

## Socratic Circle Transcription from a youtube clip: EHS English 2P

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00v5waIh\\_LQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00v5waIh_LQ)

### Discussion Prompt from “Things Fall Apart” by Chinua Achebe:

Analyze the Ibo concept of male and female crimes and draw conclusions about the Ibo notion of gender. What is assumed about women? What is assumed about men? Go beyond the concept of crime to find at least two examples from other parts of the novel that support your ideas. Lastly, state your opinion about how women and men should be viewed.

### Transcript:

- 1 **S1:** Angered by his wife who went to plait her hair at her friends house and did not return early enough to cook the afternoon meal this shows that men are violent and boss of their family (9.0 seconds)
- 2 **S2:** Well I have another quote, that shows that men are violent, like in page 38, wait I think wait, yeah 38, Okonkwo's second wife merely cut a few leaves off the umm banana tree to make some food and she said "so without umm further agreement Okonkwo gave her a beating" which means that Okonkwo had like superior and he beats whoever he wants to beat
- 3 **S3:** Well umm, I have another quote on page 13, his wife especially the youngest, lived in perpetual fear of his fire-y temper, and so did his little children, and that shows that he really does rule in his household and that everyone under him is treated like they're not treated with enough respect in my point of view (57.5 seconds)
- 4 **S4:** And I also believe that men are also providers like umm yams are like an important crop in the Ibo culture and I have a quote umm and it says "yams stood for many of us (1:18.7) and he could (survive on yams?) from one harvest to another to another wasn't going to (mumbling word)
- 5 **S5:** [Umm I] actually disagree with Skye's with what Skye's saying earlier, I don't think uh the lower the other people in the family besides Okonkwo are disrespected I just think that if Okonkwo gives off respect and if he feels he is disrespected back he lashes out and ah abusive

- 6 S3: So what makes you think that that's OK?
- 7 S5: It's not OK I'm just saying that I don't really think they are disrespected in the sense of manners, I just think that like you know (1:47.2)
- 8 S6: [Well] it was OK in their culture, but it wasn't OK in our culture today
- 9 S7: Do you agree with that Soria (name)? (1:55.2)
- 10 S8: Me?
- 11 S7: Do you agree with anything?
- 12 S8: Umm... Yes... Ummm... because.. ummm...
- 13 [laughter in background] 2:10.7
- 14 S8: wait..Ummmmmm.... wait what was his question? (2:17.4)
- 15 S7: Do you agree with... do you even know what we are talking about?
- 16 S5: Well Ok Umm since she doesn't know the question we haven't heard from Nate yet. Nate what do you think?
- 17 S9: Well I think that women are, well it seems that women are the least significant thing to Ibo, [background "I agree"] and like the men are the most powerful (2:36.3) and they control mostly everything just about everything and um they don't get penalized for what they do and they beat their women and stuff so..
- 18 S1: [My idea] ..oh go ahead

**19 S10:** Ummm men get titles and women can't so men get all the respect and all the pride while women just stay at home and cook and have kids

**20 S3:** So no matter what the woman does she doesn't really get respected for what she does she cooks she cleans she takes care of the kids but she still not treated with enough respect

**21** [yeah]

**22 S6:** Nope (3:07.7)

**23 S5:** I don't think it's respect personally, I think she doesn't get enough credit for what she does (3:12.1)

**24** [yeah]

**25 S6:** Yeah, like they are only as good as the kids they have (3:16.0)

**26** [S5: It's not really the same] thing, you can get respect..she..]

**27** [S3: Yes it is]

**28 S3:** Yeah it's the same thing... In a sense it's the same thing

**29** [S5: She doesn't get enough credit you know cooking and cleaning the house]

**30** [Do you agree Tamara?]

**31 S11:** Well she actually doesn't get either..

**32** [Yeah]

**33 S3:** Exactly so it doesn't make a difference whether she gets respect or credit because she gets none of them

**34** [right]

**35 S1:** No but...

**36 S6:** Ok so what are we arguing about?

**37** [laughter in background, unidentifiable chatter]

**38 S1:** Wait..OK..my idea builds upon Matt's idea because it's not it's not really about whether they getting disobeyed or not it's really about like head like it's like not that she is disrespecting them they just have in Ibo culture they like have a head game and they like it's not about them being disrespected it's like the principle of it and like while men are the boss women are weak and inferior they don't even own their own children but that like it's not about well respect

**39** [S3: what do you mean own your own children?]  
(4:11.3)

**40 S1:** They don't own their own children as in they don't get enough respect it's not about respect from the men, it's about like how the Ibo culture and the men look at how other men look at them, they don't wanna, that's why they have more than one wife, and the wives barely get to do anything it's because like the oracle says so (4:28.5)

**41 S3:** And a man has to earn his respect he can't just get respect he has to earn it by doing something or prove it and that's how the wives come along

**42 S5:** That's a great point, what do you think about that Krista?

**43 S12:** I think it's different because I think everyone should be treated with respect until they have shown that they don't deserve respect

**44 S3:** Why do you think about that Krista?

**45 S12:** Huh

**46 S3:** Why do you think about that?

**47 S12:** Because everyone is a person and everyone is their own person and it's like it's like just because you meet a person like out of no where and you don't know them you should disrespect them cuz like you don't know them or something you should show everyone respect because they are a person and you would want to be treated with respect so why not treat other people?

**48 S6:** I see what you mean

**49 S4:** [Well it's about tradition] and to them and to like have the men be the top of the culture and stuff and the community

**50** [S12: yeah]

**51 S12:** Yeah I agree

**52 S5:** Well I don't think it's just the Ibo culture, I think it's culture all around the world including ours, I think the men are always you know suppose to be the head of the household and women just kind of clean and cook, and I don't think that's right personally

**53** [multiple voice, yeah, yeah I agree with that, yeah]

**54 S2:** Well I agree with that, cuz the men they like give out the last night and like the women has to take the last name

**55** [S7: She doesn't have too]

**56** [S3: She doesn't have to take the last name]

**57 S2:** Man my wife gonna take my last name (5:38.4)

- 58 [some laughs some groans in the background]
- 59 **S1:** Well ...Well Matt pointed out to me that, Matt pointed out to me that, I have a quote that that when Okonkwo says "I have heard that in some tribes the men's children belong to his wife and her family. His friend [Machi] says you might as well say that the woman lies on top of the man when they are making the children" the idea of being on top means more powerful. I think that men and women should be viewed equally because they're all human beings but yeah
- 60 **S7:** I believe that since the women give birth then they should have the right to have the child over the man
- 61 [whooooo]
- 62 **S1:** But that's not the way it is cuz it's not American culture. But why do you think that?
- 63 [amen sister]
- 64 **T:** One minute (6:14.0)
- 64 **S9:** I mean like they both contribute to having a baby
- 66 [Yeah but then they should get more respect]
- 67 **S1:** Yeah but that's not the way it is, it's a different culture
- 68 [multiple people trying to speak at once]
- 69 **S5:** You know this whole conversation we've been talking but we haven't heard from..... Tamara (6:27.0)
- 70 [Tamara]
- 71 [laughter]
- 72 **S13:** Oh well.. You know to me it seems like some men don't want to rule their own women but you know in the Ibo culture they want to be a man and in this quote here it says "no matter how important a man was, if he uh was unable to rule a women or his child and especially his woman he is not or was really a man" page 53 (6:55.1)
- 73 **S3:** So that means like if they don't have the ruling hand then that means that they really just really ain't like .....yeah

- 74 [a weak man]
- 75 [multiple voices trying to talk ; unidentifiable talk]
- 76 **S1:** I see what you mean Skye, but this is not like its not US culture you have to like think about it how they think about it
- 77 **S3:** I was just repeated what Tamara said I didn't disagree or anything
- 78 **S1:** Yeah I know but you guys have to think about it like this, like look at all the other like they do other things weird
- 79 [timers beeps to end conversation] 7:21.9