Things Fall Apart

WebQuest Description: Discover Chinua Achebe, the background for Things Fall Apart, and literary criticism pertaining to both.
Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart
Published On: 2011-11-22 08:37:08
Last Modified: 2011-11-22 04:19:31
WebQuest URL: http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=125541

THINGS FALL APART by Chinue Achebe
Opening Remarks by Sueanne’ M. Davis

I would guess that when presented with this novel, most - if not all of you – had thoughts such as “I can’t relate to that” or “What has that got to do with me”.

Unfortunately, a few of you will still feel that way when we have finished reading this great piece of literature. But my hope for all of you is that you will be able to open your minds and awaken a little desire inside of yourselves to learn a simple truth: that through literature, no matter what era or culture it depicts, the human condition is what you are learning about; and what is experienced in the lives of the characters is a mirror for people in every society in every country at some time in history.

When you sit in this room and identify yourself only by what you know about yourself, when you limit what you will learn and not learn based on the belief that it is not relevant to who you are or who you think you are going to be, then you begin to walk on the path of life of the narrow-minded and the self-centered where only your vision or your version of life matters. Then a form of social isolation begins (however subtle or unbeknownst to you), and this fosters and then perpetuates intolerance, lack of compassion, and maybe even prejudice or hatred.

During the course of this novel, and hopefully every time you come into this classroom, please enter not as much a member of your family, your church, your gender, or your ethnic group, but more as a human being. When all of your identities come before that as a human being, you limit or block your ability to realize that there is a connection between all cultures through the universal experiences that all people share, including those of your own culture.

There is much to be appreciated and learned in this novel. As you open the book, open your mind; and your heart may follow.

Tasks

Find the following information about Chinua Achebe:
- Birthdate
- Birthplace
- Ethnicity
- Where he went to college
- Titles of three novels
- Other Genres he writes
- Title of one essay he has written
- Two articles written about Chinua Achebe in recent news

Find the following information about Things Fall Apart:
- Main Characters
- Genre
- Setting
- Time Period
- Books that are Similar
- Two articles of literary criticism

Answer the following information on the Igbo:
- Who are they?
- What are their traditions?
- Do they still exist?
- What are the issues facing them today?

Process

Go to http://cdhylton.com
Click on Library --> Research --> Databases
Use these databases to find the information asked for.
Record the information. Email the articles to Ms. Haas at haasjx@pwcs.edu as well as to yourself.

At home put together the information in a report that could be used to teach students information on the background of this novel and its author.

Passwords: Opposing Viewpoints, Power Search, Infotrac Newsstand, Biography Resource Center, Books & Authors, Contemporary Literary Criticism, and E-Books...bulldogs
SIRS & eLibrary...Logon: hylton...Password: bulldogs
CultureGrams...UserName: princewm...Password: county
World Book Online...UserName: pwcschools...Password: research

Evaluation

You will be evaluated based on completeness as well as depth and breadth of information.
How can you relate to this book based on the information you have gathered?

**Teacher Page**

This is designed to help students delve into the world of research as well as prepare them to read Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart. You can alter the process page so that your students can access the databases available at your school. I am looking for students to understand the world of the book, the context of the book, and the nature of literary criticism.

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**