Things Fall Apart—Dialectical Journal

For this novel, you will be keeping a dialectical journal. The objective for this journal is threefold: 1) it will help you better understand and remember the text, 2) it will help you analyze the text, and 3) It will be the groundwork for one of your final assessments.

Dialectical journal requirements:

1. You must have a total of three entries per chapter.
   1. 1 entry must be a vocabulary entry. (Find a word and define it)
   2. The other two entries should be analytical, in which you either ask a level 2 question (and attempt to answer it), or you write an analytical comment.
      1. Your comments and questions should pay particular attention to the following:
         1. Character development
         2. Culture
         3. Gender practices
         4. Religion
         5. Achebe’s style (think figurative devices, tone, diction, syntax, etc)
2. Your entire journal will be due at the end of the unit: **February 16**

Here is an example of some dialectical journal entries:

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| Quote | Comment/ Question/Definition |
| Harmattan (pg 5) | Dry, dusty wind on the African coast |
| “The drums beat and the flutes sang and the spectators held their breath. Amalinze was a wily craftsman, but Okonkwo was as slippery as a fish in water….In the end Okonkwo threw the Cat.” (Pg 3) | The author’s style here is very simple. The sentences are fairly short, and they are all simple sentences. This creates a conversational tone—this is how someone would speak. More, the end, which should be exciting, is written in a very casual, matter-of-fact way, almost as if the fact alone should be exciting, without the need of super exciting language. |
| “He breathed heavily, and it was said that, when he slept, his wives and children in their houses could hear him breathe.” (pg. 4) | Why does he have “wives” and why don’t they live in his house? Maybe they are polygamists and it is normal to have more than one wife. That would take up a lot of space, so it would be difficult to have everybody in one spot.  Secondly, by saying “it was said”, suggests that Okonkwo is a big, legendary figure. He is someone that people tell stories about, and he is almost a myth. |