**Honors Language Arts and Social Studies Africa** March 10

**Socratic Seminar Prompts**

1. Achebe set out to tell the story of Africa from an African perspective—does Achebe characterize the white Europeans as unfairly as the Europeans portray Africans? Why?
   1. How are the approaches of Mr. Kiaga, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Smith different and what perspectives/worldviews do each of them represent when it comes to imperialism? What role does religion play in imperialism?
   2. Examine the role of the missionaries in Things Fall Apart and Africa as whole. Is their presence entirely negative, entirely positive, or something else? What’s Achebe’s purpose?
2. Achebe’s representation of his African heritage is aimed directly at the Western reader.
   1. How do you believe Achebe wants the reader to see Africa after reading this novel? What techniques does Achebe use that are most successful? Which techniques does he use that are the least successful?
3. How did imperialism/colonization in Africa shape the modern cultural perspective of Africa? How does this affect both the cultural and political response to Africa?
4. How are the depictions of Africa in literature/the news reflective of the imperialist cultural perspective/lasting racism surrounding Africa?
5. Discuss how modern media erase Africans’ diversity, humanity, lives, traditions, etc.—cite specific evidence. What historical and literary traditions led to this?
6. How does the Belgian’s creation of the ‘Hutsi’ and ‘Tutsi’ distinction relate to other themes and topics from the units?