

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____ Test Date: _____

***Things Fall Apart* Test Review**

Directions: Answer all of the following questions to prepare for your test on *Things Fall Apart*.

1. What's that term? – Understanding these terms will not improve the quality of your life, but you need to know them in order to understand the novel. Identify the following:
 - Abame
 - *Chi*
 - cowries
 - *efulefu*
 - *egwugwu*
 - Evil Forest
 - *Heart of Darkness*
 - *kotma*
 - Mbaino
 - Mbanta
 - *Mister Johnson*
 - *obi*
 - *ogbanje*
 - *osu*
 - “Roaring Flame”
 - title
 - Umuofia
 - Yeats’ “The Second Coming”
2. Short Answer – Questions similar, if not identical to these, will be asked. You do not need to answer all of them now on this review, but you should formulate responses that you will have to transcribe on the test.
 - Who is a masculine model of Ibo culture and why? Who is a feminine model?
 - What aspects of Unoka’s life and death make Okonkwo despise him?
 - Describe the ironic element of Okonkwo’s relationships with Nwoye and Ikemefuna.
 - What is Chielo’s position in the village and her relationship to Ekwefi?
 - Why does Okonkwo receive banishment rather than execution as punishment for the death of Ezeudu’s son? How is the crime described?
 - Why does Okonkwo’s uncle feel the need to speak to Okonkwo about returning to one’s motherland? What is his message that he wants his nephew to understand?
 - How does the appeal of Christianity to certain groups of Ibo people allow the church to gain converts?
 - What other economic, political, and social additions accompany the surge in Christianity?
 - Why does Christianity appeal to Nwoye?
 - According to the novel, what is the common destiny of all men and women?
 - How do Mr. Brown and Mr. Smith relate to the people in Umuofia?
 - What are the villagers fined for the release of their leaders, how much do they pay, and why?
 - Why does Obierika ask the District Commissioner to remove Okonkwo’s body from the tree?

3. Symbolism – Explain each of the following **symbols**. What do they represent or foreshadow?

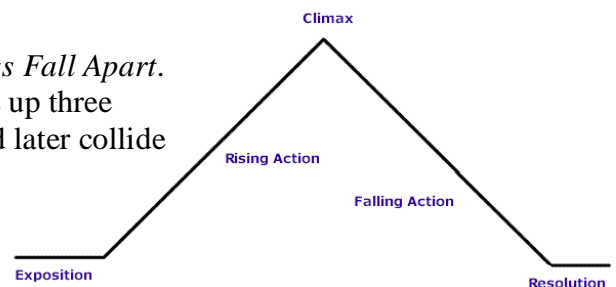
- kola nut –
- locust –
- python –
- title –
- yam –

4. Say What? – Translating Proverbs – What do these **proverbs** mean?

- “A toad does not run in the daytime for nothing.” – Ogbuefi
- “The sun will shine on those who stand before it shines on those who kneel under them.” – Unoka
- “A man who pays respect to the great paves the way for his own greatness.” – Okonkwo
- “Those whose palm-kernels were cracked for them by a benevolent spirit should not forget to be humble.” – clan elder
- “If a man says yea, his *chi* also affirms.” – elders
- “A child cannot pay for its mother’s milk.” – Okonkwo

5. Indirect Characterization – Review the five ways that authors provide indirect characterization. Remember the acronym **STEAL** (says, thinks, effects, actions, looks) and be able to apply them to any given character. It may be helpful – oh, I don’t know – to apply them to *Okonkwo*, for example.

6. Plot – Review the plot diagram and apply it to *Things Fall Apart*. Some critics have argued that Part I of the novel sets up three separate stories that interweave with one another and later collide in Parts II and III.



7. Motifs vs. Themes – The following are *not* themes, for **themes** are one-sentence declarative statements that provide central insight into the human nature conveyed by a work of art. Stretch the following motifs into themes:

- the balance between traditional masculine and feminine values
- continual and inevitable change
- the dynamic between individuals and society