

Chapter One:

1. Who is the protagonist? What do you know of him? What kind of figurative language is used to describe him?
2. Describe why Okonkwo is ashamed of his father. In the American society, do we also look down on people who are similar to Unoka? Explain your answer.
3. What are some aspects of Okonkwo's culture you have seen so far?

Chapter Two:

4. What does Okonkwo fear most? What does he hate most?
5. Why do the children not whistle at night? At night, what do they call a snake?
6. Tell the story of how Ikemefuna came to Umuofia.

Chapter Three:

7. Umuofia is a very ritualistic community. Describe the Oracle Agbala. What importance does it have for the community?
8. Describe Okonkwo's meeting with Nwakibie. What does he have that Okonkwo needs? Why is he generous toward Okonkwo?
9. What is the king of crops, the man's crop?

Chapter Four:

10. How does Okonkwo's clan judge a man?
11. Okonkwo punishes his second wife. How does he punish her? Why is it wrong for him to punish her on this day?

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Chapter Five:

12. Ikemefuma protects his "little sister" from punishment. Describe what really happened. Why do you think he did this?
13. Okonkwo is an impatient man. Describe how he acts during times of leisure.
14. How does Okonkwo feel toward his daughter Ezinma? How does this contrast to how he treats others?
15. What is Okonkwo's reaction to the missing leaves on the banana tree?
16. Describe two aspects of the Feast of the Yams?

Chapter Six:

17. What is Chielo's place in the community? What two roles does she play?
18. Describe the big wrestling match.

19. To what event in our society could the wrestling match be compared? Why?

Chapter Seven:

20. The tribe has some customs that cause Nwoye to feel a “chill.” What are they? How do you feel about the tribe now that you know about these customs?

21. Explain what happens to Ikemefuna? What part does Okonkwo play? How does Okonkwo react to what he has done?

22. What is Okonkwo’s attitude toward women? Is this acceptable, given the context? Does this arrangement work for their society?

Chapter Eight:

23. Why do Ukegbu and Ibe come to Obierika’s Obi?

24. What is a bride price? What other culture have you heard mention of a bride price?

25. What is a “white man” to the tribe?

26. On page 68, Okonkwo says of Ozoemena, “I thought he was a strong man in his youth.” What information prompts him to make this comment?

Chapter Nine:

27. What did Ekwefi blame for her children dying at an early age?

28. What rituals are used to help Ekwefi’s children begin to live past childhood?

29. How does Okonkwo attempt to cure Ezinma? Is it similar to anything we do for sickness?

30. What is an “iyi-uwa?”

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Chapter Ten:

31. Describe the ritual we witness in this chapter. What part of western society does it resemble?

32. Why do the women act as if they are afraid of the egwugwu?

33. Why are the people disgusted with Uzowulu?

Chapter 11

34. Why is tortoise’s shell in many sections rather than smooth? Which character is the tortoise most like and why?

35. What does Okonkwo do that is against his nature when Chielo takes Ezinma?

Chapter 12

36. Explain Obierika’s idea as to why the market at Umuike became so large.

37. How do all the women react when they hear the call, “*Oji odu achu igigi-o-o?*” Describe the situation.

Chapter 13

38. How do the nine villages talk to each other at great distances?

39. What was Okonkwo's great offense that sent his family into exile?

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Chapter 14

40. Okonkwo is grieving over his predicament. What did Uchendu say to him to show that exile to his mother's homeland is not the end of his life?

41. Achebe, the author, tries to demonstrate a paradox about the "manly" and "womanly" aspects of Okonkwo's predicament. Give Uchendu's example of "manliness" and of "womanliness."

Chapter 15

42. Who came to visit Okonkwo? What was the story he had to tell?

43. The men talk about "white men who made the powerful guns and the strong drinks and took slaves away across the seas, but no one thought the stories were true." Uchendu replies, "There is no story that is not true." What is the truth behind this story?

Chapter 16

44. Who came to Unuofia? How were the converts viewed? Who were most likely to be converted?

45. What questions did the missionaries' god answer for Nwoye?

Chapter 17

46. What piece of land in Mbanta was given to the missionaries? What did the clansmen expect to happen when the missionaries built their church there? Explain where the clan's thinking failed.

47. How did the clan respond when after seven weeks none of the missionaries died?

48. What does Okonkwo have to say about the generations of men in his family after his son is seen with the missionaries? What do you think this means?

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Chapter 18

49. The *ekelefu* were the first to join the Christians who taught all were equal. Next, abominations, such as twins, were welcomed. But how did the resent converts act when the *osu* came to worship? Why is this ironic?

Chapter 19

50. In the beginning of this chapter, almost seven years have past. Give two things Okonkwo does.

51. Give three examples as to why the feast Okonkwo called was so important to the older members of the family.

Part Three

Chapter 20

52. How long was Okonkwo away from his clan?
53. Describe how Okonkwo viewed his return.
54. What did the white man bring?
55. What line in this chapter is the theme statement? (Hint: look on page 176.)

Chapter 21

56. Describe three similarities between Okonkwo's and the Christian's god.

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Chapter 22

57. Compare how Mr. Brown and Mr. Smith treated and viewed the Umuofians.
58. Page 186-7. "That night the Mother of the Spirits walked the length and breadth of the clan, weeping for her murdered son. . .It seemed as if the very soul of the tribe wept for a great evil that was coming – its own death." What does her wailing foreshadow?

Chapter 23

59. How does the District Commissioner trick the leaders of the Umuofia and take them as prisoners?
60. Achebe shows the beginning of corruption in the white man's governing of Umuofia. Describe it.

Chapter 24

61. What did Okonkwo do when the court messengers arrived at the market place? Why did he do this? How did others react?

Chapter 25

62. The climax of the novel (the point at which the conflict ends) is when Okonkwo kills himself. Why did he take his own life?
63. The Commissioner plans to write a book called *The Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger*. This title is ironic because the Ibo are neither passive nor primitive. Give examples from the novel which show the commissioner is only seeing what he wants to see.
64. The names Achebe uses for his characters all have specific meanings in the Umuofian culture. When the white men come, Achebe uses everyday, common names. Why?