

## Summer Assignment—English II A Chance to Tell Your Story

**The book:** Nigerian born Nobel Prize for Literature Laureate, Chinua Achebe, is perhaps most famous for his work, Things Fall Apart, in which he attempts to tell the story of the native Igbo people from the perspective of a native Nigerian using the storytelling structure of his native people. His work is in direct contrast to works like Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness in which a white European attempts to tell the story of African people through the lens of imperial conquest.

**Step 1: The first step in your Summer Assignment adventure is to find and read Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe.** As you read I would like you to keep a double entry journal. A double entry



journal looks like a piece of paper (or pieces of paper) divided into two columns. In the left column you should write direct quotes from the text, either ones you think are important, or ones you think are examples of some specific literary technique the author is using, or ones you don't understand. In the right hand column you will interpret the quote you placed in the left hand column. So the right hand column might have an explanation of why your quote was important, or a comment about a literary device the author is using, or a question about something you don't understand. You may also choose to draw illustrations in the right hand column that illustrate the quote in the left. Your double entry journal must have at least 20 entries. It may be hand written or typed.

Remember, an important part about Things Fall Apart is that it mimics the oral story telling tradition that was so important in the Igbo culture of Nigeria. As you read, **look for things that would be important in story telling, like metaphors, similes, visual images, and folk sayings.** All of these things would be great things to comment on in your double entry journal.

**Step 2: Tell your own story.** Personal identity and individual contributions were a very important part of Igbo culture. Equally important were the relationships between the Igbo people, their families, and their broader community. With this in mind, tell your personal story by creating a scrapbook illustrating who you are and what you care about. We will share these scrapbooks the first week of class. Your scrapbook should include (but is not limited to) the following:

- A minimum of 8 photos of yourself, friends, and family (wiggling your toes in a pond, eating watermelon by the slice, playing baseball at the park, roasting hot dogs on the Fourth of July, fishing at a lake, your sister's quincenera, etc.). For each photo, include a telling caption.
- Three poems or nursery rhymes that you cherished when you were younger.  
An original poem (written by you) contemplating any experience you would like to write about: childhood, school experiences, pets you have loved, moments of joy or sorrow, etc.
- Two original pieces of art (they may either be pieces you created as a child or artwork you created for this assignment).
- The words from two of your favorite songs, as well as a 100-word (per song) explanation of why this song appeals to you.

Consider using found or reusable materials for your scrapbook. You are not being graded on the cost of your materials. You are being graded on the quality of your effort and the fulfillment of the components of the scrapbook.

**If you have any questions about the assignment please feel free to email or call me:  
Lindsey McPherson, cell 210-887-4304, email [lmcphe@neisd.net](mailto:lmcphe@neisd.net)**

You will be graded according to the following checklist:

### Summer Assignment Checklist

#### SCRAPBOOK

##### INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

**12 points** At least eight personal photographs with individual captions.  
**Points earned** \_\_\_\_\_

**12 points** At least three poems or nursery rhymes.  
**Points earned** \_\_\_\_\_

**12 points** An original poem.  
**Points earned** \_\_\_\_\_

**12 points** Two original pieces of art.  
**Points earned** \_\_\_\_\_

**12 points** The lyrics to two songs, each accompanied by a 100 word rationale explaining the song's significance.  
**Points earned** \_\_\_\_\_

##### OVERALL PROJECT

**15 points** Creative presentation evidencing forethought and effort.  
**Points earned** \_\_\_\_\_

##### Things Fall Apart Double Entry Journal

**25 points** Twenty entries from throughout the novel.  
**Points earned** \_\_\_\_\_

**100 Total Points Possible**

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**