

THINGS FALL APART  
BY  
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CHAPTER-WISE SUMMARY AND  
MAIN POINTS

# PART 1

CHAPTER NO. 1  
TO  
CHAPTER NO. 13

# CHAPTER NO. 1

- Okonkwo was well-known throughout the nine villages
- Brought the honor in the age of eighteen by throwing Ama-linze the Cat
- Okonkwo's fame had grown like a bush-fire in the harmattan
- Unoka was the father of Okonkwo, who was lazy and improvident
- Unoka was a musician, very good on his flute, loafer for the society and died without any title.

# CHAPTER NO. 2

- Ogene of the town announced the meeting in the morning
- Darkness held a vague terror for Ibo people – superstitious
- Next morning, Ogbuefi Ezeugo (the speaker) announced that Mbaino had killed the wife of Ogbuefi Udo.
- Mbaino offered a young man and a virgin as compensation
- Okonkwo had the fear of failure and of weakness – hated everything that his father Unoka had loved.
- Okonkwo brought Ikemefuna (the gift of Mbaino as a compensation) and handed him over to his senior wife – she was not allowed to ask any question

# CHAPTER NO. 3

- Okonkwo did not have a good start because of his father's laziness
- Unoka always visited Oracles and complained about his bad harvest – oracle replied, go home and work like a man
- Unoka was an ill-fated man, died of the swelling which was an abomination to the earth goddess – died alone in Evil Forest
- Okonkwo took 800 seed-yams from Nwakibie and suffered a lot

# CHAPTER NO. 4

- Okonkwo worked hard – risen from great poverty and misfortune
- Ikemefuna had become the member of Okonkwo's family
- Okonkwo became very fond of the boy but didn't express his emotions
- Show affection was a sign of weakness
- Okonkwo beat his third (youngest) wife, Ojiugo during the Week of Peace
- Ezeani, the priest of earth goddess punished him due to violation of Week of Peace.
- Okonkwo sacrificed she-goat, one hen, a length of cloth and a hundred cowries.
- After the Week of Peace Ibo people harvested Yams, the king of crops
- Ikemefuna missed his family

# CHAPTER NO. 5

- New Yam Festival
- Okonkwo beat his second wife, Ekwefi
- Flashback – Ekwefi was the beauty of the village, ran away from her husband and came to live with Okonkwo
- Ezinma was the beloved daughter of Okonkwo and Ekwefi, looked like her mother

# CHAPTER NO. 6

- Ilo – wrestling festival
- Chiclo, oracle of the Hills and the Caves inquired about the health of Ezinma to Ekwefi
- Okafo won the match



# CHAPTER NO. 7

- Ibo people believed in man's superiority
- Nwoye was deeply impressed by Ikemefuna, Okonkwo was inwardly pleased at his son's development
- Nwoye missed folk tales
- Significance of Locusts
- Elders of the village ordered to kill Ikemefuna
- Ezeudu advised Okonkwo, not to take part in the murder of Ikemefuna because he called you 'father'.
- Okonkwo take part in killing of Ikemefuna to show his masculinity

# CHAPTER NO. 8

- Okonkwo didn't taste food for to days after the death of Ikemefuna
- Ezinma understand her father – he wished, 'she should have been a boy'
- Obierika told Okonkwo about her daughter's suitor
- They talked about Nwoye – too much of his grandfather
- Marriage custom – bride-price
- White man – like a piece of chalk

# CHAPTER NO. 9

- Okonkwo remembered the folk story of mosquito
- Ezinma suffered in fever – Ezinma is dying
- Child history of Ekwefi – died nine children in infancy, Ezinma was the only alive child
- Ogbanje - Ezinma

# CHAPTER NO. 10

- Ceremony in Ilo – titled men and elders sat on their stools and others were standing
- No woman ever asked questions
- Egwugwu represented a village of the clan – Evil Forest

# CHAPTER NO. 11

- Folk tale of tortoise
- Agbala visited Okonkwo and wanted to see his daughter, Ezinma
- Agbala carried Ezinma to caves
- Ekwefi and Okonkwo followed them silently

# CHAPTER NO. 12

- Woman's ceremony – Obierika was celebrating his daughter's uri
- Ekwefi and Okokwo were tired
- Wedding ceremony of Obierika's daughter
- 'she will bear you nine sons like the mother of our town' – 'your daughter will bear us sons like you'
- Musicians sang song in the ceremony

# CHAPTER NO. 13

- Ekwe – someone had died
- Ezeudu, the elder of Umoufia died – all the clan was at his funeral
- Only four titles in the clan – Ezeudu took three
- After funeral ceremony, drums beat and people fired their guns
- Okonkwo's gun had exploded and a piece of iron had pierced the boy's heart
- Exile of Okonkwo for seven years as punishment

# MAIN POINTS

- Character comparison of Okonkwo and Unoka
- Ibo society – titles, farming, wrestling, multi-marriage, yam crops, New Yams Festival, use of proverbs, folk tales, Locusts
- Ibo religion – polytheism, superstitious, Evil Forest, Week of Peace, Agbala, funeral ceremony
- Role of woman – beating of woman, not allowed to ask question, allowed to run away from her husbands
- Marriage custom – bride-price
- Laws – punishment, war or compensation



# PART 2

CHAPTER NO. 14  
TO  
CHAPTER NO. 19

# CHAPTER NO. 14

- Okonkwo was well received by his mother's kinsmen in Mbanta
- Okonkwo started a new life – he was given a plot of ground on which to build his compound
- His personal god or chi was not made for great things
- Mother is supreme

# CHAPTER NO. 15

- One year had passed, Obierika visited him
- He told him that white man had appeared in Abame clan – white men were on their way. They were locusts.
- Obierika gave him two heavy bags of money from Okonkwo's yams.
- Okonkwo thanked him

# CHAPTER NO. 16

- Two years later, Obierika paid another visit to Okonkwo
- Missionaries had come to Umuofia – built their church
- People followed their religion
- Also came in Mbanta - Nwoye was also among them
- Missionaries spread their religion – Son of God whose name was Jesu Kristi

# CHAPTER NO. 17

- Missionaries asked about the king of the village – people replied that there was no king, 'we have men of high tide and the chief priests and the elders'
- White men asked for a plot of land to build their church – Evil Forest
- Missionaries lied in Evil Forest – Mbanta expected them all to be dead within four days but no one died
- Nneka – she had borne twins, thrown away – join Christianity
- Nwoye decided to go to Umuofia where white missionary had set up a school to teach young Christians to read and write

# CHAPTER NO. 18

- Efulefu – title-less persons followed missionaries' religion
- White men had not only brought a religion but also a government

# CHAPTER NO. 19

- Seven years had passed – Okonkwo's last harvest in Mbanta
- Nneka – 'Mother is Supreme' and Nwofia – 'Begotten in the Wilderness'
- Feast – as a farewell to Okonkwo

# MAIN POINTS

- Mother is Supreme
- Friendship of Okonkwo and Obierika
- Missionaries – Colonialism
- 1<sup>st</sup> development of Church – Bible in their hands
- 2<sup>nd</sup> development of government – Law
- Father-son inheritance – Unoka, Okonkwo, Nwoye



# **PART 3**

CHAPTER NO. 20

TO

CHAPTER NO. 25

# CHAPTER NO 20

- A man's place was not always there, waiting for him.
- Two new wives of Okonkwo
- Ezinma – Crystal of Beauty
- Okonkwo said to his daughters, 'there are many good and prosperous people here, but I shall be happy if you marry in Umuofia when we return home'
- After church - Missionaries had built a court
- Okonkwo visited Obierika - said, 'we must fight these men and drive them from the land' - he replied, it's too late
- The white man is very clever.

# CHAPTER NO. 21

- White men brought a lunatic religion – also started trading of palm-oil
- Mr. Brown – there are no other gods, the head of my church is God himself, the head of my church in that sense is in England.
- School and hospital in Umuofia
- Nwoye – Isaac
- Umuofia didn't appear to have taken any special notice of the warrior's return – Okonkwo

# CHAPTER NO. 22

- Mr. Brown's successor was the Reverend James Smith
- He saw things as black and white – black was evil
- O Lord, save Thy people, Mr. Smith
- And bless Thine inheritance, replied the men
- Holy war

# CHAPTER NO. 23

- Okonkwo violently spoke to his clansmen, people listened to him with respect
- District Commissioner sent sweet-tongued messenger to the leaders of Umuofia asking for a meeting
- Six men went to see the District Commissioner – he said, 'we shall not do you any harm' and 'cooperate with us' – they didn't agree
- Commissioner fined them – two hundred bags of cowries
- Court messenger went into Umuofia to tell the people that their leaders wouldn't be released unless they paid the fine
- Umuofia decided to collect money

# CHAPTER NO. 24

- Okonkwo and his fellow prisoners were set free
- Nobody said 'nno' or 'welcome'
- Okonkwo returned home and thought after wars in the past and said to himself, 'worthy men are no more'
- Five messengers of court came – Okonkwo killed the head of messengers

# CHAPTER NO. 25

- District Commissioner arrived and asked about Okonkwo – Obierika replied, 'he is not here'
- A small bush behind Okonkwo's compound – Okonkwo's body was dangling
- Against the custom of Ibo society, "we cannot bury him. Only strangers can. We shall pay your men to do so"
- Commissioner ordered to take down the body
- Commissioner thought about the book – the story of this man who killed a messenger and hanged himself , not whole chapter but a reasonable paragraph.
- Already chosen the title of the book, 'The Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger'

# MAIN POINTS

- Expectations VS Reality
- Impacts of colonialism
- Concept of Fate and Free will
- Things fall apart



THANK YOU