

Lesson Guidance 12	
Grade	10
Unit	2
Selected Text(s)	Things Fall Apart, Chapter 7
Duration	Approx 1-2 days

Plan with guidance from the [ELA Instructional Expectations Guide](#)

Learning Goal(s) <i>What should students understand about today's selected text?</i>	
<p>Students will analyze Okonkwo's decision to disobey the Oracle and how this decision develops the theme of the role of community versus individual in <i>Things Fall Apart</i>. Students will analyze the effect of Okonkwo's disobedience on the reader's perception of his character.</p>	
CCSS Alignment	<p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1</u> Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</p> <p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.2</u> Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.</p> <p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3</u> Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.</p> <p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.9</u> Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</p> <p><u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4</u> Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.</p>
End of lesson task <i>Formative assessment</i>	<p>Chapter 7 is crucial as it shows Okonkwo blatantly defying the order of one of the respected elders of the tribe. Community is essential to Igbo cultures as well as respecting one's elders. What does this decision reveal about Okonkwo's attitude about individual beliefs versus the community? How does this develop the overall theme of the novel?</p>
Knowledge Check <i>What do students need to know in order to access the</i>	Background knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European colonization of Africa • Igbo culture



text?

- Chinua Achebe as a writer and social commentator
- Igbo/ Umuofia tribal rules and traditions
- **Individual vs. Community:** Individualism strengthens the idea that each person progresses through his own efforts, based on dedication, focus, effort, and the personal decisions that are made. Community confirms that personal achievements come from shared knowledge, common values, and mutual support. Igbo culture strictly abides by the idea that the community is the center of everyday life.

Key terms (*domain specific terms to analyze the text*)

- **theme:** the message conveyed by a text that applies to multiple other texts. [It cannot be described in a single word and it implies a conflict or an argument about the core idea and usually both.
- **internal conflict:** struggle within one's self; struggles with one's own choices, limitations, behaviors, thoughts, feelings, etc
- **external Conflict:** struggle with a force outside one's self; character vs character, character vs nature, character vs society, character vs fate/the Supernatural
- **characterization:** the techniques an author uses to build understanding of a character

Vocabulary Words (*words found in the text*)

- **harbinger:** a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another.
- **copiously:** in large quantities.
- **harmattan:** a very dry, dusty easterly or northeasterly wind on the West African coast, occurring from December to February.
- **harbinger:** a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another.
- **ozo:** one of the titles or ranks in Igbo society.

Core Instruction

Text-centered questions and ways students will engage with the text

Opening Activity:

Students will be analyzing the internal and external conflicts faced in this chapter. In order for a quick review and to provide some context, it may be helpful to review the four types of conflict with students. Explain that these concepts will be explored by Okonkwo during Chapter Seven and elsewhere in the novel.

Short media clips are a great way to reinforce with students. You may wish to show the following video clips (or other suitable examples) to reinforce the different types of conflict

Man vs. Self: [Man vs. Self](#)

Man vs. Nature: [Man vs. Nature](#)

Man vs. Man: [Man vs. Man](#)

Man vs. Society: [Man vs. Society](#)

Content Knowledge:



The chapter opens by showing Okonkwo's relationship with Ikemefuna, who has now resided with the family for three years, & his biological son, Nwoye. The chapter opens by discussing the pride Okonkwo feels towards both boys in regard to their masculinity. During one of their meetings, Ogbuefi Ezeudu, the oldest man in this quarter of Umuofia, comes to Okonkwo and tells him that the Oracle of the Hills and Caves has pronounced that Ikemefuna is to be killed. Ogbuefi Ezeudu cautions Okonkwo not to be a part of the murder because the boy views him as a father. The oracle states that Okonkwo should not participate in his son's death. The next morning the tribe takes Ikemefuna out of town to commit the murder. However, due to fear of being perceived weak or not manly enough, Okonkwo defies the order of his elder and participates in the death of Ikemefuna anyway. This is pivotal to reinforce to students that the community is ultimately the deciding factor in whether people live or die. Okonkwo made a terrible mistake by participating in the death, defying the oracle and one of his respected elders.

Questions to Consider while reading:

1. What role has Ikemefuna come to play in Okonkwo's household? Is this surprising? Why or why not?
2. Characterize Nwoye. Discuss his relationships with Ikemefuna and Okonkwo.
3. Describe the coming of the locusts to the village. What significance might the locusts have? What might the locusts foreshadow?
4. Ezeudu states, "The boy calls you father. Do not bear a hand in his death." What does Ezeudu's statement on p. 57 reveal about the values of the community?
5. Ikemefuna states, "Although he felt uneasy at rest, he was not afraid now. Okonkwo walked beside him." Why is this internal dialogue from Ikemefuna on p. 59 ironic?
6. Okonkwo defies Ezeudu's command and plays a role in Ikemefuna's death. Why does he do this?
7. How does Ikemefuna's death affect Nwoye?

Teach the vocabulary words **as they appear in the text**.

Independent Reading and Analysis:

Working in small groups, ask students to complete a collaborative brainstorm to better shape their understanding of Okonkwo. Suggested questions may include:

- What motivates Okonkwo?
- What causes both external and internal conflicts for Okonkwo?
- How does Okonkwo deal with these conflicts?
- How does Okonkwo's individual decision affect his community, including family?
- Okonkwo chose to follow his intuition and participated in the murder of Ikemefuna. How do you predict the members of the community will react to his actions?

[ELD Interacting with the Text](#)

Formative Assessment:

Ask students to respond to the following prompt:

Chapter 7 is crucial as it shows Okonkwo blatantly defying the order of one of the respected elders of the tribe. Community is essential to Igbo cultures as well as respecting one's elders. What does this decision reveal about Okonkwo's attitude about individual beliefs versus the community? How does this develop the overall theme of the novel?

[ELD Extending Understandings](#)

Optional Extension Activity:

Ask students to participate in a Socratic Seminar centered around the themes of individual and community using these questions:

- What is community?
- What holds it together?
- What tears it apart?
- What is the relationship between the individual and community?
- Why is maintaining balance in this relationship so important?

Fluency, Comprehension and Writing Supports

Fluency	Fluency Protocol
Sentence Comprehension	Juicy Sentence protocol with sample sentence “It rose and faded with the wind - a peaceful dance from the distant clan.” (pg. 58)
Writing	Pattan Writing Scope and Sequence Quality of Writing: II: Content: C: Select content to achieve purpose D: Write using domain specific vocabulary

Additional Supports

ELD Practices ELD ELA Tasks and Scaffolding Directions	ELD Interacting with the Text and Extending Understandings
SpEd Practice	Practices to promote Tier 1 access
MTSS Practices	Practices to promote Tier 1 access
Enrichment Practices	Practices to promote Tier 1 access