Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

An Introduction to Characters



Okonkwo

- Hardworking and wealthy farmer with two barns full of yams, three wives and two titles
- Fear of failure and of weakness
- Doesn't like his father's personality
- Fiery temperament, ruled with heavy hand
- Tragic flaw

Unoka

- Father of Okonkwo
- One wife with no title Agbala
- Lazy and improvident
- Doesn't like war
- Loafer people laugh at him
- Musician good on his flute
- Ill-fated with bad chi
- Afflicted with swelling in stomach died in Evil Forest

Nwoye

- Oldest son of Okonkwo
- Different from his father
- Resembles to his grandfather, Unoka
- Like folk tales
- Deeply attached to Ikemefuna
- To please his father scorns feminine things
- Accept Christianity

Ikemefuna

- Ill-fated boy Mbaino sacrifice him to Umuofia in order to prevent war
- Settles into Okonkwo's household for three years
- Considers Okonkwo his true father
- Nwoye's role model, Okonkwo himself becomes very fond of him
- Elders order to kill him, Okonkwo takes part in the murder – because of his fear of becoming feminine like Unoka

Ezinma

- Favorite daughter of Okonkwo and the only child of Ekwefi
- Bold and resembles to her mother
- Understands her father and shares a close relationship with her mother
- Ogbanje child
- Okonkwo wishes that she had been born a son

Ekwefi

- Second wife of Okonkwo
- Village beauty
- Ran away from her husband to marry Okonkwo
- Lost her nine children
- Independent and strong-willed than other women – Okonkwo's favorite wife

Obierika

- Okonkwo's best friend
- Respected man in Umuofia
- Encourages Okonkwo to act rationally
- Supports Okonkwo as a friend
- Open-minded person and wiling to adopt change