**The Coming of the Missionaries**

The first time we see the missionaries, they come to Mbanta. There is actually only one white man who comes to Mbanta—the ones who really convert the Ibo people are other Nigerians who have converted to Christianity. Part 2, Okonkwo’s time in his motherland, is when we get to see the missionaries come to Nigeria.

Read the following pages and answer the questions.

**Group 1**: Pages 119-122 (starting with ‘Have you heard’)

1. What terrible news has Oberika brought about Abame?
2. What do you think the white man’s “iron horse” is?
3. What did the villagers of Abame do to the white man who came into their town? Why did they do it?
4. What did three white men, and others, do in response to the actions of the people from Abame?
5. How does Uchendu respond to the story about Abame?
6. How does Okonkwo respond to the story about Abame?
7. What is your opinion on what happened in Abame? Do you think the reaction of the 3 white men was the correct one?

**Group 2**: Pages 125-128 (starting with “The arrival of the missionaries”)

1. How did the people of Mbanta respond when the white man came with his interpreter?
2. What did the white man say about the Ibo gods?
3. How did the Ibo people respond to the singing of the missionaries?
4. What argument did Okonkwo have against the Christian gods?
5. How did Nwoye respond to the missionaries’ message?

**EVERYONE**: Read the following summary of 129-132.

* The missionaries want to stay in the tribe, so they ask the tribal elders for some land. Thinking they are playing a trick on the missionaries, the elders decide to allow missionaries to stay and give them a plot of land in the Evil Forest. To the surprise of the tribe, the Christians gladly take the land. The elders believe that, since the forest is evil, the gods would quickly kill off the missionaries. When the missionaries do not die after several days, and they had built their church, three tribesmen decide to convert to Christianity. The tribe decides that the gods must just be waiting to punish the missionaries, but after 23 days, and all of the missionaries are still alive, the tribesmen are very confused. Several more people, including a pregnant woman, decided to join the church. Nwoye continually feels drawn to the church. One day, one of Okonkwo’s cousins sees Nwoye with the Christians and tells Okonkwo, who then beats Nwoye. Uchendu, Okonkwo’s uncle, stops him from killing the boy. Nwoye then leaves his family to join the church and go to the school that has been set up in Umuofia.

**Group 3:** Pages 136-141 (starting with “These outcasts”)

1. Who are the *osu?*
2. How did the other converts react to the osu coming into the church?
3. What did Mr. Kiaga say the osu had to do in order to join the church?
4. What major crime did one of the osu commit?
5. What punishment did the tribe come up with for the Christians?
6. What did Okonkwo want to do to the Christians? Why did he want to do that?
7. What happened that made the tribe leave the Christians alone again?