

Akata Witch Full Work

Chapter 4-7 Questions

1. Look-up the new words and explain their definitions:

Albino - A person visibly missing pigment in their skin, leaving them susceptible to common sunburns and making their face white or lighter than normal.

Akata - Akata is a vulgar word that means “bush animal”, but in slang, is used to refer to African-Americans in a derogatory way.

Igbo - A language that is commonly spoken in southern Nigeria.

Leopard People - Leopard people, according to the book, are people with mystical powers.

Leopard Knocks - The “home” or “headquarters” of the Leopard People in West Africa.

Lambs - Non-Leopard People in the Akata Witch universe.

Juju - The magic that can be performed by the Leopard People.

Initiation - The action of getting set up to use one’s Jujus and to become a real Leopard Person.

Free Agent - A Leopard Person that does not come directly from the Leopard People spirit line, but instead are Leopard People due to the randomness of nature in them.

Chittim - The currency of the Leopard People. It is gained by attaining knowledge. It has different currency levels too, with copper being the highest.

2. Pose five questions you have about the story so far.

Question 1: Why is the lower-valued metal the highest-valued Chittim? Copper is lower valued than gold and silver and is more common, but it has higher value than both gold and silver in the currency Chittim.

Question 2: How is Sunny a Leopard Person, though she does not have the spirit line of a Leopard Person?

Vishnu S.

Question 3: Why does Sunny's father have a separate set of rules for Sunny and her brothers? Is it because he is sexist towards women?

Question 4: Where does the "clear green substance" come into play in the story? Why is it mentioned in chapter 4?

Question 5: Why are there parts of the book "Fast Facts for Free Agents" in the book? Is it foreshadowing that it will become useful in the future?

3. CHAPTERS 4-7

ORDINARY to EXTRAORDINARY WORLD:

With your small groups, share your thoughts on the following ideas:

a. At what stage of the Hero's Journey do these chapters depict?

These chapters depict two stages of the Hero's Journey, which are the supernatural aid and crossing the first threshold stages.

The supernatural aid is when Orlu and Chichi take Sunny to meet Anatov, one of the eight living people who have passed the fourth stage. He is one of the mentors of the protagonist, Sunny, and he initiates her and helps her find other mentors.

" 'And we've changed your life...maybe,' Chichi said" (Okorafor, 44): Chichi says this on the way to meeting Anatov, who can teach Sunny Juju, and possibly change her life.

Sunny crosses the first threshold when she gets initiated and gets her spirit face activated. This continues when she meets Anatov for a second time and he sends the four of them, with a new boy named Sasha, to meet another person who has passed the fourth stage, Kehinde. They pass many obstacles to get there, Kehinde tells them a few words, and they leave.

" 'Honestly, what kind of 'teacher' does that to his students?' " (Okorafor, 132): Sunny is acknowledging that Kehinde is a teacher to them four, and Sunny, while crossing the first threshold, faced many challenges, so she shows her frustration by calling Kehinde out. She does not know the value of her second mentor, Kehinde, yet.

b. Who are the Mentors mentioned in these chapters?

In these chapters, the mentors mentioned are Kehinde and Anatov. Sugar Cream and Taiwo are mentioned, but we do not know much about them and how they help yet.

Vishnu S.

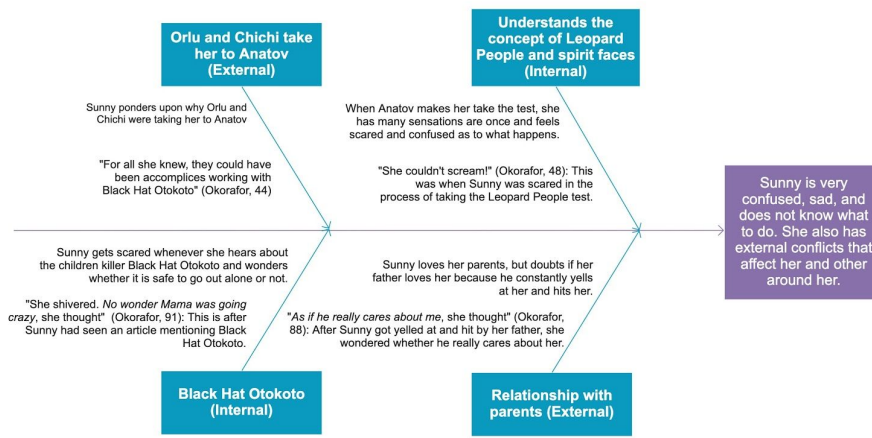
“ ‘You’ll remember this for a long time,’ Anatov said” (Okorafor, 48): Anatov says this when he is about to prove whether or not Sunny is a Leopard Person.

“ ‘Kehinde wants to see you,’ Anatov repeated.” (Okorafor, 119): Anatov, the first mentor, tells the four kids to go and see their second mentor, Kehinde.

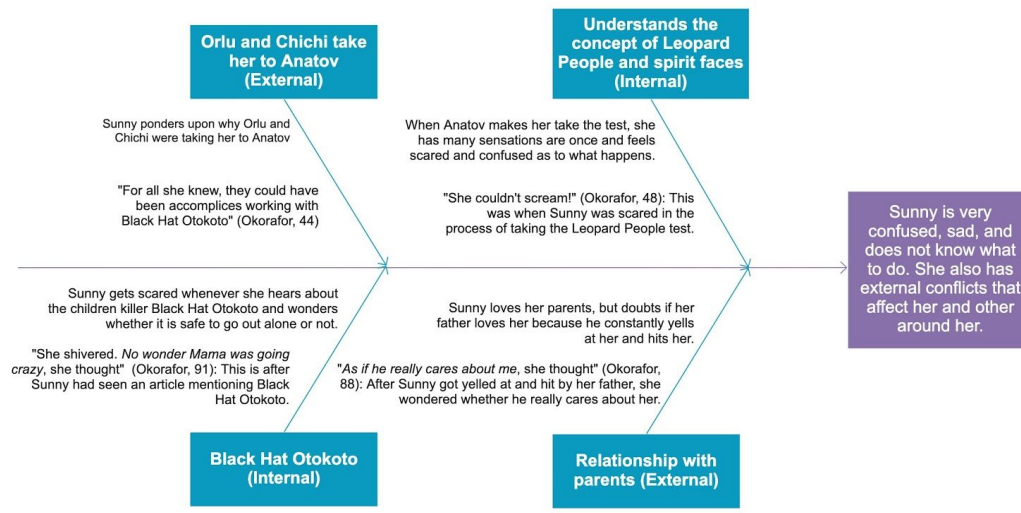
c. What External and Internal Conflicts do Sunny, Orlu, and Chichi face?

Use the Cause-and-Effect Fishbone diagram to present your ideas.

Sunny’s Internal and External Conflicts



Orlu, Chichi, and Sasha’s Internal and External Conflicts



d. What transformations do they undergo so far? Draw their Spirit faces.

Vishnu S.

The main transformation that occurs to the protagonist, Sunny, is that she realizes she is part of a “magic” society with people known as the Leopard People. She has inner powers, Juju, that she can use to make the world a better place, or a worse place. She also finds her friends, who are Orlu, Chichi, and Sasha, and her two mentors (so far), who are Anatov and Kehinde.

“ ‘You’re in a Leopard spirit line . . . somehow. It’s not a blood thing.’ ” (Okorafor, 52): Anatov, after initiating Sunny, realizes that she is a Leopard Person.

Chapters 8 - 11 Questions

Obi Library - A library with a wealth of knowledge. It is a four-story hut made of red clay.

Ghost hopper - A red grasshopper the size of a hand which is harmless. It hums softly to Sunny.

Nyash - A woman’s buttocks.

1. In Chapter 8, why do you think the writer made the decision to include the recipe for “Tainted Pepper Soup”?

The writer made a decision to include the recipe for “Tainted Pepper Soup” because Sunny reads it, later thinks about it, and describes it, and without the recipe, the reader would not understand what Sunny talks about.

2. Who is Sasha? Where is he from and what is his role in the story so far?

Sasha is an American male who just moved from Chicago. His parents sent him to Nigeria to help him grow and succeed as a Leopard Person. He gets very angry quickly and ignores authority often, but he learns to manage his anger and respect authority, and becomes a changed, better person by the end of the book.

3. Who is Black Hat? Why is he significant to the four friends?

Black Hat Otokoto is a child killer who kills using his Jujus as part of sacrifices. The four friends are given the mission to stop and kill Black Hat Otokoto.

4. Does Sunny find it difficult to maneuver between the Ordinary World and the Extraordinary world? Explain.

Vishnu S.

Sunny recently discovered her Leopard powers and she is not used to her extraordinary world powers. She might find it hard to go between the two worlds and it might take a little practice before she fully accepts and understands the side-effects, the feeling of going into the extraordinary world, and how to go to the extraordinary world.

5. Why you think the book, Fast Facts for Free Agents warn to “KEEP YOUR SECRET LIFE FROM YOUR LAMB RELATIONS AND ACQUAINTANCES.” (page 172). What do you think are the consequences for not doing so?

If you tell your Lamb family and friends about your Leopard life, you may risk getting caught and punished by the council. The punishment may be that your mentors will not teach you, you will be stripped of your Jujus and Leopard person status, or may be slogged very hard multiple times.

6. What crime has Sunny committed to be taken to the Obi Library?

Sunny, during a fight with Jibaku, the girl who had been bullying her, shows her spirit face to Jibaku. Showing your spirit face to Lambs is not allowed, and she goes to the library and Sugar Cream speaks to her.

7. Describe Sugar Crème from Sunny's observations.

Sugar Cream is an old woman who is a scholar. According to Sunny, she is a dark-skinned woman who was wearing a cream-colour buba. She was also hunched to the side, because of severe scoliosis.

8. Describe what Sunny, Orlu, and Sasha discover in Abuja.

In Abuja, they watch the wrestling fight, play a soccer game, and go to the social. In the social, Chichi creates a masquerade to scare the boy that likes her and his acquaintance. They also learn that Chichi read *Udide's Book of Shadows* and learned a Juju.

ENG 1D0 NOVEL STUDY: *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor

REVIEW: List the “Plot Elements” studied in the Short Story Unit at the beginning of the semester.

PLOT ELEMENT #1/DENOTATIVE READ: THE EXPOSITION

SETTING (ORDINARY WORLD)	AMERICA	EVIDENCE (QUOTES)	NIGERIA	EVIDENCE (QUOTES)
PLACE: Geographical Location, Culture	Sunny was born in New York and and lived there for nine years.	“Then my family moved to America, where I was born in the city of New York. When I was nine, we returned to Nigeria” (Okorafor, 3)	Sunny currently lives in Nigeria, near the town of Aba, and has been living there since she was nine years old. She is Igbo, and ethnic group	“When I was nine, we returned to Nigeria, near the town of Aba.” (Okorafor, 3) “We’re Igbo—that’s an ethnic group from Nigeria” (Okorafor, 3)
TIME: Century, Year	Nine years before present-day Nigeria.	“Then my family moved to America, where I was born in the city of New York. When I was nine, we returned to Nigeria” (Okorafor, 3)	Present-day Nigeria. They reference computers, phone scams, and other activities and objects are only available in the present-day.	“He paused. ‘Do you use computers?’” (Okorafor, 53)
MOOD	America is not mentioned much in the story, so we are unable to assume the mood in America.	N/A	The story starts scary, since the candle showing something scary to Sunny, and it ends up burning her hair.	“Then, I thought I saw something. Something serious and big and scary.” (Okorafor, 2)
TONE	Once again, America is not mentioned much so we do not know the tone of the part of the story, taking place in America.	N/A	The tone in the beginning and most parts of the story is serious, though there are some humorous parts.	“The moment Sunny walked into the school yard, people started pointing.” (Okorafor, 7); Sunny talks about how her schoolmates bully her, which is a serious and a little sad tone
ATMOSPHERE : Weather,	The weather in America is cooler than the weather in Nigeria.	“No, it’s hot, damn hot.” (Okorafor, 56); Sasha is referring to Nigeria in this quote.	The weather in Nigeria is very, very hot, and Sasha mentions that it is cooler in America.	“No, it’s hot, damn hot.” (Okorafor, 56); Sasha is referring to Nigeria in this quote.

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PLOT ELEMENT #2: CHARACTER

As you read the novel, explore each of the four protagonists’ External (denotative) portrayal of the character and the Inner (connotative) life of the character.

PROTAGONIST		EXTERNAL (Physical/Denotative) Portrayal of the Character Appearance, Look	INTERNAL (Spiritual/Connotative) Portrayal of the Character, Thoughts, Emotions
SUNNY	Unusual Birth	Sunny was born as (and still is) an Albino, which means she is missing pigment in her skin, making her skin yellow. When she was two years old, she almost died from malaria, but a light came, and a few days later, she was cured.	After seeing the horrible story unfold in the candle and her hair getting burned, she thought back to her birth and how it was very unusual. She also thought about her different features, such as being Albino, and her disease she contracted when she was two years old. She wondered whether she was special, and foreshadowed what was to come in the rest of the book.
	Call to Adventure and Refusal of the Call	One day, Sunny went to Chichi’s hut to visit Chichi. Chichi told Sunny that Orlu can undo things. Chichi also felt that Sunny was a Leopard Person, so Chichi made Sunny take the knot test. Sunny passed, but she showed her uneasiness and did not want to continue on to the next step.	Sunny, in Chichi’s hut, was very confused as to what was going on. She witnessed a fight between Orlu and Chichi, since Chichi told Sunny about Orlu’s magic, but Orlu did not believe that Sunny was a Leopard Person. She became even more scared and confused when she had an out-of-body experience while taking the knot test.
ORLU	Unusual Birth	Orlu acknowledged Sunny’s differences and that she was an Albino, and he helped her get rid of the bullies who were making fun of her hair and skin colour.	Orlu did not feel that Sunny was a Leopard Person, and got very angry when Chichi told her about the Leopard People and Orlu’s special Juju. He did not at all acknowledge or notice how Sunny’s unusual birth may make her a Leopard Person.
	Call to Adventure and Refusal of the Call	When Chichi told Sunny about Orlu’s Juju and the Leopard People, Orlu showed his anger on Chichi, telling her that Sunny may not be a Leopard Person. He tries to stop Sunny’s call to adventure unsuccessfully.	Orlu was angry at Chichi for exposing him. Due to his disbelief, he tries to stop Sunny’s call to adventure, but does not succeed in doing so.

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CHICHI	Unusual Birth	Chichi did not openly acknowledge Sunny's unusual birth, but she still told Sunny about the Leopard People and Oriu's Juju. Chichi was rude to Sunny while Oriu and Sunny would walk home from school together.	Chichi somehow felt that Sunny was a Leopard person due to her birth and experiences.
	Call to Adventure and Refusal of the Call	Chichi performed the trust knot on Sunny and told her about the Leopard People and Oriu's Juju. She continued the trust knot even though Sunny was scared and unsure as to what was happening.	After the trust knot was performed, Chichi was sure that Sunny was a Leopard Person.
SASHA	Unusual Birth	Sasha himself had an unusual birth, since he too was born in America. He also does not acknowledge Sunny's unusual birth.	We do not know if Sasha knew about Sunny's unusual birth or not.
	Call to Adventure and Refusal of the Call	Sasha met Sunny after the call to adventure, so we do not know what he was doing during Sunny's call to adventure.	Sasha met Sunny after the call to adventure, so we do not know what he was thinking or feeling during Sunny's call to adventure.

ENG 1D0 NOVEL STUDY: *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor**PLOT ELEMENT #3: CONFLICT**

Detail each of the four protagonists' External and Internal Conflicts as they each move through the stages of the Hero's Journey/Monomyth.

PROTAGONISTS		EXTERNAL CONFLICT	INTERNAL CONFLICT
SUNNY	Meeting the Mentor	Sunny repeatedly asks Chichi and Orlu about what is happening, but they do not respond. While meeting Anatov, she asked her friends repeatedly if they can stop this get her out of Anatov's hut.	Sunny is very confused and scared as to what is happening. She also questions Orlu and Chichi's sobriety on the way to Anatov hut, and she had a thought that they could be working for Black Hat Otokoto.
	Crossing the first Threshold	On the way to go and see Kehinde, Sunny is met with bats and a bush soul in the Night Runner Forest. She also does not want to continue her journey as a Leopard Person.	Sunny doubts whether she will die or not and becomes very scared when they are met with bats and a bush soul. She also becomes confused as to why they are going to see Kehinde.
ORLU	Meeting the Mentor	Orlu and Chichi, without explaining anything to Sunny, takes her to see Anatov, Sunny's first mentor.	Orlu still has a little doubt whether Sunny is a Leopard Person or not, and he takes her to Anatov to prove whether she is a Leopard Person or not.
	Crossing the first Threshold	On the way to go and see Kehinde, Orlu, Sunny, Chichi, and Sasha are met with bats and a bush soul in the Night Runner Forest.	Orlu fears for his and Chichi's safety during the trip in the forest, since Chichi gets kidnapped and hurt by the bush soul for the brief time.

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CHICHI	Meeting the Mentor	Orlu and Chichi, without explaining anything to Sunny, takes her to see Anatov, Sunny's first mentor.	Chichi for sure believes that Sunny is a Leopard Person, and to show Orlu that she is, Chichi takes her to Anatov to complete her initiation.
	Crossing the first Threshold	Chichi becomes scared on the way to Kehinde's hut, and she gets kidnapped by the bush soul. She also gets a very deep cut on her arm due to the kidnapping.	She is very scared at first, and her fear heightens when she gets kidnapped on the way to Kehinde's hut. In the end, she is safe and they reach Kehinde's hut safely.
SASHA	Meeting the Mentor	Sasha meets Sunny, Orlu, and Chichi when they are coming out of Anatov's hut. He greets them, telling them his background as an American from Chicago.	Sasha meets Sunny, Orlu, and Chichi when they are coming out of Anatov's hut. He greets them, telling them his background as an American from Chicago.
	Crossing the first Threshold	On the way to go and see Kehinde, Orlu, Sunny, Chichi, and Sasha are met with bats and a bush soul in the Night Runner Forest.	Orlu fears for his and Chichi's safety during the trip in the forest, since Chichi gets kidnapped and hurt by the bush soul for the brief time.