

Dear Parents and Students:

I would like to formally welcome you to my 10th grade Pre-Advanced Placement English course for the 2020-2021 academic year. My course offers an accelerated curriculum, transcending honors-level in preparation for Advanced Placement Language and Composition (grade 11) as well as Advanced Placement Literature (grade 12). The skill sets necessary for these college-level courses include literary and rhetorical analysis, research-based writing, and independent reading of both fiction and non-fiction selections.

Our first unit of study will be based upon colonialism and its intersection with European and African culture and what it means to the United States through Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. While summer reading is not a course requirement (district policy), I strongly encourage you to secure a copy of the novel and read it independently. I am eagerly anticipating a rewarding year, so please be ready to hit the ground running in August. I try to support local businesses whenever possible because many businesses in Satellite Beach/Indian Harbour Beach support the school. Patrick Paperbacks is a great place to procure this book, and if the store is out of stock, the proprietor will gladly order more. I assure you that I receive no kickback from Patrick Paperbacks; I have been working with the store by sending students there for years.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,

Mr. Thomas Jackson
Jackson.thomas@brevardschools.org

Please keep the top portion of this letter as it contains important contact information as well as a study guide for *Things Fall Apart* on the back. Return the signed bottom portion of this letter to Mr. Jackson during the first week of school in August. Thank you again.

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

If you would like to include any contact information, please do so below.

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

On a separate sheet of paper, take notes on the following ideas and concepts. Be sure to write down specific questions about anything you may not follow.

Character Analysis

- static -vs- dynamic characters
- function of each
- Achebe's (author's) purpose

Figurative Elements

- Symbolism
- Use of paradox
- Personification
- Personification
- Use of simile
- Use of metaphor

Rhetorical Elements

- Diction – specific word choice
- Syntax – specific sentence structure
- Connotation – suggested meaning
- Denotation—literal meaning

Rhetorical Strategies

- Use of contrast
- Asyndeton
- Hubris
- Personalization
- Disconnect
- Propaganda
- Shift in narration