

Things Fall Apart Ch. 11-15 Close Reading Questions

- 1) In Chapter 11 Chielo runs Ezinma around Umufioia and then takes her to the Oracle. Why do you think she does this?
- 2) How does marriage take place in Umufioia? Explain the steps as we know them through chapter 12.
- 3) Look at the following quote. Explain the events that lead to Okonkwo's banishment. Do you feel that his punishment is fair? Explain.

As soon as the day broke, a large crowd of men from Ezeudu's quarter stormed Okonkwo's compound, dressed in garbs of war. They set fire to his houses, demolished his red walls, killed his animals and destroyed his barn. It was the justice of the earth goddess, and they were merely her messengers. They had no hatred in their hearts against Okonkwo. His greatest friend, Obierika, was among them. They were merely cleansing the land which Okonkwo had polluted with the blood of a clansman.

Obierika was a man who thought about things. When the will of the godde had been done, he sat down in his obi and mourned his friend's calamity. Why should a man suffer so grievously for an offence he had committed inadvertently?

- 4) Look at the following quote and explain how is Okonkwo impacted by his banishment. Explain the basic difference in Okonkwo's attitude in Mbanta vs. his attitude in Umufioia.

His life had been ruled by a great passion--to become one of the lords of the clan. That had been his life-spring. And he had all but achieved it. Then everything had been broken. He had been cast out of his clan like a fish onto a dry, sandy beach, panting. Clearly his personal god or chi was not made for great things. A man could not rise beyond the destiny of his chi. The saying of the elders was not true--that if a man said yea his chi also affirmed. Here was a man whose chi said nay despite his own affirmation.

- 5) In Chapter 15 we have the first interaction between Europeans and the indigenous people of Africa in the village of Abame. Explain, in detail, what happens.

*** Please write 2 open-ended discussion questions for us to discuss in class. ***