Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
*Things Fall Apart* Ch 4-6

**Vocabulary: Use the context to determine the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then use a dictionary to find the exact meaning of the word.**

1. The fund-raising sale was successful because of the industry of the students.

Your definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The rules for that contest are so exacting that no one could possibly win.

Your definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The child told a poignant story that had everyone close to tears.

Your definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. If you are persistent in your studies, your grades are likely to improve.

Your definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. After the last play of the game, the crowd surged toward the exits.

Your definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Dictionary definition\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:**

1. Why did an old man remind Okonkwo that his palm-kernels were cracked by a benevolent spirit? Why did Okonkwo feel that his success was not due to luck?

1. How did Okonkwo feel about Ikemefuna? Why was he unable to express his feelings to the boy?

1. Why did the priest Ezeani consider Okonkwo’s transgression to be a greater sin than that of his second wife?
2. What kept Okonkwo from enjoying the New Yam Festival?
3. Why did Ekwefi, Okonkwo’s second wife, enjoy the wrestling matches more than any other activity during the New Yam Festival?

1. Why did Okonkwo have a special fondness for his daughter Ezinma?
2. What was the real and symbolic significance of yams in Ibo culture? Why do you think the New Year celebration centered around the planting of the yams?
3. How would you characterize Okonkwo’s relationship with his wife and children? Why do you think his behavior was tolerated by Ibo society?
4. What do you think the wrestling match revealed about the values of the people of the village?

**Literary Devices:**

1. *Foreshadowing*—What do you think the incident of Okonkwo shooting at his second wife might foreshadow?
2. *Simile*—What is being compared in the following similes?

* *The air, which had been stretched taut with excitement,   
  relaxed again. It was as if water had been poured on the tightened skin of a drum.*
* *The drummers took up their sticks and the air shivered and grew tense like a tightened bow.*

How do these figures of speech enhance the meanings of the statements?