Purchase the soft cover of Things Fall Apart (ISBN: 978-0-385-47454-2)

Novel Background (Adapted from Prestwick House): Things Fall Apart, published in 1958, was Achebe’s first novel. On October 1, 1960, Nigeria received its independence from British colonial rule. Achebe wrote this novel two years before this event. With it, Achebe established that he is one of the foremost Nigerian writers and has managed to incorporate his African heritage into English-language novels. Achebe’s novel draws on African oral tradition as well as societal traditions to create a text that is accepted not only for its reflection of the human condition, but also its ability to reflect African culture. He wrote the text in English so as to provide Westerners with a more authentic view of a single African Culture: the Igbo people. His goal was to illustrate for non-African audiences what Nigeria was like before colonization and to show that African cultures, such as that of the Igbo, are rich in history and complexity.

As you read, know that the novel does not follow the traditional literary language or plot of European novels. The language incorporates Achebe’s Ibo vocabulary and proverbs. By infusing the text with Ibo words, Achebe is able to demonstrate that the African culture is rich with language. Achebe includes songs and proverbs to illustrate the complexity of the dialogues that mark the African culture. As you read, you should remember that Achebe is using the English language to reach his desired audience. Achebe’s fellow Nigerians would have already understood the effects of losing a tribe, a village, a country, and a tradition, but Achebe wanted to spread his message to those who would have little experience with these losses: you.

Project Directions:
Students will identify literary devices and rhetorical elements used in these texts to support the theme(s) and consider how those elements help to create meaning.

Students should be prepared to annotate and analyze the text and then support their analysis using text evidence. All of the activities used in this packet will be practiced and developed further during their freshman year at JBHS; your performance on this assignment will help Ms. Line understand your current analytical skills.

I. LITERARY TERMS:

1. Annotate as you read: identify as many examples as possible for each of the literary terms listed below. When you encounter them in the text, circle them and label them in the margin.

2. After you have finished reading the text, select the one best example for each term to analyze its impact in the story. You will do this for ALL 11 literary devices.

3. For each word, write a definition for the term, quote an example from the text, and provide your analysis (5-7 sentences for each word). An example has been done for you, but make sure to use a different simile for your work.

Example:

Simile: comparison to indicate similarities between two things; using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’.

Example: “Okonkwo was a slippery as a fish in water” (Achebe 3).

Analysis: Used so early in the text, this simile helps to establish Okonkwo’s main character trait: his strength. When he is fighting in a wrestling match, Okonkwo is completely in his element; he is unbeatable. This simile provides important characterization, as it foreshadows Okonkwo’s values of physical strength and masculinity. Later in the story, when he is older and times have changed, this simile returns as “He had been cast out of his clan like a fish onto a dry, sandy beach, panting” (Achebe 131). This altered simile is used to demonstrate just how far from his element Okonkwo has come. Once perfectly situated, Okonkwo’s life has now become a tragedy.

1. Allusion
2. Fable
3. Foreshadowing
4. Imagery
5. Irony
6. Metaphor
7. Personification
8. Proverb
9. Simile
10. Symbolism
11. Tragic Hero
II. THEMES:

- **Theme 1:** The passage of time and new experiences can induce a struggle between change and tradition.
- **Theme 2:** One’s need to prove masculinity and the fear of looking feminine can have disastrous consequences.

1. **Annotate** as you read: for both of the above themes, track examples in the text. **When you encounter examples, highlight them. (I would recommend using two different colored highlighters).**
2. After you have finished reading the text, select the 2 examples for each term to analyze its impact in the story. (4 examples total)
3. For each example, write out the supporting quote from the text and provide your analysis (5-7 sentences for each quote).

An example has been done for you, but make sure to use a different one for your work.

Example:

*Theme 2 Example*: “Inwardly, he was repentant. But he was not the man to go about telling his neighbors that he was in error. And so people said he had no respect for the gods of the clan” (Achebe 31).

*Analysis:* Okonkwo has committed a grievous crime during the Week of Peace by beating his wife. This quote gives the reader insight into Okonkwo’s thinking after he has been punished for his actions. It reveals that Okonkwo recognizes his crime and does, in fact, feel bad about his actions, but it also supports how stubborn he is. He is so afraid of appearing weak to his wives and neighbors that he would rather risk angering the Gods than “stop beating someone half-way through…even for fear of a goddess” (Achebe 30). This is one of the first instances of this type of behavior, and actions like these will repeatedly cause Okonkwo trouble throughout the text. Okonkwo is fully willing to risk any consequence in his quest to appear masculine.

**RUBRIC**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Novel</td>
<td>● Circle and label literary devices&lt;br&gt;● Highlight examples of theme.&lt;br&gt;● Make margin notes to accompany each&lt;br&gt;of the above.</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis of 11 Literary Devices</td>
<td>● One quote example for each literary&lt;br&gt;device (11 Total).&lt;br&gt;● Analysis of 5-7 sentences each.</td>
<td>35 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis of 4 Thematic Quotes</td>
<td>● Four quote examples for theme (2 per theme).&lt;br&gt;● Analysis of 5-7 sentences each.</td>
<td>35 points</td>
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**DUE DATE:**
These assignments are due either **THURSDAY, AUGUST 15TH or FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH** dependent upon whether you have me on A day or B day. We will discuss this during the first day of class. It will count as a test grade during the first quarter. **You will have a novel test / essay during the first two weeks of school.**

**ANY QUESTIONS?**
You may reach me through my email: linea@martin.k12.fl.us at the end of May and/or beginning of August. To communicate during the rest of summer, you should sign up for our class on Remind101 by texting: @Freshi2023 to 81010. You may text any questions to our class page, and I will try to respond throughout the summer, however, make sure to read (and reread) all instructions to problem shoot first! 😊