

## **A. Intro to the Novel Things Fall Apart**

Author: Chinua Achebe (1930-2013)

- raised in a village in south-east Nigeria
- parents raised him as a Christian (Protestant)
- exposed to his native Igbo culture as well

Published: 1958

Setting: 1890, Nigeria

- a time of transition (not a positive one – think of the title)
- the time of first contact with British colonizers

Genre: tragedy

Literary Era: Postcolonial literature

- Most early-to-mid twentieth century works depicted African people as “savages” who were unfairly oppressed by white colonizers.
  - In this novel, Achebe seeks to revise previous stereotypes by looking at each culture (Nigerian and British) honestly.
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## **B. Sign Up to Teach Your Peers**

On the clipboard, sign up for one of the six categories below by writing your name in a blank. Next class, you will be teaching your peers the basics about the topic you select. You only need to do a bit of informal research, but you should be able to talk knowledgably about the topic. (Written notes are encouraged but not required.)

- History of Nigeria (late 1800s)
  - History of Nigeria (1950s)
  - Igbo Culture
  - British Colonialism
  - Postcolonial Literature
  - Tragedy (as a genre of literature)
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## **C. Mini-Quiz Next Class**

I encourage (but do not require) you to annotate the first two chapters of the novel. Use your practice annotating “The Seventh Man” as a guide. The mini-quiz will cover the basic plot and the intro notes at the top of this page (A). You should also be ready to discuss what you’ve read as well as the extra background information you’ve researched (B).