**PATH OF THE WARRIOR: THINGS FALL APART**

Post-Colonial Voices

LASA Senior English

In classic tragic form, Chinua Achebe details the rise and fall of an Igbo warrior in late 19th-century colonial Nigeria.

**Reading Schedule and Notes/Discussions:**

Tues./Wed., March 3/4: Read Chs. 1-6 reading notes due (pp. 3-51)

Wed./Thur., March 11/12: Read chapters 7-11 no notes this week: Poem Essay Due (pp. 52-109)

Tues./Wed., March 24/25: Read chapters 12-18 reading notes due (pp.110-161)

Mon./Tues., March 30/31: Read chapters 19-25 no notes: Socratic prep instead (pp. 162-209)

**On notes weeks (1 and 3), be prepared for discussion groups by taking notes ahead of time on one or more of the following motifs/symbols and one (or more) type of irony in the assigned section. Label each entry (at least 6 entries per due date) with type of motif, page number and include quote and brief observation. You must type and print notes BEFORE CLASS, at least one full page (single-spaced) per due date. Quizzes may occur every week.**

**Motifs**: a) food and drink b) spirit world (egwugwu, Chielo, etc.) c) storytelling d) children e) chi (personal god), f) taboo.

**Themes**: a) male/female relations (literal and symbolic), b)family roles, c) physical prowess vs. lack of action d) enforcing or breaking cultural norms e) Okonkwo as a figure in a Greek tragedy, f) defamiliarization vs. making the strange familiar.

In your notes, discuss the effects of these motifs or themes on characters, themes, imagery, tone, etc. For example, how do yams reflect on a man’s status? How do they impact family relations?

**Irony**: Also, keep your eyes open for irony. Look for examples of **verbal irony** (when people say the opposite of what they mean; sarcasm), **dramatic irony** (when you are privy to knowledge of which a character is oblivious), or **situational irony** (when the opposite of what one would expect to occur actually happens). Consider how irony affects mood, characterization, and/or themes. Be sure to identify which type of irony you are discussing with each example.

**Your grade each week (except week 2) will be based on notes, your participation in discussion groups, and reading quizzes.**