

## WHS Book Rationale

**Title:** *Things Fall Apart*

**Author:** Chinua Achebe

- **Intended Audience**
  - English 10 Honors / English 10
- **Brief summary and educational significance**
  - Set in Nigeria during the onset of British colonialism, this book follows main character Okonkwo who struggles to maintain Ibo traditions and faces the potential loss of tradition and Ibo sovereignty as a result of missionaries and foreign administration.
  - Deals with main character's rise and fall from power in his society.
  - Considered most important novel in English to come out of Africa.
- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**
  - To show conflict between individual and society.
  - To show Africa written from the perspective of an African in response to earlier works by Europeans.
  - Connection to British poetry and Greek tragedy.
  - Collaborative potential with World Studies' Africa unit.
- **Potential problems**
  - Suicide, treatment of women and other groups and violence against them, potential problems depicting British colonizers and Christian missionaries. Superstitions. Religious topics.
- **Addressing potential problems**
  - Opportunities to discuss the morality of colonization. History aspects covered in World Studies.
  - Class discussions allow opportunities to process difficult material.
  - Opportunities to read and listen to interviews with Chinua Achebe about his purpose in writing *Things Fall Apart*.