



## 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 cultural heritage 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

Literary Genre: tragedy

Literary Era: *modern/postcolonial*

- Nearly all early-to-mid twentieth century literary 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 (Igbo and British) objectively.

## B. Sign Up to Teach Your Peers

Sign up today for one of the six categories below. You'll coordinate with your group's members to create some subtopics that you'll work to research. Next *block*, you will be teaching your peers the basics about the topic. You only need to do a bit of informal research, but you should be able to talk knowledgeably about the topic, answer questions, and *share a credibility report on two relevant sources*.

- history of Nigeria (late 1800s)
- Chinua Achebe (biographical info)
- Igbo culture
- British colonialism of Africa
- postcolonial literature
- Tragedy (as a genre of literature)

Prepare one meaningful insight about the topic that you can support with two credible (C.R.A.A.P.y, not crappy) sources.

## C. Mini-Quiz Next Class

I encourage (but do not require) you to annotate the first two chapters of the novel. The mini-quiz will cover the plot and terminology of Ch. 1-2, in-class notes, and the intro above (A). Also, please be ready to discuss what you've read as well as the extra background information you've researched (B).

# SOURCE CREDIBILITY REPORT

SOURCE  
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Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate, and then rank each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should use the resource (and whether your instructor would want you to!).

## **Currency:** the timeliness of the information.....

- When was the information published or posted? \_\_\_\_\_
- Has the information been revised or updated? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are the links functional? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Relevance:** the importance of the information for your needs.....

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who is the intended audience? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the information at an appropriate level? \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one? \_\_\_\_\_
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Authority:** the source of the information.....

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the author's credentials/organizational affiliations if given? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address? \_\_\_\_\_
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Accuracy:** the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content.....

- Where does the information come from? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the information supported by evidence? \_\_\_\_\_
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can you verify any of the information in another source? \_\_\_\_\_
- Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Purpose:** the reason the information exists.....

- What is the purpose of the information? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda? \_\_\_\_\_
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases? \_\_\_\_\_

45-50 Excellent | 40-44 Good  
35-39 Average | 30-34 Borderline Acceptable  
Below 30 Unacceptable

TOTAL  
↳