

# Things Fall Apart

Chinua Achebe



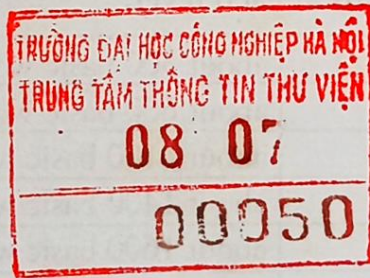
MACMILLAN READERS

MACMILLAN READERS  
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CHINUA ACHEBE

# Things Fall Apart

Retold by John Davey



MACMILLAN



*Founding Editor: John Milne*

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

### **Level control**

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

### **The number of words at each level:**

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-Intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

### **Vocabulary**

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-Intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...<sup>3</sup>. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

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## *A Note About This Story*

This is a story about life in Africa before the Europeans came, and about the destruction of this life by the Europeans. The people in the story lived in a district of Nigeria called Umuofia. The people of Umuofia were farmers. They produced goods, such as palm oil, that the Europeans wanted.

Umuofia was a small district of nine villages. The people of these villages belonged to the same clan. A clan is a group of people who live together and share the same customs<sup>1</sup>. In time of war, all the people of the clan helped each other and fought together.

The religion of these people was not Christianity. The clansmen had many different gods. Some of the gods were very important. One of the most important gods protected the crops, and she was called the Earth Goddess. Some of the gods belonged to a man's family and wooden figures of these gods were kept in one of the family huts. The clan believed that their customs pleased the gods, and they believed their gods would punish people who broke these customs.

The people of Umuofia did not know much about the rest of the world. They grew their own food and made their own things. The clan had its own customs, religion and leaders. The way of life in Umuofia had not changed for a long time, but the people were free. They made their own decisions and they chose their own leaders. In Umuofia, a man could become a leader as a result of his own work and ability.

## *The People in This Story*

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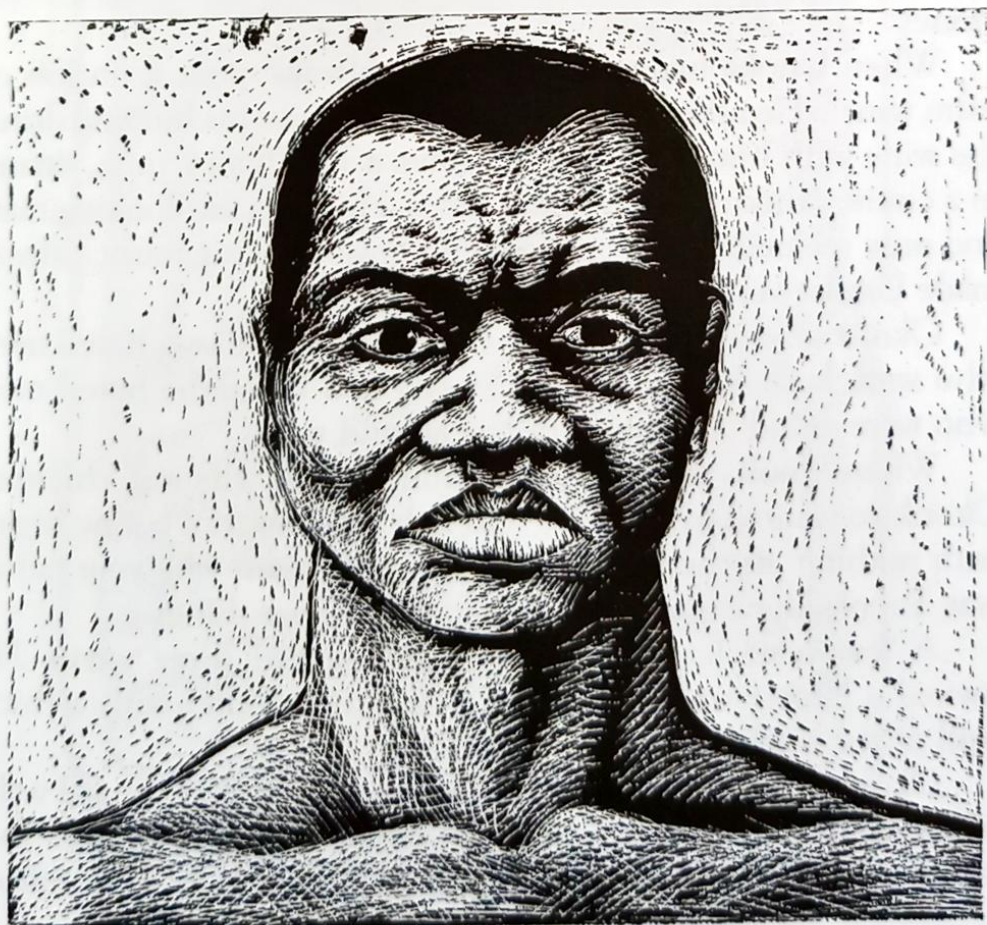
<b>Okonkwo</b>	a famous man in Umuofia
<b>Unoka</b>	Okonkwo's father
<b>Nwoye</b>	Okonkwo's eldest son
<b>Ikemefuna</b>	a boy from another clan
<b>Ekwefi</b>	Okonkwo's second wife
<b>Ojiugo</b>	Okonkwo's third and youngest wife
<b>Ezinma</b>	Okonkwo's daughter
<b>Obierika</b>	Okonkwo's closest friend
<b>Ezeudu</b>	the oldest man in Umuofia
<b>Uchendu</b>	Okonkwo's uncle from Mbanta
<b>Mr Kiaga</b>	head of the church in Mbanta
<b>Chielo</b>	the priestess of the God, Agbala
<b>Mr Brown</b>	the first English missionary in Umuofia
<b>Mr Smith</b>	the second English missionary in Umuofia
<b>The District Commissioner</b>	the English administrator of the district



## Okonkwo

Okonkwo lived in a small village called Iguedo, in the district of Umuofia. There were nine villages in Umuofia. Okonkwo was well-known by everyone in the other eight villages near his home and even by people living a long way away.

Okonkwo first became famous when he was a young man. At eighteen years old, Okonkwo fought the best wrestler<sup>2</sup> in all Umuofia and he won the match. He put the other man flat on his back on the floor. And everyone was proud of Okonkwo.



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