

Listening Guide- Episode 1

Things Fall Apart- Chinua Achebe

“Meet Nigeria’s Most Famous Author, Teacher and Philosopher!”

1. There are _____ independent countries in Africa.
2. Nigeria, like Zimbabwe, has _____.
3. In Africa, there are more than _____ distinct languages.
4. Even though over 1.5 billion people on Earth speak English, only _____ speak it as a first language.
5. Nigeria became independent in _____.
6. *Things Fall Apart* was the _____ book written by an African to be introduced into the English curriculum on the continent of Africa.
7. Like Wiesel, Achebe was a _____ man.
8. Nigeria is the only country in the world whose population is split just about 50/50 equally between _____ and Christians, and neither country has a clear majority.
9. The story *Things Fall Apart* takes place sometime during the final decade of the 1900s in a little _____ of the Igbo people.
10. The Igbo people historically were actually _____ by tradition.
11. “The Igbo knows no _____.”
12. Today, there are _____ people that speak English in Nigeria than speak English in Britain.
13. The Nigerian story today is in some ways kind of a qualified _____ and something the world should really pay attention to.
14. Achebe’s _____ was a minister, a Christian minister.
15. Achebe grew up a child of two worlds, an Igbo world and a _____ world.
16. One of the biggest influences on Achebe’s career was when he read Joseph Conrad’s famous novel about Africa, _____.
17. “The language and description of the people in *Heart of Darkness* is _____.”
18. Achebe received over _____ honorary degrees during his lifetime.

19. He married a girl named _____ and they called her Christy.
20. They were married for over _____ years by the way at the time of his death in 2013.
21. *Things Fall Apart* is an _____ from a poem by WB Yeats.
22. Achebe gets the phrase, *Things Fall Apart*, which becomes obviously the title of his book, from this poem called “_____.”
23. He [Yeats] thought that the deconstruction of society had left his world _____.
24. An _____ is just a short quotation that you put at the beginning of your book.
25. Yeats will make the argument in his poem that living as Europe was living, he’s saying the _____ cannot hold.
26. The coming of the Europeans did not bring in the second coming of Christ, instead it loosed _____ on the world.
27. “_____ was well known throughout the nine villages and even beyond.”
28. “Africa does not consist of savages, Africa does not consist of angels, Africa is filled with _____.”
29. Okonkwo is going to be an Igbo _____.
30. So, in the first chapter, Okonkwo is going to be set up as a contrast to his _____.