Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Things Fall Apart*: Part Three

Directions: Please keep track of all of your answers for these questions on a separate sheet of paper. We will be answering them as we read the end of the book. You will turn in all of the answers when we finish for a quiz grade.

Chapter 20

1. How did Okonkwo feel about his return to the clan?
2. Consider the following: “As the years of exile passed one by one it seemed to him that his chi might now be making amends for the past disaster…then the tragedy of his first son occurred. At first, it appeared as if it might prove too great for his spirit. But it was a resilient spirit..” (172)

* What do you think is a “chi”? It has been mentioned several times throughout this book at this point.
* Why do you think Okonkwo refers to the “tragedy” of his first son? What is the tragedy? Why does he think of it in such extreme terms?
* Why might this be too much for his spirit?

1. What message did Okonkwo give to his sons and daughters after Nwoye left the family?
2. How does Okonkwo feel about Ezinma? Why does he ask her to wait to get married until they return home?
3. Why is it ironic that Ezinnma is Okonkwo’s favorite child, and closest companion?
4. Other than a church, what have the white men brought to Umuofia?
5. Who are the messengers?
6. How do the people of Umuofia feel about the messengers? Why do they feel that way?
7. Clearly, many of the people do not like the white men and the missionaries in Umuofia. Okonkwo asks “why did [the people of Umuofia] not fight back?” How does Oberika respond?
8. Consider Okonkwo’s conversation with Oberika about the hanging of Aneto and the land in dispute. Do you think that the white man’s government is being fair to the Umuofian people? Are they doing the right thing? Why or why not?

Chapter 21

1. What else did the white man bring to the town? Did it seem to be a good thing? Why or why not?
2. Describe Mr. Brown. How did he manage his church? What effect did that have on how the rest of the clan viewed them?
3. Summarize the conversation between Mr. Brown and Akunna. In what ways are the two religions similar?
4. What was Mr. Brown’s conclusion about the religion of the clan? How did he act to gain converts?
5. What effect did Mr. Brown’s school have on the people of Umuofia? How did they respond?
6. What happened to Mr. Brown?
7. Read pages 182-183. How is Okonkwo feeling, and why is he feeling that way?
8. In what ways is the clan “falling apart”?

Chapter 22

1. How is Mr. Smith different from Mr. Brown?
2. How did Mr. Smith react to the idea of the ogbanje, and the people who believed it themselves?
3. What does it mean when the people say that “Enoch’s devotion to the new faith had seemed so much greater than Mr. Brown’s that the villagers called him the outsider who wept louder than the bereaved”? (185)
4. Describe the conflict started by Enoch.
5. Consider this quote: “It seemed as if the very soul of the tribe wept for a great evil that was coming—its own death”. In what ways is the tribe dying?
6. What did Enoch want to happen between the tribe and the church? How is his reaction similar to some people in the tribe, like Okonwko?
7. What did the Egwugwu do to punish Enoch’s actions?
8. How, and why, did the interpreter change what Mr. Smith said? Do you think the interpreter did the right thing?

Chapter 23

1. How did Okonkwo feel after punishing the church for Enoch’s actions?
2. Who is the District Commissioner? What role do you think he plays in this area?
3. On page 193, it says that the District Commissioner sent his “sweet-tongued” messenger to the leaders of Umuofia. Why might the author describe the messenger this way?
4. What happened when Okonkwo and the others went to go see the District Commissioner?
5. Do you agree with the way the District Commissioner handled the situation? Why or why not?
6. How did the other African men treat Okonkwo and the others? Why do you think they treated them this way?
7. How much was the fine? How much did the messengers ask for from the tribe? What happened to the difference?

Chapter 24

1. How did Okonkwo feel when he returned from the white man’s prison?
2. Describe the greatest war that Okonkwo remembers. How do you think he would respond to a war like the World War II or the Civil War in the United States?
3. Okonkwo says that he fears someone saying that “our fathers never fought a war of blame.” What do you think a war of blame is? How could any coming war be seen as this?
4. What is one of the major reasons the tribesmen are worried about going to war?
5. What event happened in the marketplace?
6. How did everyone respond?

Chapter 25

1. How has the perspective shifted in the last chapter? How does the writing seem to reflect that change?
2. What happened to Okonkwo?
3. They say that what Okonkwo has done is an offense against the “earth”. Who is the earth goddess? How has Okonkwo offended her in the past?
4. What did Obierika tell the Commissioner?
5. Why do you think Okonkwo did it?
6. Do you think that Okonkwo’s actions suit his personality as we have seen it, or is it a great deviation from what we have seen?
7. What was the Commissioner’s reaction to the incident? Do you see any irony in his reaction?
8. What does the title of the Commissioner’s planned book mean? How does it connect to the poem “The White Man’s Burden”?
9. What are your feelings toward the novel now that you have finished reading? Did you like or dislike it? Write a well organized paragraph in the following space explaining your answer.