*THINGS FALL APART* DOUBLE ENTRY JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT – **CHS One & Two**

Complete the questions below. One point each.

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| Okonkwo was well known throughout the nine villages and even beyond. His fame rested on solid personal achievements. As a young man of eighteen he had brought honor to his village by throwing Amalinze the Cat. Amalinze was the great wrestler who for seven years was unbeaten, from Umuofia to Mbaino. He was called the Cat because his back would never touch the earth. It was this man that Okonkwo threw in a fight which the old men agreed was one of the fiercest since the founder of their town engaged a spirit of the wild for seven days and seven nights.  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. Every nerve and every muscle stood out on their arms, on their backs and their thighs, and one almost heard them stretching to breaking point. In the end Okonkwo threw the Cat.  **That was many years ago, twenty years or more, and during this time Okonkwo's fame had grown like a bush-fire in the harmattan.** He was tall and huge, and his bushy eyebrows and wide nose gave him a very severe look. He breathed heavily, and it was said that, when he slept, his wives and children in their houses could hear him breathe. When he walked, his heels hardly touched the ground and he seemed to walk on springs, as if he was going to pounce on somebody. And he did pounce on people quite often. He had a slight stammer and whenever he was angry and could not get his words out quickly enough, he would use his fists. He had no patience with unsuccessful men. He had had no patience with his father. | **Characterization – A writer can reveal a character’s personality by 1. Telling readers directly what the character is like 2. Describing how the character looks and dresses 3. Letting readers hear the character speak 4. Letting readers listen to the character’s inner thoughts and feelings 5. Revealing what other ppl think or say about the character 6. Showing character’s actions**  **Protagonist – Main character in fiction or drama. The character that readers focus their attention on, the character who sets plot in motion** |
| 1. Based on the opening of the novel, how does Achebe **characterize** Okonkwo? Refer to specific details from the passage to support your response. 2. Identify the literary device bolded above:   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   1. What does this further reveal about Okonkwo and his reputation? |

1. **Carefully read pages two (2) – six (6) [stopping @ the end of Chapter One]. Answer the following questions:**
   1. **Describe Unoka, Okonkwo’s father:**

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* 1. **Identify Okonkwo’s feelings towards Unoka and explain WHY Okonkwo feels the way he does about Unoka, his father:**

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* 1. **How does the (negative) example of Unoka shape Okonkwo’s character and actions? Refer to specific evidence from the novel in your response.**

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1. **What do the early descriptions of Okonkwo’s success and Unoka’s failure tell readers about Igbo society?**

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1. **Who seems to be excluded from opportunities to gain such success? How do you know?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CHAPTER TWO**

1. **What effect does night have on the people in chapter two?**

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* 1. **What do they fear?**

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* 1. **How do they deal with their fear of the night?**

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1. **What is the cause and nature of the conflict with Mbaino?**

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1. **How do the men of Unuofia decide what to do about the murder of a woman from their clan? What role do the women of Umuofia have in the decision?**

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| Okonkwo ruled his household with a heavy hand. His wives, especially the youngest, lived in perpetual fear of his fiery temper, and so did his little children. Perhaps down in his heart Okonkwo was not a cruel man. But his whole life was dominated by fear, the fear of failure and of weakness. It was deeper and more intimate than the fear of evil and capricious gods and of magic, the fear of the forest, and of the forces of nature, malevolent, red in tooth and claw. Okonkwo's fear was greater than these. It was not external but lay deep within himself. It was the fear of himself, lest he should be found to resemble his father. Even as a little boy he had resented his father's failure and weakness, and even now he still remembered how he had suffered when a playmate had told him that his father was *agbala*. That was how Okonkwo first came to know that *agbala* was not only another name for a woman, it could also mean a man who had taken no title. And so Okonkwo was ruled by one passion - to hate everything that his father Unoka had loved. One of those things was gentleness and another was idleness. (Achebe 11) | 1. **Based on the narrator’s description of Okonkwo, what emotion dominates Okonkwo’s life?** 2. **What is the source of this emotion?** |
| During the planting season Okonkwo worked daily on his farms from cock-crow until the chickens went to roost. He was a very strong man and rarely felt fatigue. But his wives and young children were not as strong, and so they suffered. But they dared not complain openly. Okonkwo's first son, Nwoye, was then twelve years old but was already causing his father great anxiety for his incipient laziness. At any rate, that was how it looked to his father, and he sought to correct him by constant nagging and beating. And so Nwoye was developing into a sad-faced youth. (Achebe 11) | 1. **How do Okonkwo’s actions during planting season reveal his hatred for both “gentleness and...idleness?”** 2. **Who is Nwoye & how does Achebe characterize him in this passage?** |
| Okonkwo's prosperity was visible in his household. He had a large compound enclosed by a thick wall of red earth. His own hut, or obi, stood immediately behind the only gate in the red walls. Each of his three wives had her own hut, which together formed a half moon behind the obi. The barn was built against one end of the red walls, and long stacks of yam stood out prosperously in it. At the opposite end of the compound was a shed for the goats, and each wife built a small attachment to her hut for the hens. Near the barn was a small house, the "medicine house" or shrine where Okonkwo kept the wooden symbols of his personal god and of his ancestral spirits. He worshipped them with sacrifices of kola nut, food and palm-wine, and offered prayers to them on behalf of himself, his three wives and eight children. (Achebe 11) | 1. **What do readers learn about Okonkwo and Igbo culture based on this passage?** |

1. **How does Ikemefuna initially react to living with Okonkwo’s family? What does the dialogue between Okonkwo and his most senior wife reveal about Okonkwo? Igbo society?**

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**Proverb:  brief, simple, and popular saying, or a**[**phrase**](https://literarydevices.net/phrase/)**that gives advice and effectively embodies a commonplace truth based on practical experience or common sense. A proverb may have an allegorical message behind its odd appearance. The reason of popularity is due to its usage in spoken language, as well as in folk literature.**

* **There is a proverb in Igbo culture that reads as follows: “As the elders said, if a child washed his hands he could eat with kings”(Achebe 5). Based on the details and information in chapters one and two of *Things Fall Apart*, how has Okonkwo “washed his hands” thus allowing him to “eat with kings?” Refer to specific details from the novel in your response.**

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* **Peters Township Honor Code**:  As a student of Peters Township School District, I recognize the value of my own learning and pledge to maintain honesty and academic integrity in all that I do.  All work that I submit is my own.  Any student that is unsure of the expectations of an assignment should seek clarification from the teacher.

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| **Level of Achievement** | **General Approach** | **Comprehension** |
| **Exemplary**  **(1)** | * + Addresses the question.   + States a relevant, justifiable answer & conclusion.   + Uses acceptable style and grammar (no errors). | * + Demonstrates an accurate and complete understanding of the question and novel. * Uses 2 or more ideas, examples and/or arguments that support each response (when required) |
| **Adequate**  **(.75)** | * + Does not address the question explicitly, although does so tangentially.   + States a relevant and justifiable answer & conclusion.   + Uses acceptable style and grammar (one error). | * + Demonstrates accurate but only adequate understanding of question and novel.   + Does not back conclusions/groupings with evidence and commentary.   + Uses only one idea to support the document groupings * Less thorough than above. |
| **Needs Improvement**  **(.5-0)** | * + Does not address the question.   + States no relevant answers   + Indicates misconceptions. * Fails to use acceptable style and grammar (two or more errors). | * + Does not demonstrate accurate understanding of the question and novel * Does not provide evidence or commentary to support their answer to the question. |
| **No Answer – (0)** |  |  |