

Brief Questions in Things Fall Apart

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- **How widely was Okonkwo well-known?**

Ans:

He was famed across the nine villages and beyond.

- **How was Unoka as a grown-up man?**

Ans:

He was poor and a lifelong failure.

- **Who was Okoye?**

Ans:

Unoka's neighbour and a lender to him.

- **Okonkwo was highly regarded by his people, why?**

Ans:

Wrestling fame, war prowess, and two titles.

- **Why was Umuofia feared by all its neighbours?**

Ans:

It was powerful in war and magic.

- **When did Umuofia go to war?**

Ans:

Only with clear, just cases approved by the Oracle.

- **How did Okonkwo rule his household?**

Ans:

With a heavy, authoritarian hand.

- **What one passion was Okonkwo ruled by?**

Ans:

Hating idleness and gentleness loved by Unoka.

- **What did Okonkwo do with Ikemefuna?**

Ans:

He placed him with his senior wife.

- **Why did people come to the Oracle?**

Ans:

For misfortune, disputes, futures, or ancestral counsel.

- **What did an old man say about Okonkwo?**

Ans:

Even kings once nursed like babies.

- **How did Okonkwo treat Ikemefuna?**

Ans:

Sternly, hiding affection behind hardness.

- **Who was Ezeani?**

Ans:

The priest of the earth goddess.

- **What did Okonkwo do after the Week of Peace?**

Ans:

He prepared seed-yams for sowing.

- **What was the Feast of the New Yam for?**

Ans:

To honour the earth goddess and ancestors.

- **What did Okonkwo do after beating his second wife?**

Ans:

He fired his rusty gun at her, missing.

- **Why and how did Ekwefi become Okonkwo's second wife?**

Ans:

She loved his wrestling glory and left her husband.

- **Who was Chielo?**

Ans:

Priestess of Agbala, the Oracle.

- **Who won the contest?**

Ans:

Okafo won the wrestling match.

- **What stories did Nwoye's mother tell him?**

Ans:

Tortoise tales, bird contests, Earth and Sky quarrels.

- **Where and how was Ikemefuna killed?**

Ans:

In the forest; Okonkwo struck the final blow.

- **Who was Akueke?**

Ans:

Obierika's young daughter.

- **Who was Maduka?**

Ans:

Obierika's son, the swift boy-wrestler.

- **What disease attacked Ezinma?**

Ans:

She suffered from malaria.

- **Who was an egwugwu?**

Ans:

A masked man impersonating a spirit.

- **Who was Odukwe?**

Ans:

Mgbafo's brother.

- **What did Chielo do with Ezinma?**

Ans:

She carried her to Agbala, silently.

- **What did Obierika serve his new in-laws?**

Ans:

He welcomed them with kola-nuts.

- **What did the bride do?**

Ans:

She gifted a cock and danced.

- **How many titles had Ezeudu taken?**

Ans:

Three of the clan's four titles.

- **What was the law on such accidents?**

Ans:

Male crime: exile forever; female crime: seven years.

- **How was Okonkwo received in Mbanta?**

Ans:

Warmly by his mother's kinsmen.

- **Why did Uchendu question Okonkwo?**

Ans:

To ease his despair and guide him.

- **Who was Nneka?**

Ans:

A woman whose twins were always cast away.

- **What did Okonkwo wonder about Nwoye?**

Ans:

How a "Roaring Flame" birthed so gentle a son.

- **What did three converts boast?**

Ans:

The gods were dead; shrines would burn.

- **What did the two outcasts do?**

Ans:

They shaved their hair and joined firmly.

- **What was Ezinma called for her beauty?**

Ans:

"Crystal of Beauty," like her mother.

- **Who was Akunna?**

Ans:

A great man who debated faith with Mr Brown.

- **What did Mr Brown prophesy?**

Ans:

Future leaders would be the educated.

- **What did Mr Smith say about ogbanje tales?**

Ans:

Devil's lies; believers were unworthy.

- **What did the court messengers tell Umuofia?**

Ans:

Pay 250 bags of cowries for release.

- **What did Okonkwo think after release?**

Ans:

He planned revenge if Umuofia chose war.

- **What message did the court messengers give?**

Ans:

The Commissioner ordered the meeting to stop.

- **What did Obierika say about Okonkwo's suicide?**

Ans:

A great man, driven to it by whites.

- **What did the Igbo do with twins?**

Ans:

They abandoned them in the Evil Forest.

- **How does Okonkwo die?**

Ans:

He hangs himself.

- **What was the Oracle called?**

Ans:

Agbala, the Oracle of the Hills and Caves.

- **Who supplied the novel's title?**

Ans:

Yeats's poem "The Second Coming."

- **What musical skill did Unoka have?**

Ans:

He played the flute beautifully.

- **Why was Amalinze nicknamed "the Cat"?**

Ans:

His back never touched the ground.

- **What is the source of the title?**

Ans:

A line from "The Second Coming."

- **Why did people laugh at Unoka?**

Ans:

For poverty and unpaid debts.

- **Who was Amalinze?**

Ans:

A famed wrestler, unbeaten seven years.

- **What is the Yam Festival?**

Ans:

A harvest feast honouring earth and ancestors.

- **When was the New Yam feast held?**

Ans:

Every year before the harvest.

- **What is Surrealism?**

Ans:

Bridging reality and imagination in art.

- **What is the novel's setting?**

Ans:

Igbo villages—Umuofia, Mbanta—1890s Nigeria.

- **Why didn't Unoka have a grave?**

Ans:

He died of swelling, an abomination.

- **What happened during the Easter week?**

Ans:

Churchwomen were driven off and whipped.

- **Why was Okonkwo ashamed of his father?**

Ans:

Unoka had debts and no titles.