

# Things Fall Apart Themes

Themes are overarching ideas and beliefs that the writers put into their work. Themes in Things Fall Apart are aplenty and diverse. Chinua Achebe has not only described the struggle of the indigenous people but also the entrance of colonialism before it spread to the far-flung clans of Africa. Some of the major themes of Things Fall Apart are given below.

## **Masculinity**

Masculinity and its demonstration are considered a virtue in the African villages as shown in this novel. Okonkwo stresses much upon masculinity that he is often ashamed of his own father who was a musician and lazy instead of being an active and a warrior. That is why he does not like his son, Nwoye who is peaceful and compares him to Ikemefuna who is a warrior and courageous. Okonkwo's masculinity makes him cold and ruthless even in his domestic affairs. It is also when others fail, to prove his masculinity he kills Ikemefuna. He then encourages himself after the death during his self-reflection when his conscience makes him feel guilty. He also berates his ancestors for avoiding bloodshed and anger.

## Social Transformation and Tradition

The novel, *Things Fall Apart*, also deals with the battle between progressive social transformation and traditions. Most people including Okonkwo do not accept the new religious and social order brought by the British missionaries. Similarly, most of the villagers are also caught in the struggle between the social and religious changes and their traditions of society. They are pondering over the dilemma of whether to accept the new reality or stick to their old-fashioned way of thinking. When Okonkwo kills a messenger, the silence resulting from some natives is based on the fact that they are ready to accept transformations. However, the same has dislodged him from his position of becoming a manly figure as opposed to his father's meekness.

## Colonialism and Its Adverse Impacts

Colonialism is one of the major themes of the [novel](#) which is introduced in the later in the book. When Okonkwo returns from exile to his village, Christianity has already spread so far. The entire tribe is facing trouble due to the new religion and civilization represented by Mr. Brown. Okonkwo knows that "The white man is very clever" and despite having tarnished reputation in the village, he locks horns with them. He comes to know that Mr. Brown has started teaching the natives how to read and write. Several norms and traditions have been abolished calling them savage ways. However, it happens that the Igbo people become furious over this cultural onslaught but not all of them. This transformation of the locals spread chaos and change the indigenous culture but at the cost of the destruction.

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