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Quotes from okonkwo

List of top 17 famous quotes and sayings about okonkwo to read and share with friends on your Facebook, Twitter, blogs. Top 17 Quotes About Okonkwo #1. I do not know how to thank you."I can tell you," said Obierika. 'Kill one of your sons for me."That will not be enough,' said Okonkwo."Then kill yourself,' said Obierika. - Author: Chinua Achebe #2. Life experiences become acting experiences, which in turn become life experiences. - Author: Liv Ullmann #3. Knowledge is like an endless resource; a well of water that satisfies the innate thirst of the growing human soul. Therefore never stop learning ... because the day you do, you will also stop maturing. - Author: Chidi Okonkwo #4. From this day forward, speak to yourself in a way that you would someone you care about. - Author: Chalene Johnson #5. Every occupation has its own honor before God. Ordinary work is a divine vocation or calling. In our daily work no matter how important or mundane we serve God by serving the neighbor and we also participate in God's on-going providence for the human race. - Author: Martin Luther #6. Forgiveness was like charity: You could dispense it, or not. And, as with charity, the one dispensing held the power. - Author: Joe Okonkwo #7. According to Okonkwo, the British via its indirect rule system ensured that Africans saw their native leaders as the demons who betrayed their people. He called it a democracy and that was the first time I had seen him become so passionate about issues that affect Africa as a people and continent. - Author: S.A. David #8. The world is large," said Okonkwo. "I have even heard that in some tribes a man's children belong to his wife and her family." "That cannot be," said Machi. "You might as well say that the woman lies on top of the man when they are making the babies. - Author: Chinua Achebe #9. What is aesthetically beautiful, should not be able to be understood fully: by its mysterious character it should leave behind a vaguely pleasant feeling. - Author: Nicola Lecca #10. At the most one could say that his chi or ... personal god was good. But the Ibo people have a proverb that when a man says yes his chi says yes also. Okonkwo said yes very strongly, so his chi agreed. - Author: Chinua Achebe #11. Love is greater than anger. - Author: Matshona Dhliwayo #12. The water in the drains below the cobbles muttered. - Author: Natasha Pulley #13. I read in the newspaper that the Catholic Church finally decided that it had been theologically improper to try to convert the Jews. Whoops! Sorry for all those inquisitions, crusades, and autos-da-fe. Previous popes were wrong - infallible, perhaps, but wrong. - Author: Alan Dershowitz #14. There were reports of me using fat-sucking machines and all sorts of silliness. All I did was walk a lot and breast-feed. I've never been on a strict diet. I just don't overeat, and I don't eat if I'm not hungry. - Author: Anna Friel #15. Observe the world around you everything you do, and especially everything you hate to do. - Author: Aaron Patzer #16. Beware Okonkwo!" she warned. "Beware of exchanging words with Agbala. Does a man speak when a god speaks? Beware! - Author: Chinua Achebe #17. You've got to honor your relationship with your audience - that they sit down because they want to be entertained. And that doesn't mean you can't provoke them and antagonize them and challenge them in the course of the entertainment as long as you keep the entertainment part of the equation alive. - Author: David E. Kelley Famous Authors Popular Topics This story follows the rise and the fall of a respected Nigerian Igbo leader as he challenges European colonialism and modernization. We begin to see a changing culture that starts questioning traditions, which threatens the old customs. As new beliefs and institutions are introduced to the community, the Igbo culture collapses and, for our hero, 'things fall apart'. It is a classic tragedy and is regarded as a milestone in African literature. This copy has been with me since high school english, but I didn't really understand the implications until I had to re-read it for African Lit. There is a lot to unpack in this book but it is incredibly influential and definitely worth reading, at least once. "Having spoken plainly so far, Okoye said the next half a dozen sentences in proverbs. Among the Ibo the art of conversation is regarded very highly, and proverbs are the palm-oil with which words are eaten." —Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart This quote alludes to the highly sophisticated art of rhetoric practiced by the Igbo by comparing food and words. The metaphor of words as food is appropriate, given the agricultural nature of Igbo society. Food is respected in Igbo culture and is regarded as the sustenance of life. They award the same value that they place on food to words, the sustenance of interaction and hence community. In the way that palm oil must be consumed, so must words and conversations. This rhetorical formality of this exchange offers insight into the misunderstandings that occur between the Igbo and the Europeans. Whereas the Europeans value efficiency and directness in their dealings, the Igbo value an adherence to their cultural traditions, which include certain patterns of dialogue considered inefficient by Western standards. "All their customs are upside down." "The new year must begin with tasty, fresh yams and not the shriveled fibrous crop of the previous year." I like this one because it is such a timeless idea that everyone can relate to; out with the old and in with the new. "All cooking pots, calabashes and wooden bowls were thoroughly washed," to wash away the past and make space for the new. This is yet another beautiful food metaphor from Achebe, who does a wonderful job of expressing the importance of food in this culture. "And then quite suddenly a shadow fell on the world ..." I like this imagery. It is simple but powerful, and it is wonderful foreshadowing for the troubles that are about to arise for Okonkwo. "Okonkwo was ruled by one passion — to hate everything that his father Unoka had loved. One of those things was gentleness and another was idleness." This is a great quote because it draws a parallel between Okonkwo and the tragic hero Achilles. Homer paints Achilles as a hero who rejects the attitude of unthinking conformity that is prevalent in contemporary society. Achilles develops his own original relationship with the world in the same way that Okonkwo does, and both resist change. "Okonkwo was not a man of thought but a man of action." Okonkwo also resembles Achilles in anger mismanagement. Okonkwo is painted as a ruthless person who does not know how to display emotion. In fact, "Okonkwo never showed any emotion openly, unless it is the emotion of anger. To show affection was a sign of weakness, the only thing worth demonstrating was strength". Despite his "fear of being thought weak", Okonkwo is overcome by emotions and is unable to kill his adopted son. Similarly, Achilles is overcome by emotions and is unable to slay his own surrogate son, Patroclus. "Umuofia obodo dike, 'the land of the brave.'" This particular quote stands out to me because it is reminiscent of The Star-Spangled Banner. I think it is an ironic phrase to use. While the influence of Western culture ultimately causes the collapse of Okonkwo's traditional village life, this phrase unites the two cultures together. There are similarities, despite the differences. "The white man is very clever. He came quietly and peaceably with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers, and our clan can no longer act like one. He has put a knife on the things that held us together and we have fallen apart." —Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart I love when books do this. Mention the title of the book within the book, that is. I like that it is near the end, and it is presented in a way that ties the story together. Things Fall Apart: Quote Hunt Mood. -After Nwoye is lured into the Christian religion and abandons his culture and family. Okonkwo is ashamed and states, "you have all see the great abomination of your brother. Now he is no longer my son or your brother. I will only have a son who is a man, who will hold his head up among my people" (172). Nwoye's father disowns him only because he chooses a path untraditional to his culture. The serious, frustrated, and unhappy mood that is created in Okonkwo's statement gives the reader an idea of how much the Ibo culture values tradition, choice, and family. -When Nwoye is informed of Ikemefuna's death, the narrator states, "a deathly silence descended on Okonkwo's compound...throughout the day....show more content...Achebe's message is that fear is only developed through silence of feelings and words. The danger of silence is the words and emotions are neither told nor shared, so a person's weakness is unknown until expressed. -While talking about the Christians and how the gods fight their own battles, on man states, "When a man blasphemes, what do we do? Do we go and stop his mouth? No. We put our fingers into our ears to stop us hearing. This is a wise action." Okonkwo chimes in and states, "If a man comes into my hut, what do I do? Do I shut my eyes? No. I take a stick and break his head. That is what a man does" (158). Okonkwo wants to silence anyone who talks nonsense or disagrees in his actions. Society says that if a person hears or sees something irritating, then he or she should tune it out. Okonkwo displays that silence can be used as a weapon of offense and defense. -When Okonkwo and the other detainees return from the prison, the narrator describes the scene: "they walked silently...the village was astir in a silent, suppressed way" (199). Achebe delineates the discontent of the Africans through their silent, and to a point, negative emotions. Although the prisoners returned from the prison, Achebe tries to show that a transition between cultures caused high tensions too precarious to be expressed. Father/Son Conflict. -The relationship between The quote means that Okonkwo is a responsible man that pays off all his debts and deserves to dine with the elders. Although Okonkwo can be seen as apathetic and harsh, he is still a successful man who has won the respect of others. He strives for greatness, in hope of leaving behind his father's rough image. Okonkwo is a powerful man who feels that he must have everything in order. This quote means that he is constantly in fear of becoming a failure and being seen as weak. Okonkwo stresses so greatly about his image, that he has become an abusive father and husband. Okonkwo's father, Unoka, died from an illness, which was a disgrace to the earth goddess. Okonkwo saw his father's death as justice for all of his sins and bringing shame upon ...show more content... Okonkwo believes that these white men have caused their clan to fall apart. This shows how the pride of the Igbo people was so great that they were not able to see that the missionaries would be the cause of their tribe's downfall. This quote means that the members of the clan cannot move Okonkwo's body, because he has killed himself and that is an offense against the Earth. The men are telling the white men that they should move him because they are strangers to the clan. This shows how important customs are to the people of Umuofia, and that they must obey these rules even if the person is as respected as Okonkwo was. A friend of Okonkwo, Obierika, became choked up as he confronted the District Commissioner, saying that he is at fault for the death of Okonkwo. This shows how much Obierika admired Okonkwo's powerful and respected character. Obierika is also realizing that these white men were the cause of their problems and affected Okonkwo's life so greatly that it fell ...show more content... Readers can see the irony in this, because this white man is saying that Okonkwo is not worth even a chapter, only a paragraph to tell his story, when the author, Chinua Achebe, wrote a book about Okonkwo. This shows the arrogance of this man and the missionaries, for not understanding and respecting other people and their cultures. This man is describing Okonkwo in a way that makes him seem barbaric and cowardly. The commissioner is basically planning on diminishing Okonkwo's respected reputation. This action is going to affect how people will see Okonkwo, who is really a misunderstood man that always lived in fear of failure. To add on to the Commissioner's arrogant character, he plans on naming this book, The Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger. This man is disparaging the people of Umuofia by calling them primitive based on how they Okonkwo dedicates himself to being as masculine as possible, and through his rise to become a powerful man of his tribe and subsequent fall both within the tribe and in the eyes of his son Nwoye, the novel explores the idea of masculinity. Okonkwo believes in traditional gender roles, and it pains him that his son Nwoye is not more aggressive like he is. As a result, it's revealing that he expresses the wish that his daughter Ezinma were a boy—from this we know how fond he is of her. Additionally, in a meeting towards the very beginning of the book, Okonkwo insults a man without title by calling him a woman, demonstrating how much masculinity is valued when ranking those in Umuofia society. Ultimately, though, Okonkwo's adherence to masculinity and aggression leads to his fall in society—he becomes brittle and unable to bend with the changes taking place in his clan. In keeping with this principle of masculinity, Okonkwo forces himself to kill his own surrogate son, murder the white man against his better judgment, and hang himself before a punishment can be imposed by others. Okonkwo's aggression makes him weak in the end—it leaves him with no room to maneuver against the more subtle ways of the white man.Nwoye struggles with this idea of masculinity, as he wants to please his father by being aggressive and traditional, but ultimately, he's repelled by the violence in Umuofia rituals and joins the Christians. Nwoye's departure can also be linked to this idea from Okonkwo's uncle, Uchendu, after the family is exiled from Umuofia: "It's true that a child belongs to its father. But when a father beats his child, it seeks sympathy in its mother's hut." Likewise, after being beaten by his father, Nwoye leaves to seek solace in the more feminine and seemingly gentle Christian religion. This list of important quotations will help you work with the essay topics and thesis statements by allowing you to support your claims. All of the important quotes listed here correspond, at least in some way, to the paper topics and by themselves can give you great ideas for an essay by offering quotes about other themes, symbols, imagery, and motifs than those already mentioned. All quotes contain page numbers as well. Look at the bottom of the page to identify which edition of the text they are referring to. "It was this man Okonkwo threw in a fight which the old men agreed was one of the fiercest since the founder of their town engaged a spirit of the wild for seven days and seven nights" (3). "He [Okonkwo] had a slight stammer and whenever he got angry and could not get his words out quickly enough, he would use his fists" (4). "Perhaps down in his heart Okonkwo was not a cruel man. But his whole life was dominated by fear, the fear of failure and weakness.It was not external but lay deep within himself. It was the fear of himself, lest he should be found to resemble his father" (13). "Behind them was the big and ancient silk-cotton tree which was sacred. Spirits of good children lived in that tree waiting to be born. On ordinary days young women who desired children came to sit under the shade" (46). "Okonkwo was inwardly pleased at his son's development and he knew it was due to Ikemefuna. He wanted Nwoye to grow into a tough young man capable of handling his father's household when he was dead and gone to join the ancestors" (52). "Umuofia has decided to kill him. The Oracle of the Hills and the Caves has pronounced it. They will take him outside Umuofia as is the custom, and kill him there. But I want you to have nothing to do with it. He calls you father" (57). "A man's life was a series of transition rites which brought him nearer to his ancestors" (122). "They [the white people] must have used powerful medicines to make themselves invisible until the market was full" (139). "The white man was also their brother because they were all sons of God. And he told them about this new God, the creator of all the world and all the men and women. He told them they worshipped false gods, gods of wood and stone" (145). <

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