**Things Fall Apart – Literary Road Map**

**Chapters 1-4**

**Word Mastery**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **wily** (adj.) clever, tricky | **capricious** (adj.) unpredictable, changing |
| **improvident** (adj.) careless, wastefull | **perpetual** (adj.) constant, never ending |
| **intricate** (adj.) describes something manmade that is detailed and complex | **interim** (n.) the time between two events (*Another word for winter break is winter interim*.) |
| **dispute** (n.) argument, disagreement | **revere** (v.) to respect almost to the point of worship |
| **malevolent** (adj.) evil intentioned | **prosperous** (adj.) wealthy, successful |
| **discern** (v.) to identify something clearly, normally difficult to do | **incipient** (adj.) describes a part of a person’s personality that is just beginning to grow |

LITERARY DEFINITIONS

**proverb** – a common saying meant to explain human behavior or give advice, ex. The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.

**mood** – the emotion a piece of writing creates in the reader, often created by imagery

**foreshadowing** – clues in the novel of something to come, can be obvious or very subtle

**Essential Questions (Theme of Unit)**

* What is a community?
* What role does ritual and tradition play in a community?
* What happens when we join or leave a community?

**Getting it Straight - Answer all of these questions. Complete sentences are optional.**

**Ch. 1**

1. Draw the table below on your own paper and fill in the blank boxes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Physical | Treatment of Others | Work Ethic |
| Okonkwo |  |  |  |
| Unoka |  |  |  |

**Ch. 2**

2. How do we know that Okonkwo is a fearless fighter for his people?

3. What steps does the village take before it declares war on another village?

4. What is Okonkwo most afraid of?

**Ch. 3**

5. Why was Okonkwo’s road to success particularly difficult?

6. Give some examples of how important politeness is to people in the village.

**Ch. 4**

7. Once Ikemefuna got over his fear, how was his life in Okonkwo’s household?

8. Why does Umoufia celebrate a week of peace?

9. Why do Okonkwo’s neighbors believe that hs isn’t really sorry about the blasphemy he committed?

10. Describe life during the rainy season.

11. Describe the relationship between Ikemefuna and Nwoye.

**Delving In – Answer all questions in bold and choose any other two to answer.**

1. Why do you think Achebe chose to start the story by describing the wrestling match between Okonkwo and Amalinze?

**2. *Mood* is the emotion writing is meant to evoke. Sometimes, a particular *mood* can *foreshadow* an event in a novel. What *mood* is created by the moonless night at the beginning of Chapter 2? What event does the mood *foreshadow*?**

**3. How do Okonkwo’s fears affect his relationship with his son, Nwoye?**

4. Explain one of the proverbs mentioned in chapter 3.

5. Why do you think Okonkwo is so stern with the man at the beginning of chapter 4?

6. What is more important ot Okonkwo – his feeling of success and importance or the rules of his village? Why do you think so?