

## **Things Fall Apart Guided Reading Questions**

*The following questions are designed to guide and support your understanding as you read the novel. Please try to make brief notes in relation to each of the following questions – this will support your learning and completion of assignments in September.*

### **Chapters 1-4**

1. Why was Okonkwo famous?
2. Describe Unoka.
3. Why had the men of Umuofia called a meeting?
4. Where does the story take place?
5. What influence did the oracle have on decisions made in Umuofia?
6. What were Okonkwo's greatest fear and greatest passion?
7. What upset Okonkwo most about his son, Nwoye?
8. What did Okonkwo bring home from his trip to Mbaino?
9. How did Okonkwo begin his prosperous career?
10. How did Ikemefuna react to living with Okonkwo's family?
11. What unheard of thing did Okonkwo do during the Week of Peace?
12. How did the people view yams?

### **Chapters 5-7**

1. Describe the Feast of the New Yam.
2. Who was Okonkwo's favorite child, and what did he often say about the child?
3. What unacceptable thing did Okonkwo do just before the Feast of the New Yam?
4. Who was Chielo, and why was she important?

She was the priestess of Agbala, the Oracle of the Hills and the Caves.

5. What sport did the villagers enjoy watching during their feasting?

They enjoyed watching the young men of the village wrestle.

6. What influence did Ikemefuna have on Nwoye?

7. How did Okonkwo feel about Ikemefuna's influence on Nwoye?
8. How did the villagers feel about the coming of the locusts, and what did they do about it?
9. What did the village decide to do with Ikemefuna?
10. Who struck the last blow to Ikemefuna, and why?

### **Chapters 8-10**

1. What did Okonkwo do whenever he thought of his father's weakness and failure?
2. What did Okonkwo tell himself about his part in Ikemefuna's death?
3. What did Obierika tell Okonkwo about his part in Ikemefuna's death?
4. Describe the meeting to determine Obierika's daughter's bride price.
5. The men began discussing rumors about white men. Who did they think the white men were?
6. Describe the relationship between Ekwefi and Ezinma.
7. Describe Ekwefi's difficulties in getting pregnant.
8. What did the medicine man tell Okonkwo after the death of Ekwefi's second child?
9. Describe the burial of Ekwefi's third child, and the reason for it.
10. Explain the significance of Ezinma's *iyi-uwa*.
11. How did Okonkwo cure Ezinma's *iba* illness?
12. What was the purpose of the ceremony described in Chapter 10?

### **Chapters 11-13**

1. What did Chielo want with Ezinma?
2. What did Ekwefi do?
3. What did Okonkwo do when Chielo took Ezinma?
4. What was the purpose of the *uri* ceremony?
5. What was the significance in the amount of wine the family brought?
6. What happened at the end of the ceremony?

7. Describe Ezeudu's funeral.
8. How did the author describe a man's life?
9. What happened during the frenzy?
10. What was the result of Okonkwo's action?
11. What was the reason for the clan's actions against Okonkwo?
12. What did Obierika think about after this calamity, and what was his conclusion?

### **Chapters 14-19**

1. Where did Okonkwo take his family to live?
2. How did Okonkwo feel about his circumstances?
3. Why did Uchendu talk to Okonkwo about the Mother Supreme?
4. Who came to visit Okonkwo during the second year of exile, and why?
5. Briefly retell the story of the destruction of Abame.
6. What was Obierika's reaction to the story?
7. What event did Obierika describe on his next visit, two years later?
8. Who had Obierika found among the missionaries?
9. What was the iron horse?
10. Where did the missionaries in Mbanta build their church, why were they given that particular piece of land, and what happened to them?
11. What was it about Nwoye's actions that disturbed Okonkwo so much?
12. What group wanted to be admitted to the Christian church, and what happened?
13. Describe the incident with the sacred python.
14. What did Okonkwo do before he left Mbanta when his exile was ended?
15. What was the one elder's message to those at the feast?

## Chapters 20-25

1. How did Okonkwo feel about his return to the clan?
2. What message did Okonkwo give to his sons and daughters after Nwoye left the family?
3. Describe the changes that had come to Umuofia in the seven years that Okonkwo was in exile.
4. Okonkwo asked Obierika why the people had lost their power to fight. What was Obierika's reply?
5. How did many of the other villagers feel about these changes?
6. What was Mr. Brown's conclusion about the religion of the clan? How did he act to gain converts?
7. About what was Okonkwo grieving?
8. Describe the conflict started by Enoch.
9. What was the result of the action taken by the *egwugwu*?
10. How did Okonkwo feel when he returned from the white man's prison?
11. Why did the men meet in the marketplace?
12. What event happened in the marketplace?
13. What happened to Okonwo?
14. What did Obierika tell the Commissioner?
15. What was the commissioner's reaction to the incident?