

# Things Fall Apart

## Soundtrack Project

**Task:** You are to create the soundtrack album for a soon to be released movie version of Things Fall Apart.

**Basic Objectives:** To collect five songs that represent, reflect, or otherwise relate to five key passages from *Things Fall Apart*. For each song, you will turn in a justification for why that song was chosen as the backdrop to that particular passage. This justification will follow the attached format (student example), and must include sections of the lyrics that express the feeling/mood/event occurring at a moment in the book, much like songs do for movies. Doing this project in its entirety will earn a score of an 50 in the test category for the course. It will be due on the first day of class.

For those of you new to FA, in order to join the Google Classroom you must have a school issued gmail account. Once you have one, go into Classroom and type in the code: [7cnaed7](#). This will prompt you to join the class, and from there, you can select “Classwork” to access the assignments and book. If you have any questions this summer, email me at [kballew@fayacademy.org](mailto:kballew@fayacademy.org). Please keep in mind that if you email me a week before the first day of school it will be evident that you have waited until then to get started, and that doing so does not give me the best first impression.

This is the rubric I will be using for each song choice:

<b>2 pts</b>	<b>TITLE:</b>
	Connects the song to <u>one</u> of the following: one theme, what’s occurring within a character, or the overall mood of the scene.
	Particular quotes from the songs’ lyrics are included to express the feeling/mood/event occurring in a specific moment of the book you are choosing to express using a song.
	Explanation is well-written with few grammatical errors.
	Explanation is written persuasively and is convincing.
	Completes all other elements of the justification correctly, such as the format, the dates, and the page numbers.

# ***Things Fall Apart***

## **Song Justification**

The following format must be followed exactly in order to receive full credit. You will retype this format on your own using Calibri or Times New Roman font in 12-point size with single spacing. Each justification is not to exceed the front of one typed page.

**Title:**

**Artist:**

**Album: (include the copyright date)**

**Scene: (include page numbers)**

**Explanation:**

The explanation is the key. Essentially write a well-written, short essay explaining the connection between that song and the scene from the novel. Do not write a mere summary of the scene and/or the song. Go beneath the surface of the words in the novel and the words in the lyrics to tie them both together. Discuss themes, what is going on internally with the characters, and/or the mood occurring within both the song and the scene and how they reflect one another. Remember you are trying to convince someone that that song fits that scene perfectly. On the following rubrics, fill-in the song titles and submit with the song justifications.

**Student Sample:** This sample is from the novel *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. Notice how it uses both the text and lines from the song to back up the idea that the theme of “loneliness and alienation” is introduced early in the novel by this song. Also, notice how the justification talks about what is going on inside the character of Holden Caulfield.

**Track number:** 1

**Title:** “One”

**Artist:** Aimee Mann

**Album:** *For the Love of Harry: Everybody Sings Nilsson* (1995)

**Scene:** This would play during the opening scene of the novel as Holden walks around the campus alone (p. 2-5).

**Explanation:**

To start the film for *The Catcher in the Rye*, a song that could get the soundtrack going is “One” as sung by Aimee Mann. The song “One” could actually be used in many different scenes from the novel. As it talks about the number one being “the loneliest number that you'll ever know,” just about any time that Holden is by himself feeling lonely, this song would match perfectly. But since that is the case, then the first time we see him alone would be the perfect time to introduce this theme of loneliness and alienation that is expressed both in the novel and in the song.

As Holden walks toward the football game, the opening lyrics “One is the loneliest number that you'll ever do / Two can be as bad as one / It's the loneliest number since the number one” would be playing in the background. As Holden is watching from on top of a hill above the football field, he notes that “the whole school except me was there” (Salinger 2). This is maybe the first time he mentions that he is by himself, something that happens throughout the book. Then he starts thinking about the lack of girls at the school, messing up with the fencing team, and then finally the fact that he’s gotten kicked out of the school. All this fits very well with the second stanza of the song, especially the line “‘No’ is the saddest experience you'll ever know,” because he has just been told “no” by the school. “No” you don’t belong here, and “no” you can’t stay. This sense of not belonging is starting to sink into Holden and we first see it in the opening scenes of him alone at a school full of kids his age.