**Prereading Vocabulary Worksheets-*Things Fall Apart***

**Chapters 8-10**

**Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues**

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence.

Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. “When did you become a shivering old woman,” Okonkwo asked himself, “you who are known in all the nine villages for your *valor* in war?”
2. As she buried one child after another her sorrow gave way to despair and then to grim

*resignation*.

1. In that way she will *elude* her wicked tormentor and break its evil cycle of birth and death.

 4. He brought out a sharp razor from the goatskin bag slung from his left shoulder and began to *mutilate* the child.

1. Her husband’s wife took this for *malevolence*, as her husband’s wives were wont to do.

 6. At first Ekwefi accepted her, as she had the others - with *listless* resignation.

 7. ...she could not ignore the fact that some really evil children sometimes misled people into digging up a *specious* one.

 8. “No,” said Ezinma, whose feeling of importance was manifest in her *sprightly* walk.

 9. Most *communal* ceremonies took place at that time of day....

 10. The *egwugwu* house was now a *pandemonium* of quavering voices.

 11. ...the spirits of the ancestors, just emerged from the earth, greeted themselves in their *esoteric* language.

 12. There was a loud murmur of *approbation* from the crowd.

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Note: The following words are necessary for understanding the story, but will not be tested.

**\***On the third day he asked his second wife, Ekwefi, to roast *plantains* for him.

A banana-like fruit, used as a staple food in tropical regions.

\*Obierika was sitting outside under the shade of an orange tree making *thatches* from the leaves of the raffia-palm.

Plant stalks or foliage, such as reeds or palm fronds, used for roofing.

\*In Abame and Aninta the title is worth less than two *cowries.*

Any of various tropical marine gastropods of the family Cypraeidae, having glossy, often brightlymarked shells, some of which are used as currency in the South Pacific and Africa.

**Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.**

\_\_\_\_ 1. valor A. lacking in spirit or energy

\_\_\_\_ 2. resignation B. wild uproar or noise

\_\_\_\_ 3. elude C. courage in battle; bravery

\_\_\_\_ 4. mutilate D. understandable; clear

\_\_\_\_ 5. malevolence E. approval

\_\_\_\_ 6. listless F. evil or harmful influence

\_\_\_\_ 7. specious G. known only to the chosen few

\_\_\_\_ 8. manifest H. to disfigure or cripple

\_\_\_\_ 9. communal I. of a group of people.

\_\_\_\_ 10. pandemonium J. avoid; evade

\_\_\_\_ 11. esoteric K. seemingly reliable but incorrect

\_\_\_\_ 12. approbation L. lack of resistance; patient submission