

The background of the slide is a solid orange-brown color with a faint, stylized pattern of autumn leaves and branches. The leaves are in various shades of brown and orange, creating a textured, layered effect.

THINGS FALL APART
by CHINUA ACHEBE

AN INTRODUCTION

CHINUA ACHEBE

- Achebe was born in 1930 and brought up in the a pioneer Christian family in the village of Ogidi, Eastern Nigeria.
- Studied literature, history and theology
- Began to write short stories in university years
- Things Fall Apart published in 1958
- In 1987, he received Nigerian National Merit Award

Setting of the novel

- Things Fall Apart is set in 1890s Africa and portrays the clash between Nigeria's white colonial government and the traditional culture of Ibo people.
- Achebe paints a vivid picture of Ibo society before and after the arrival of white men.
- He uses proverbs, songs and folk tales in this novel to portray Ibo tradition.
- He writes the novel in English but text is rich with African words.

Title of the Novel

- “Things Fall Apart” is the title which is taken from W.B. Yeats’ poem “The Second Coming”
**Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things Fall Apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.**
- It refers to the fact that without proper balance, things do fall apart.

Plot overview

- Okonkwo is a respected warrior and wealthy farmer with two barns of Yams, three wives and ten children in Umuofia, one of the nine villages of his clan.
- His successes contrast with the failure of his father, a gentle musician in his entire community. He is considered to be the opposite of his father – fears and hyper masculine.
- Clan elders choose Okonkwo as guardian of Ikemefuna, a boy who arrives in the village as payment from the neighboring clan whose members murdered a woman of Umuofia.
- Ikemefuna is just still alive in Umuofia and comes to view Okonkwo as his father. Nwoye develops a deep relationship with Ikemefuna.
- Chielo orders, Ikemefuna to be killed. A village elder warns Okonkwo not to take part in the killing but he does so.

- Ezinma, the daughter of Okonkwo becomes extremely ill with the fever. Ekwefi is terrified that the child would die.
- Later as Ezeude dies. And during his funeral, men gather in the ceremony of drums and fire their guns.
- Okonkwo's gun explodes accidentally killing Ezeude's son. The punishment for killing a clan's man is seven years exile.
- Okonkwo and his family settles in his mother's clan, Mbanta.
- When Okonkwo's friend Obierika visits, he describes the destruction of Abame clan in the hands of the white man.
- When Missionaries arrive in Mbanta and other villages and request land to built a church, villagers begin attending services including Nwoye, who leaves his father to join the missionaries.
- Okonkwo returns to Umuofia after seven years but he finds that much has changed. The missionaries are now well-established.

- Okonkwo wants to fight with them but Obierika warns that its too late, the white man's presence extends further than the Church. As British Officials set up a government, that is lead by District Commissioner.
- During the religion gathering, a convert unmasks one of the clan spirits. In response the clan decides that the church will no longer be allowed in Umuofia. The District Commissioner asks the leaders of the clan to come and see in a peaceful meeting.
- Okonkwo wants war, he doesn't want to live peacefully with the Whites. In the meeting he kills the messenger of court. When Okonkwo realizes that his clan will not go to war, everything has fallen apart for him. He commits suicide by hanging himself.
- District Commissioner reflects that Okonkwo's story might be included in his book, "The Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger".