

ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING 2009
10TH GRADE

English 10 Pre-AP

Read the following literary works:

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Respond to one of the following assignments:

Achebe wrote the title *Things Fall Apart* from a quotation from Irish Poet William Butler Yeats' "The Second Coming."

*Things fall apart; the center cannot hold'
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.*

These lines can be found in the novel's epigraph, the quotation on the title page. Discuss how the plot and characterizations in *Things Fall Apart* express the idea of the two lines above. What are the "things" in the novel and how do they fall apart?

Okonkwo and Obierika are very good friends but their philosophies on what it means "to be a man" are not identical. Pretend that you are one of them and write a letter to your son in which you describe what it is like to be an Igbo man- the kind of man that you want him to grow up to be. In your letter, feel free to point out characteristics of clansmen or other Igbos you do or do not admire.

English 10

Read the following literary work and be prepared to discuss it and respond in writing at the beginning of the school year.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou