

POSNACK

S C H O O L

English II and English II Honors Summer Reading
Assignment 1: Required Reading
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Active Reading with Themes Assignment

Directions:

- Read Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe.
 - You are required to purchase a copy and bring it to the first day of school.
 - ISBN# 9780385474542
- While you read, do the following:
 1. Identify **ONE** example per chapter of any of the themes listed below.
 2. Highlight the example in your book.
 3. Identify the theme in the margin of the page
 4. Record the example, theme, and an explanation or thought about the text on the chart below (add more rows as needed).
 - **Print the chart and bring it with you on the first day of school. Points will be deducted for each day your assignment is late.**
 5. Identify at least ten examples of how Okonkwo epitomizes a tragic

hero.

- This assignment counts as your first summative grade of the new academic year and will be the basis for your first writing assignment.
- Be prepared to discuss the novel in class upon your return. There will be an assessment during the first 2 weeks of school. A study guide will be provided upon your return.

Themes

1. Change is destructive
2. Religion restricts behavior
3. Social order demands conformity
4. Being a man is difficult
5. Fear is destructive
6. It is a son/daughter's duty to carry on family traditions

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Chapter	Pg #	Passage (direct quotation from text)	Theme	Explanation
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
Tragic Hero	Chap. & pg #	Passage (Direct quote from novel)	Explanation	

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TH 1		
TH 2		
TH 3		
TH 4		
TH 5		
TH 6		
TH 7		
TH 8		
TH 9		
TH 10		

English II and English II Honors Summer Reading Assignment 2: Book of Choice

Choose one of the following titles for this assignment:

- Cry, the Beloved Country – Alan Paton
- All Quiet on the Western Front – Erich Maria Remarque
- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian – Sherman Alexie
- I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban – Malal Yousafzai & Christina Lamb
- A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier – Ishmael Beah
- The Natural – Bernard Malamud
- The Things They Carried – Tim O’Brien
- East of Eden – John Steinbeck
- Slaughter House Five – Kurt Vonnegut

Assignment for Book of Choice:

- Choose 1 of the following 3 journal entries. Journal entry must have a title along with your name, the date, and the word count. Word count does not include title information. Descriptions of the topics from which you may choose are below. Be sure to cite the exact page you took the quoted passage from in the text using MLA format.
 - Non-honors 200 - 250 words
 - Honors - 250 - 300 words
- Journal Topics:
 1. In your opinion, what do you consider the critical plot point? In other words, what is the most important event within the plot of the book? Describe the event and then analyze it using 2 quoted passages for support. Include the page you took the quoted passage from in the book.

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2. Describe how the protagonist changes over the course of the text. Support your thesis with three quotes. Again, include the page your quotes come from.
3. Analyze (explain) why a key setting is important to the text. Include a quoted passage describing the setting (be sure to include the page your quote comes from), and your understanding of how or why that setting is important to the text.

You may type or keep a handwritten journal. Please make sure to **write the date** on your entry. **The journal entry is due on our first day in class and will be collected. If you type your journal, please bring a printed copy to class on the first day.** Points will be deducted for each day your assignment is late.

For assistance with properly completing quotes and MLA citations, please visit: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03/>

Rubric for Required Reading: Things Fall Apart Assignment (35 points)

(35) _____ Theme Chart and Novel

- Each required example and its corresponding theme is correctly identified in the chart
- Each required example and its corresponding theme is correctly highlighted and identified in the novel itself
- Explanations and thoughts demonstrate your thought process, show an understanding of the material, and noted on chart.

Rubric for Book of Choice Assignment (15 points)

(15) _____ Journal Entry

- thesis
- 2 quotes
- page citation
- author/ title
- word count