

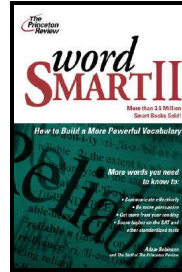


Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Publisher: Knopf Doubleday

ISBN-13: 978-0385474542

Approximately \$9.00



The Princeton Review's Word Smart II

by Adam Robinson

Publisher: Princeton Review

ISBN-13: 978-0375765766

Approximately \$14.00

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Things Fall Apart

Things Fall Apart tells two intertwining stories, both centering on Okonkwo, a "strong man" of an Ibo village in Nigeria. The first, a powerful fable of the age-old conflict between the individual and society, traces Okonkwo's fall from grace with the tribal world. The second, as modern as the first is ancient, concerns the clash of cultures and the destruction of Okonkwo's world with the arrival of aggressive European missionaries. These perfectly harmonized twin dramas are informed by an awareness capable of encompassing at once the life of nature, human history, and the mysterious compulsions of the soul.

Guiding Questions

What are guiding questions? They are questions that probe for deeper meaning and set the stage for further questioning foster the development of critical thinking skills and higher order capabilities such as problem-solving and understanding complex systems. Think about the guiding questions below as you read this novel over the summer.

1. Chinua Achebe wanted to overcome stereotypes of African culture to show readers that the Ibo culture is complex and developed. Do you think he succeeds?
2. Describe the culture and traditions of the Ibo. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of this society?
3. Discuss several points at which the Ibo culture and the British culture clash. What are the effects of losing one's culture, as the Ibo do?
4. What do you think contributes most to things falling apart?
5. Describe the setting (time, place, mood, and background) of the novel.
6. Why are proverbs used in a society? How do proverbs contribute to this novel? Identify three (3) different proverbs in the novel and discuss their meaning.

7. Read the epigraph (the quotation that appears before the beginning of the novel). Why do you think Achebe chose to title his book from the epigraph?
8. What is the role of women in the novel? What are the differences in male and female roles? How does Okonkwo treat specific female characters?
9. Compare Okonkwo and Obierika. Also compare Okonkwo and Unoka. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these characters?
10. How does Okonkwo treat his wives? How does he raise his children? What are his faults? What are his best traits?

Word Smart II

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