



CHINUA ACHEBE

Presentation by Victoria Kelly

THINGS FALL APART ● AN IMAGE OF AFRICA

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chinua Achebe

(1930-2013)

- Born in Ogidi, Nigeria
- "Patriarch of the African novel"
- Novelist | Poet | Professor | Critic | Political Activist
- Died in Boston, Massachusetts



THINGS FALL APART

(1958)



THE BASICS

The Two Big Things For The Protagonist:



OKONKWO



THINGS FALL APART

CHAPTERS 1-3

“Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.”

—W. B. Yeats, “The Second Coming”

What's with this Epigraph?



THINGS FALL APART

THE REST OF IT

First Portion

Family
Personal History
Customs
Igbo Social
Organization Styles

Second and Third Portions

Okonkwo's Downfall
Influence of British Colonialism
(Introduction of Missionaries)
Death!

Okonkwo's Fate
Repercussions



https://youtu.be/_x0MfW0ys

AN IMAGE OF AFRICA



THE BASICS

AN IMAGE OF AFRICA: RACISM IN CONRAD'S HEART OF DARKNESS

(1961)

Does not exactly hate the writing, calls it complex.

But regardless, racist.



Did it change your mind?

AN IMAGE OF AFRICA

A LITTLE MORE

Achebe's essay sparked a debate about Post-Colonial writing, specifically about other lands.

Can you write about a foreign area and NOT be racist?

Literary Criticism or Political Statement?

Thank you!