

Summer Assignment

Rising 10th Graders

Summer Reading Assignment: Things Fall Apart

Novel: Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Due: _____

Length: Four paragraphs

Value: 40 points

Assignment Overview

As you read Things Fall Apart, pay close attention to how Achebe presents cultural traditions, outside influences, and conflicts within Igbo society. After finishing the novel, write a four-paragraph essay responding to one of the essay topics below.

Turn this in electronically on your Google Classroom

Essay Structure

Introduction Paragraph Introduce your topic and thesis statement.

Body Paragraph 1 Present your first main argument with evidence from the novel.

Body Paragraph 2 Present your second main argument with evidence from the novel.

Conclusion Paragraph Summarize your ideas and explain the broader significance of your argument.

Requirements:

Use specific examples and quotations from the novel.

Cite quotations in MLA style: (Achebe page number).

Write in formal academic language.

Proofread for grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Choose One Essay Topic

Tradition vs. Change In *Things Fall Apart*, some characters cling to traditional Igbo customs while others adapt to new ideas and influences. Analyze how Achebe portrays the tension between preserving tradition and accepting change. What message does the novel suggest about cultural survival?

The Arrival of Colonialism Examine the effects of European colonization and Christianity on Igbo society. How do these outside forces create cultural conflict, and how do different characters respond to them?

Generational Conflict Explore the conflict between older and younger generations in the novel. How do characters such as Okonkwo and Nwoye represent different attitudes toward culture, identity, and change?

Masculinity and Cultural Expectations Analyze how Igbo cultural expectations about masculinity shape Okonkwo's choices and conflicts. How does Achebe use Okonkwo's struggles to comment on the strengths and limitations of his culture?

Community, Justice, and Cultural Values Consider how the Igbo community's systems of justice, religion, and social organization are portrayed in the novel. How do these

cultural values come into conflict with colonial beliefs and institutions, and what does Achebe suggest is lost or gained in the process?

Rubric (40 points total)

Criteria

Excellent

Proficient

Developing

Beginning

Thesis & Organization (10 pts)

9–10 pts Clear, insightful thesis; essay is well organized with strong transitions.

7–8 pts Clear thesis; organization is logical with minor lapses.

5–6 pts Thesis is vague or incomplete; organization is inconsistent.

0–4 pts Missing or unclear thesis; essay lacks organization.

Analysis & Insight (10 pts)

9–10 pts Demonstrates deep understanding of cultural change/conflict and offers thoughtful analysis.

7–8 pts Shows solid understanding and some meaningful analysis.

5–6 pts Analysis is limited or mostly summary.

0–4 pts Minimal understanding; mostly summary or off-topic.

Evidence & Citations (10 pts)

9–10 pts Uses strong textual evidence and correct MLA citations consistently.

7–8 pts Uses relevant evidence with mostly correct citations.

5–6 pts Uses limited evidence or inconsistent citations.

0–4 pts Little or no textual evidence; citations missing or incorrect.

Grammar & Style (10 pts)

9–10 pts Writing is clear, polished, and virtually free of grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

7–8 pts Minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.

5–6 pts Frequent errors occasionally distract from meaning.

0–4 pts Persistent errors make the essay difficult to read.

Submission Checklist

My essay is exactly four paragraphs.

I responded to one of the approved topics.

I included quotations and MLA citations.

I revised for clarity, grammar, and spelling.

I included my name, date, and class information..