

Anticipation Guide for *Things Fall Apart*

Directions: Carefully read the passages below and mark the column under "me" with an "A" for "Agree" or "D" for "Disagree." Underneath the statement write a sentence as to why you wrote "A" or "D." We will discuss your answers aloud as a class, so be prepared to share your thoughts and reasoning. After we read the novel, we will revisit this guide and discuss the beliefs of the protagonist.

ME	PROTAGONIST	BELIEF
___	___	1. It is OK for one person to have more than one spouse.
___	___	2. Christianity is the true religion.
___	___	3. Being masculine depends on physical strength.
___	___	4. A woman can be intuitive about the health of her child.
___	___	5. Men should be intimately involved in childrearing.
___	___	6. Accidental manslaughter should be punished severely.
___	___	7. Ancestors have great influence in our present-day lives.
___	___	8. Hard work is the road to self-respect.
___	___	9. A parent should have much control over the future of her/his child.
___	___	10. Justice is served in the court system.

STRATEGY FOR ANTICIPATION GUIDES

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The purpose of this strategy is to help the student to make predictions about the novel while at the same time identifying personal thoughts and opinions about a subject. This anticipation guide will also create interest in several of the important topics of this novel, especially through class discussion. In correlation with this anticipation guide, the teacher may use ideas and class discussion for topics in writing or assigned work.

DIRECTIONS

Step 1—Pre-read. Read the novel yourself.

Step 2—Thought questions. Read through the anticipation guide, writing down thought questions for each of the statements. These questions can be used in class discussion and will be useful if the students have difficulty discussing their opinions on the statements.

Step 3—Display the guide. Before the students read the text, hand out the guide on individual worksheets. If you choose to do this guide as a whole class, then you will want to put the guide on an overhead or write it on the board. If you choose to break into small groups, then divide the class before distributing the worksheet. Give clear directions as to where the students are to mark their answers (the left column under “me”). There is room on the guide for individual opinion sentences, so encourage the students to write down why they have answered “D” or “A.” Clearly state that there are no wrong answers and that the class will respect each opinion. The students should feel free to agree or disagree.

Step 4—Discuss. Guide a class discussion based on the statements in the guide. Ask the students to share their answers and also their thoughts and opinions as to why they wrote those answers. If the class has difficulty, then you can use the questions you formed earlier to stimulate discussion.

Step 5—Read. Read the novel as a class. This guide requires the class to read the whole novel.

Step 6—Revisit the guide. Compare and contrast Okonkwo’s opinions with the students of the class. Also discuss the important idea that Okonkwo’s beliefs might not necessarily be the beliefs of the author. Discuss how Achebe presents some of Okonkwo’s behaviors as positive and some as negative, some even as neutral.

ASSESSMENT

The anticipation guide will help students to focus ideas and opinions on certain themes in the text. This guide can be the gateway to future assignments such as persuasive papers, groups presentations, and further discussion. This type of guide can show the students that they are the determiners of their own learning.