**PREREADING VOCABULARY WORKSHEETS-*Things Fall Apart***

Chapters 1-4

**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.** The drums beat and the flutes sang and the *spectators* held their breath.

**2**. In his day he was lazy and *improvident* and was quite incapable of thinking about tomorrow.

**3**. He wore a *haggard* and mournful look except when he was drinking or playing his flute.

**4.** An ultimatum was immediately dispatched to Mbaino asking them to choose between war on the one hand, and on the other the offer of a young man and a virgin as *compensation*.

**5.& 6**. And so when Okonkwo of Umuofia arrived at Mbaino as the proud and *imperious emissary* of war, he was treated with great honor and respect, and two days later he returned home witha lad of fifteen and a young virgin.

**7**. His wives, especially the youngest, lived in *perpetual* fear of his fiery temper, and so did his little children.

**8.** It was deeper and more intimate than the fear of evil and *capricious* gods and of magic, the fear of the forest, and of the forces of nature, red in tooth and claw.

**9.** Okonkwo’s first son, Nwoye, was then twelve years old but was already causing his father great anxiety for his *incipient* laziness.

**10**. But he was struck, as most people were, by Okonkwo’s *brusqueness* in dealing with less

successful men.

**11.** Only a week ago a man had contradicted him at a *kindred* meeting which they held to discuss the next ancestral feast.

**12.** But it was really not true that Okonkwo’s palm kernels had been cracked for him by a *benevolent* spirit.

Note: The *harmattan* is a dry, dusty wind that blows from the Sahara and along the northwestern coast of Africa.

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

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

\_\_\_\_ 1. spectators A. not providing for the future

\_\_\_\_ 2. improvident B. lasting for eternity

\_\_\_\_ 3. haggard C. characterized by doing good

\_\_\_\_ 4. compensation D. an agent sent in advance

\_\_\_\_ 5. imperious E. observers

\_\_\_\_ 6. emissary F. related to a clan or tribe

\_\_\_\_ 7. perpetual G. impulsive and unpredictable

\_\_\_\_ 8. capricious H. abrupt and curt manner; blunt

\_\_\_\_ 9. incipient I. arrogantly domineering; overbearing

\_\_\_\_ 10. brusqueness J. beginning to exist or appear

\_\_\_\_ 11. kindred K. payment; reimbursement

\_\_\_\_ 12. benevolent L. appearing worn and exhausted