



Chinua Achebe

Albert Chinualumogu Achebe was born on November 16, 1930, in Ogidi, an Igbo village in south-eastern Nigeria. He died on March 21, 2013, at age 82, in Boston, Massachusetts. His parents were converts to Christianity, and while he spoke Igbo at home, he studied English in school.

At the University of Ibadan, he developed his interest in indigenous Nigerian cultures. He rejected his Christian name for his indigenous African name, and became involved in politics, actively crusading for those who were suffering in his country. A paraplegic from the waist down after a 1990 automobile accident, Achebe lived in the United States since, teaching first at Bard College and, from 2009 until his death, at Brown University.

As a Nigerian novelist he is regarded as the most dominant figure in modern African literature. *Things Fall Apart* which was published in 1958, two years before Nigerian independence, in part led to his being called the 'patriarch of the African novel'.

Chinua Achebe wrote *Things Fall Apart* in an attempt to show that the colonial perspective of Africa was inaccurate and that which was considered strange by colonialists, actually had meaning and importance. Published as a response to novels that treat Africa as a cultureless foil for Europe, his writing concerns the clash of cultures and the conflicts between Nigeria's white colonial government and traditions of indigenous Igbo people. It also portrays complex social institutions and traditions of the Igbo culture prior to European contact.

His novels were written in English, but his writing style relies heavily on the Igbo oral tradition, and incorporates Igbo vocabulary, folk tales, songs, and verbal descriptions of Igbo life. This style, and the incorporation of the proverbs and idioms of African culture, combine to mark his stories as uniquely African.

Adapted from: <https://www.slideshare.net/bobgembey/things-fall-apart>
<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/things/themes.html>
<https://www.biography.com/writer/chinua-achebe>
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