English 10H – *Things Fall Apart* – due Tuesday, 3/29

Blue book journal prompts: Use the following prompts to take notes as you read *Things Fall Apart*. You should write approximately one paragraph for each chapter. Label each entry with the chapter and the date, but you do not need to rewrite the question. Journal entries are due on the same day as the reading assignments and may be checked accordingly. Entries will be graded for completeness, accuracy, thoughtfulness, and thoroughness.

**Chapter One:**

What do we learn about the tribe’s values? Consider moral, social, cultural, sporting, and economic values.

**Chapter Two:**

How do you think Achebe wants us to view Okonkwo’s character and behaviour? You may take

into account in your answer what we have learned about Okonkwo in Chapter One.

**Chapter Three:**

Why do you think Achebe gives prominence at this early point in the story to Okonkwo’s

failures?

**Chapter Four:**

What signs are there that Okonkwo’s personal shortcomings will bring him trouble later?

**Chapter Five:**

a) Why does Okonkwo feel unenthusiastic about the feast? How does that lack of enthusiasm

show itself? Why is it surprising?

b) Why does he feel excited by the wrestling? In your answer take into account the story of how

Okonkwo won Ekwefi’s heart. How does his excitement show itself? Why is it not surprising?

Taken together, what do the two feelings add to our understanding of Okonkwo’s character?

**Chapter Six:**

What do you think this short chapter contributes to the story?

English 10H – *Things Fall Apart*– due Friday, 4/1

Blue book journal prompts: Use the following prompts to take notes as you read *Things Fall Apart*. You should write approximately one paragraph for each chapter. Label each entry with the chapter and the date, but you do not need to rewrite the question. Journal entries are due on the same day as the reading assignments and may be checked accordingly. Entries will be graded for completeness, accuracy, thoughtfulness, and thoroughness.

**Chapter Seven:**

How does Achebe create the feeling that Ikemefuna’s death is an inevitable part of things?

Consider in your answer the arrival of the locusts, the part played in the death by tribal beliefs,

Okonkwo’s character, and the way this part of the story is told.

**Chapter Eight:**

In what ways is Okonkwo’s thinking challenged in the early part of this chapter? How does he

respond?

**Chapter Nine:**

How and why does Achebe establish a sharp contrast between the way Okonkwo and Okagbue

behave in this chapter?

**Chapter Ten:**

How effective is the tribe’s system of justice as illustrated here? What is significant, as far as the

story is concerned, about the fact that Okonkwe is one of the egwugwu?

English 10H – *Things Fall Apart* – due Tuesday, April 5

Blue book journal prompts: Use the following prompts to take notes as you read *Things Fall Apart*. You should write approximately one paragraph for each chapter. Label each entry with the chapter and the date, but you do not need to rewrite the question. Journal entries are due on the same day as the reading assignments and may be checked accordingly. Entries will be graded for completeness, accuracy, thoughtfulness, and thoroughness.

**Chapter Eleven:**

What conflicting forces are probably at work within each of the four characters in this chapter?

**Chapter Twelve:**

How does Achebe want us to view the life of the tribe, as evidenced here? Why might you

expect this chapter to be something of a preparation for the novel’s turning-point?

**Chapter Thirteen:**

What view does Achebe take of Okonkwo’s banishment? How do you view it?

**Chapter Fourteen:**

How does Uchendu’s advice to Okonkwo suggest some directions the story may take from this

point on?

**Chapter Fifteen:**

‘There is no story that is not true,’ says Uchendu on Page 123. What do you think he means?

Illustrate your answer by reference to some of the stories told so far in the novel (including the

account of the locust invasion). When you have read the whole novel, explain how its story, too,

is ‘true’.

**Chapter Sixteen:**

How does Achebe

a) show the great gap between the two sets of beliefs (tribal and Christian)?

b) suggest why Christianity appeals to some members of the tribe (including Nwoye)?

English 10H – *Things Fall Apart* – due Friday, April 8

Blue book journal prompts: Use the following prompts to take notes as you read *Things Fall Apart*. You should write approximately one paragraph for each chapter. Label each entry with the chapter and the date, but you do not need to rewrite the question. Journal entries are due on the same day as the reading assignments and may be checked accordingly. Entries will be graded for completeness, accuracy, thoughtfulness, and thoroughness.

**Chapter Seventeen:**

a) Why does Okonkwo react so violently to Nwoye’s conversion? Suggest as many reasons as

you can.

b) What understanding of the situation does he come to by the end of the chapter? Can you see

any connection between that understanding and your answer to the question on Chapter Seven?

**Chapter Eighteen:**

What do we learn from this chapter about how people of differing beliefs become hostile towards

each other? Note the parts played not only by the voices of extremism, but also by those of

moderation.

**Chapter Nineteen:**

Explain how this chapter is both a statement of faith and an expression of fear. How does Achebe

lead us to be concerned for Okonkwo, as well as for the tribe?

**Chapter Twenty:**

What are ‘the things that held [the tribe] together’, and how have they been cut? What advice do

you think Uchendu might have given Okonkwo now, if he had been here? (Read again the advice

he gives him at the end of Chapter Fourteen.)

**Chapter Twenty-One:**

How does this chapter hold out hope for peaceful compromise? What signs are there that this

may not be achieved easily?

**Chapter Twenty-Two:**

What differences do you note in the way of thinking of the two sides in this conflict, and also in

the language they use?

**Chapter Twenty-Three:**

How are the tribe’s leaders betrayed by

a) the District Commissioner

b) the Court Messengers

c) their own standards of conduct?

**Chapter Twenty-Four:**

What are the signs, and the outcomes, of Okonkwo’s isolation?

**Chapter Twenty-Five:**

Explain the ironies in this chapter.