

Things Fall Apart Ch. 6-10 Close Reading Questions

- 1) Look at the following passage and explain the impact that Ikemefuna has had on Nwoye.

“He was like an elder brother to Nwoye, and from the very first seemed to have kindled a new fire in the younger boy. He made him feel grown-up, and they no longer spent the evenings in his mother's hut while she cooked, but now sat with Okonkwo in his obi, or watched him as he tapped his palm tree for the evening wine. Nothing pleased Nwoye now more than to be sent for by his mother or another of his father's wives to do one of those difficult and masculine tasks in the home, like splitting wood, or pounding food. On receiving such a message through a younger brother or sister, Nwoye would feign annoyance and grumble aloud about women and their troubles.”

- 2) What happens to Ikemefuna? Explain the impact that this has on Okonkwo. Explain the impact this has on Nwoye.
- 3) In chapter 8 Okonkwo's best friend Obierika comes to visit Okonkwo. He says the following words. What does this say about Obierika?

"The Earth cannot punish me for obeying her messenger," Okonkwo said. "A child's fingers are not scalded by a piece of hot yam which its mother puts into its palm."

"That is true," Obierika agreed. "But if the Oracle said that my son should be killed I would neither dispute it nor be the one to do it."

- 4) Explain the hardships that Okonkwo's 2nd wife Ekwefi has had to endure in her lifetime. Why is Ezinma such a special child?
- 5) Explain how disputes are settled in Umuofia. What dispute is settled in chapter 10?

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