

## *Things Fall Apart* Ch. 21-25 Close Reading Questions

- 1) Change is what pushes any story forward. The tension it causes by disrupting the status quo allows characters to develop and allows a fuller, more nuanced story to develop. In *Things Fall Apart*, the tension between tradition and change is one of the major themes. The community of Umuofia certainly has a traditional way of doing things at the beginning and through the middle of the book. Everything from leadership to gender roles, and spirituality to punishment is approached from a traditional viewpoint. But change is imminent. Pick 3 MAJOR areas of change and discuss the impact this change had on Okonkwo.
- 2) Ikemefuna is introduced and killed early in the novel. Analyze the relationship between Okonkwo, Nwoye, and Ikemefuna. Discuss the fate of each character. Discuss why the death of Ikemefuna might be the most important event in the novel.
- 3) In your opinion what is the chief contributing factor to things falling apart in the novel. First explain WHAT falls apart, and then explain what the chief contributing factors are to this falling apart
- 4) Make an argument for or against the concept that Okonkwo should be viewed as a hero. First define the term “hero,” and then argue whether or not Okonkwo should be considered a hero based on your definition. Be sure to use specific examples from the text in your discussion.

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