

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL PART 1
THINGS FALL APART

As we read Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*, you will be responsible for keeping a dialectical journal. There are 25 chapters in *Things Fall Apart* and each chapter will be worth 5 points. Therefore, the assignment will be worth a total of 125 points. You will be rewarded one point for each passage and response/explanation.

Directions: While reading part one of the novel, your job is to find examples of traditions within Igbo culture and determine what Igbo cultural values are evident from their traditions. Your response/explanation should show insight and thoughtfulness appropriate for your level. One word or short-phrase responses will result in zero credit. To help you meet the requirements for the response/explanation side of your journal make sure you identify the tradition. Then, identify the character(s) involved in the passage you selected. Next, explain the values revealed by this tradition. Finally, as you progress through part one of the novel, make connections between the different traditions and decide what the core values are within the Igbo culture.

Here are two sample dialectical journal entries to help you understand the expectations:

Evidence of tradition (include passages from the novel and the page number).	Explanation of the values revealed by the practice of that tradition.
<p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Okonkwo was well known throughout the nine villages and even beyond. His fame rested on solid personal achievements. As a young man of eighteen he had brought honor to his village by throwing Amalinze the Cat. Amalinze was the great wrestler who for seven years was unbeaten, from Umuofia to Mbaino....It was this man that Okonkwo threw in a fight” (Achebe 3). 2. “the old men agreed [the fight] was one of the fiercest since the founder of their town engaged a spirit of the wild for seven days and seven nights” (Achebe 3). 	<p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The tradition is wrestling. Okonkwo first achieved fame by winning a wrestling match. The wrestling described is one man against another man therefore the Ibo culture must value the individual achievement and physical strength. 2. The tradition is the oral history telling from the elders. The narrator tells the reader that the old men validated the fight because they were able to compare it to fights from the past. This shows that the Ibo people value their elders because of their knowledge of the past. If the past is important to the Ibo people than they must value their deceased ancestors and the knowledge and traditions they created.