.
 - c. introduce the importance of the oral tradition in passing down Igbo culture and history through the generations.
 - d. communicate the impact of colonialism on the Igbo culture even in the early days of European arrival.

3. In a speech remembering Achebe's accomplishments, the head of the African Union said, "Achebe expressed frustration at frequently being misunderstood on this point, saying that 'I want to scream that Things Fall Apart is on the side of women...and that Okonkwo is paying the penalty for his treatment of women; that all his problems, all the things he did wrong, can be seen as offenses against the feminine.'" Using what you have read so far, explain how Okonkwo's treatment of women is a symptom of his tragic flaw.

Essential Questions:

Identity: In what ways are human beings similar across cultures? In what ways does culture impact identity?

The Individual and Community: What is community? What holds it together? What tears it apart? What is the relationship between the individual and community? Why is maintaining balance in this relationship so important?

Culture and Colonialism: What is the impact of European colonialism on the characters in the novel? On the people and cultures of Africa?