**Discussion Questions –Things Fall Apart**

1. Why does Achebe choose to bring in the European Colonial presence only in the last third of the novel?
2. What function do the kotma, or court messengers, serve in the new society? Contrast the white man’s law and system of justice with that of the traditional Umuofia society.
3. Okonkwo says that they should fight the white men and “drive them from the land.” Obierika responds sadly, “It is already too late.” Why? How has the white man been “very clever,” according to Obierika?
4. Compare the missionaries Mr. Brown and Mr. Smith.
5. Why does Okonkwo kill the messenger? Why does Okonkwo commit suicide afterwards?
6. Why is Okonkwo isolated in the end? Do you consider Okonkwo a tragic hero? Why or why not?
7. Achebe has integrated traditional Igbo/African elements in his novel e.g., proverbs, parables, and stories from Igbo tradition and culture and created a kind of “African English”. What effect(s) does this cross-cultural combination of Western literary forms and Igbo/African creative expression produce?
8. Now that you have finished reading *Things Fall Apart…..*How and why did things fall apart?