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Balogh

4 English 10

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TFA Part 2 Dialectical Journal

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| **Passages from TFA** | **Explain the passage. Write on any of the following:****Write questions you have about the passage.** **Report on the context of the passage.** **Explain a value that is revealed through the passage. Explain a conflict that is revealed.** **Explain a theme that is developed.**  |
| **Chapter 14** |
| “With the help of his mother’s kinsman…farming would begin” (130). | Okonkwo has been exiled from his village. He has lost everything he built in Umuofia (titles, land, barns). If he has ever been close failing as terribly as his father, this is the moment. In Mbanta, Okonkwo’s uncle takes him in and, with the help of his cousins, is given the tools to start building success again. This is a clear relationship between success and kinship. Okonkwo’s family is there for him and they want him to succeed. The rain that follows this scene seems to indicate that Okonkwo is cleansed of his mistakes and now has the ability to start fresh in life. However, the rain turns to hail, so perhaps this is foreshadowing a cold/miserable future for Okonkwo and his family. |
| “But when a father beats his child, it seeks sympathy in its mother’s hut. A man belongs to his fatherland when things are good and life is sweet. But when there is sorrow and bitterness he finds refuge in his motherland. Your mother is there to protect you. She is buried there. And that is why we say that mother is supreme. Is it right that you, Okonkwo, should bring to your mother a heavy face and refuse to be comforted?” (134) | Okonkwo’s uncle Uchendu explains the value of a mother to Okonkwo and in telling Okonkwo the value of a mother he also tells Okonkwo to stop feeling so sorry for himself. Uchedu’s words are harsh but necessary. His honesty is only meant to “wake” Okonkwo up for his depressed state and motivate him to take care of his responsibilities as a father/provider for his family. Uchendu’s lecture reemphasizes that men are the leaders in Ibo society but it also implies that men can only be great leaders if they have the support of strong women. This makes a man’s success dependent on the women in his life. While this does not mean that men and women are equal in Ibo society, it does reveal that both play a critical role in the success of the culture. |