

Student Packet

Grades 9–12

Things Fall Apart

Chinua Achebe

NOVEL UNITS[®]

NEW WAYS TO LEARN READING,
WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING



Novel Units® Single-Classroom User Agreement

With the purchase of electronic materials (such as ebooks and print-on-demand teaching activities) from a Novel Units, Inc. (Novel Units) Web site, or that of a Novel Units authorized dealer's Web site, the customer (the purchaser or person for whom this product was purchased) is granted a single-classroom user license, which entitles the customer to use or duplicate these materials for a single classroom (or home) only.

Sharing the digital files or reproduction of any part of this publication in any way or by any means for additional classrooms (or homes), an entire school, or a school system; by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers; or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Reproduction of any part of the Teacher Guide is strictly prohibited. Use of the materials for anything other than classroom instruction is a violation of Novel Units intellectual property rights. Materials may be transmitted or projected via digital device within a single classroom setting only; any other electronic transmission or projection of materials is strictly prohibited. Novel Units retains full intellectual property rights on all proprietary products, and these rights extend to electronic editions of print books or materials, excerpts of print books or materials, and individual teaching activities offered for sale in digital format.

To obtain more information, or, if you would like to use Novel Units products for additional purposes not outlined in the single-classroom license (described above), please contact customercare@ecslearningsystems.com.

ebooks.ecslearningsystems.com

THINGS FALL APART

by
Chinua Achebe

Student Packet

Written by
Mary L. Dennis

Contains masters for:

- 3 Prereading Activities
- 4 Vocabulary Activities
- 1 Study Guide
- 4 Critical Thinking Activities
- 3 Literary Analysis Activities
- 3 Writing Activities
- 2 Comprehension/Review Activities
- 1 Crossword
- 2 Comprehension Quizzes (two levels)
- 2 Unit Exams (two levels)
- Detailed Answer Key

PLUS

Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the Anchor Doubleday softcover © 1959 by Chinua Achebe. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

ISBN 978-1-60878-426-4

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2010 by Novel Units, Inc., Bulverde, Texas. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this publication is limited to the terms of the Single-Classroom User License for a maximum of 30 copies. No part of this publication may be translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted or shared in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc. Reproduction of any part of this publication for multiple school terms, an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Reproduction of any part of the Teacher Guide is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Novel Units, Inc.

Publisher Information

For a complete catalog, contact—

Novel Units, Inc.
P.O. Box 97
Bulverde, TX 78163-0097

Web site: novelunits.com

For more digital resources, visit:
ebooks.ecslearningsystems.com

Chapters 14-16

1. Uchendu and his sons are generous and helpful to Okonkwo. If he had committed an intentional—"male"—crime, how might they have acted differently?
2. What are "the nuts of the water of heaven"?
3. Why is Okonkwo so depressed?
4. What do you think is the purpose of the family meeting called by Uchendu, pages 133-135?
5. What frightening news about Abame does Obierika bring?
6. Is Obierika serious when he tells Okonkwo he could thank him by killing one of his sons—or himself?
7. The white missionary spoke through an Ibo interpreter. What was funny about this?
8. Why did Nwoye tell Obierika that Okonkwo is not his father?
9. **Prediction:** What effects do you think the arrival of the missionaries will have on the future lives of Okonkwo, his wives, and his children?

Chapters 17-18

1. How did Uchendu's plan to offer the missionaries land in the Evil Forest backfire?
2. Do you think Mr. Kiaga was within his rights to encourage Nwoye to forget about his parents—or had Nwoye already decided for himself anyway?
3. At first, why didn't the clan worry much about the new church?
4. How was Mr. Kiaga able to keep the church from foundering when it began admitting *osu*—outcasts?
5. What would Okonkwo really enjoy doing regarding the church?
6. Does Okonkwo's reaction to the church seem typical of the way he reacts to most things?
7. **Prediction:** One of the tribal elders at the feast voices his fears about the future and the elders all fears the "abominable religion" will have. What could this possibly foreshadow about Okonkwo's return to Umuofia?

Name _____

Things Fall Apart
Activity #7 • Vocabulary
Chapters 20-25

Directions: Choose the words from the list that correctly complete each sentence.

1. If it hadn't been for the _____ flooring, _____ damage might have been done.
2. Okonkwo could not be _____ from his wish for _____ against the invaders.
3. Reverend Smith did not think much of Mr. Brown's policies of _____ and _____.
4. To the Umuofians, the burning of an *egwugwu* house _____, they were as upset as the missionaries when their church was _____.
5. The court messengers in the prison subjected the Ibo men to every kind of _____, while the Ibo remained silent and _____.
6. Long before Okonkwo returned to Umuofia, Obierika had _____ that change was _____.
7. Reverend Smith held no one in Umuofia in high _____, and many of the Ibo considered him a _____.
8. The District Commissioner had learned it was often most _____ to try to _____ the Umuofians.

- sacrilege
- pacification
- lunatic
- vengeance
- expedient
- esteem
- imminent
- dissemble
- submit
- preferred
- repulse
- resilient
- indignity
- accommodation
- desecrated
- irreparable

• Downloadable Novel Units® Product • Single-Classroom User License •

All rights reserved

Name _____

Things Fall Apart
 Activity #12 • Critical Thinking/
 Decision Making • Use After Reading

Directions: Two steps in problem solving are: (a) brainstorming possible solutions and (b) measuring each against specific criteria. When Ezeudu tells Okonkwo that the Oracle has called for the death of Ikemefuna, Okonkwo faces a problem: Should he participate in the killing? Should he try to stop it? Help him solve the problem by

- a) adding two more choices to the chart below
- b) reading the criteria , and
- c) scoring each decision 1=yes, 2=maybe, or 3=no.

The chart has been started for you.

Possible Choices ↓	Criteria			
	Is this the moral thing to do?	Will this preserve my prestige with the clan?	Is this against tribal tradition?	Will this cause further problems?
ask the Oracle to reconsider				
stay home while others kill the boy				
tell Ikemefuna to run away				

Choose the decision you think Okonkwo **should** have made. Write him a letter of advice telling him why you think he should make the decision you think is best.

Name _____

Things Fall Apart

Activity #15 • Quote Analysis

Use After Reading • Note: two-page activity

Directions: Below and on the next page are some quotes about themes which appear in *Things Fall Apart*. Briefly explain how you think each quote applies to the novel. Share your answers in small discussion groups or with the whole class.

1. "There are few things more dreadful than dealing with a man who knows he is going under, in his own eyes, and in the eyes of others. Nothing can help that man. What is left of that man flees from what is left of his own attention."—James Baldwin

2. "Success is somebody else's failure. Success is the American Dream. We can keep dreaming because most people in most places, including thirty million of ourselves, live wide awake in the terrible reality of poverty."—Ursula Le Guin

3. "I read about an Eskimo hunter who asked a local missionary priest, 'If I did not know about God and sin, would I go to hell?' 'No,' said the priest, 'not if you did not know.' 'Then why,' asked the Eskimo earnestly, 'did you tell me?' "—Annie Dillard
