

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

→ on Bae's clipboard

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 ↪

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- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?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 ↪