



Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Reviewed by Rishi



Book 1 in *The African Trilogy*
Historical Fiction

Give a summary without spoilers!

“Things Fall Apart” depicts the life of a man named Okonkwo, who belongs to an indigenous tribe in modern day Nigeria. Okonkwo is admired in his village for possessing incredible strength and agricultural skill, but his quick temper and inability to connect to those around him show how he is far more complex than the powerful exterior he wishes to present. The novel also displays the impacts of colonialism on a village that describes a bicycle as an “iron horse”. Although Achebe points out the cruelty of imperialist tactics, he does not idealize the tribal lifestyle and portrays both civilizations in a realistic way. Okonkwo’s story can seem tragic at times, but its lessons about empathy, leadership, and adaptation are universal.

What drew you to this book?

I was drawn to this book because I am personally interested in stories that explore the effects of colonialism, but “Things Fall Apart” itself is often seen as a classic piece of literature. I also thought the character of Okonkwo was very layered and had a lot of depth. Despite this book being relatively short, it discusses many topics that force the reader to think about their own society with a new lens.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

“Things Fall Apart” is very unlike anything I have ever read, but books such as “Beloved” by Tony Morrison and “Their Eyes Were Watching God” have similar themes of minority characters struggling in a world that seems against them.

To whom would you recommend this book?

I would recommend this book to people who are looking for something that is easy to read and not very long but still has a large amount of emotional and cultural depth to it. Also, people who like books with flawed and interesting characters would find a lot to appreciate here.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

I really liked this book and consider it to be one of my favorites. I highly recommend it to others because of its characters and well developed plot.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

I found "Things Fall Apart" on many lists of the best books ever written and it was coincidentally in my school library. I decided to try it and it was a really fascinating read.