"*When a man says yes, his Chi says yes also!"*

Turning and turning in the widening gyre

The falcon cannot hear the falconer;

Things Fall Apart; the centre cannot hold;

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,

*W.B Yeats*

*Group Discussion Questions*

1. Closely referring to the novel, discuss the meaning of the title 'Things Fall Apart'

2. How appropriate is the title to the novel? Support your answer with examples from the novel.

3. Describe the relationship between Okonkwo and his father, Unoka. Do you think Okonkwo is right hate his father? Give reasons for your answer.

4. Explain the difference in character between Okonkwo and Unoka. Who do you find admirable and why?

5. a) With ample illustrations, describe the traditions and customs of the Ibo as presented in the novel.

b) What lessons do you learn from them?

6. What do the events in Chapter-2 reveal about Okonkwo's character? Explain the themes his character helps you understand in the novel.

7. Would you like to have a father like Okonkwo? Give reasons for your answer.

8. What lessons do you draw from the novel 'Things Fall Apart'?

9. a) Discuss amply the different superstitious beliefs in your various societies and their relevance.

b) Discuss the various superstitious beliefs among the Umuofians and their relevance.

10. Identify the various Ibo proverbs used in the novel.

11. Explain how Unoka dies. What feelings does his death arouse in you?

12. In your groups, discuss what domestic violence is and what its causes are in your contemporary society. Who is affected most by domestic violence; children, women or men? Support your views.

13. "Anyone who knew his grim struggle against poverty and misfortune could not say he had been lucky." Show how true this statement is in reference to Okonkwo's struggle from poverty to wealth and success.

14. Describe what Umuofians do during and after the Week of Peace. What themes do these activities develop in the novel?

15. Describe the Feast of the New Yam. Of what significance is it to the Umuofians?

16. What lessons do you draw from the events in Chapter-5?

17. Describe what takes place at wrestling matches in Umuofia. What do these matches help you understand in the novel?

18. What is Obierika's advice on the killing of Ikemefuna? If you were Okonkwo, would you take Obierika's advice? Give reasons for your answer.

19. Describe Nwoye's character as portrayed in the novel. What lessons do you draw from him?

20. Describe the relationship between Nwoye and Ikemefuna.

21. How does the killing of Ikemefuna affect Nwoye? What other killing does it remind him of? Is Umuofia justified in killing Ikemefuna? Give reasons for your answer.

22. Explain how Okonkwo is affected by the killing of Ikemefuna. Do you sympathise with him? Give reasons for your answer.

23. What is the significance of the double death of Ogbuefi Ndulue and his eldest wife, Ozoemena?

24. Explain the themes developed in Chapter-8. What lessons do you draw from them?

25. Describe the relationship between Ekwefi and Ezinma. What lessons do you draw from it?

26. "Everyone knew then that she would live because her bond with the world of Ogbanje had been broken." Explain the meaning of an Ogbanje and describe the process of breaking an Ogbanje bond.

27. What major theme does Chapter-9 develop? Give ample illustrations.

28. Explain the significance of the tortoise story in Chapter-11

29. a) Do you find the verdict passed by the Egwugwus fair? Give reasons for your answer.

b) If you were Mgbafo, would you return to Ozowulu? Why?

c) Explain the themes explicitly portrayed in Chapter-10.

30. a) What lessons do you learn from the events in Chapter-10?

b) How relevant is Chapter-10 to your contemporary society?

31. Describe what takes place at a traditional Ibo betrothal ceremony. What do you learn from it?

32. Why is Obierika described as "a man who thought about things"? Give evidence from the novel to justify this statement.

33. Describe Ezeudu's character in Chapter-13. What does his character and death reveal about the Ibo society?

34. Describe the rituals carried out at Ezeudu's funeral. Of what significance are they to our understanding of the novel?

35. What lessons do you draw from the events that transpire in Chapter-13?

36. Describe Okonkwo's character and feelings as presented in Chapter-14.

37. a) Explain the relationship between Okonkwo and Uchendu

b) What feelings does Okonkwo's situation in Chapter-14 arouse in you?

38. Using your knowledge of colonisation of Africa, state the strange things Europeans brought that the Africans did not Understand.

39. a) Of the White man and the Ibo, who would you blame for what happens in Abame? Why?

b) Explain the major themes presented in Chapter-15

40. a) Using your knowledge of history, explain the effects of missionaries in Africa.

b) What promises do the missionaries make to persuade the Umuofians to convert to Christianity?

c) Explain what makes Umuofians convert into Christianity. Do you think they are making a right decision? Give reasons for your answer.

41. Explain the weaknesses of the Ibo traditional society that Christianity takes advantage of to win more converts in this chapter.

42. What feelings do events in Chapter-17 evoke in you?

43. a) Do you find Okonkwo's reactions towards Nwoye's conversion to Christianity justified? Give reasons.

b) Do you think Nwoye behaves well or not in leaving Okonkwo's family? Why?

44. a) Discuss amply the causes and effects of religious wars in Uganda during colonial times.

b) What causes religious conflicts in your contemporary society? How best can they be curbed?

45. Explain circumstances in Chapter-18 that clearly show that things are actually falling apart.

46. How do events in the novel 'Things Fall Apart' actually mirror what happens in your own society?

47. Describe the qualities that Okonkwo would approve in a son.

48. Of Obierika and Okonkwo, who do you like? Give reasons for your answer

49. a) Compare the character and administration of Mr. Brown and Rev. James Smith. Who do you prefer? Give reasons for you answer.

b) If you were a missionary in Umuofia, whose method would you adopt, Smith's or Brown's? Support your answer.

50. Describe the character of the District Commissioner in the novel. What themes does his character help us actually understand.

51. a) In your group, organize a village meeting to discuss the next course of action after the release of your village elders. Write the minutes of this meeting.

b) present your minutes in (a) above to the rest of the class

52. Considering only Chapter-24, discuss;

a) Okonkwo's character

b) Themes portrayed

c) Feelings the events evoked in you.

53. Discuss, elaborately, all the themes in the novel 'Things Fall Apart'.

54. "That man was one of the greatest men in Umuofia. You drove him to kill himself; and now he will be buried like a dog..." Show how true this statement is according to what happens in the novel.

55. Is the ending of the novel satisfactory? Give reasons for your answer