

## **Incoming Juniors (Grade 11)**

**All junior students are required to read Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe.**

This novel explores the impact of colonialism on the noble and rigid traditional culture of Nigeria. The disintegration of Obi Okonkwo mirrors the disintegration of tribal Igbo society caused by the intrusion of white missionaries and colonial governments. The story traces the life of Okonkwo, the leader of his village, his accidental killing of a clansman, his banishment and his later return.

**Assignment:** Students will write a one paragraph journal entry for every chapter, documenting the changes that the main characters undergo throughout the novel. These journal entries will be used to develop the first essay of the school year.

**All junior students should also read ONE of the following works:**

**Unaccustomed Earth** by Jhumpa Lahiri

This collection of short stories shows immigrants navigating the difficulties of maintaining Indian traditions while assimilating to a new world. The characters are second generation Bengalis who are self-conscious about their parents' traditions and more interested in adopting American cultural ideals. These stories show the clash of cultures and generations.

**The Joy Luck Club** by Amy Tan

In 1949, four Chinese women begin meeting in San Francisco for fun. Forty years later, their daughters continue the tradition. Their stories reveal the close bonds as well as the conflicts that exist between mothers and daughters and also show the cultural clashes as these Chinese women assimilate to American culture.

**Assignment:** After reading the book, the student should describe the new ideals adopted by the immigrants, the conflict between these new ideals and their traditional ideals, and the consequences of that clash of cultures. This will become the basis for the first project of English 11.