

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

English Language Arts, 10th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Things Fall Apart is set in Umuofia, a tribal village in Nigeria in the late 1800s. The novel is divided into three parts: the rise of the main character to wealth and power, his family's exile to his motherland, and his difficult return at the end of seven years. Okonkwo, the tragic hero, endures and often conquers battles with his upbringing, his native culture, his status, and his pride in this uniquely structured piece of realistic fiction.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Environment and Identity**
 - Essential Question: "How do adversity and environment influence an individual's behavior and identity?"
- **Unit 2: Impacting Others**
 - Essential Question: "How does an individual shape his or her environment? How does one influence others?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. W.10.3
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. W.10.9
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.10.6
- Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them. RI.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RI.10.4
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose. RI.10.6