Unit 2 Remediation: RSLit 6 *\*\*Carefully annotate the text in support of your responses.*

*Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe

The following passage takes place in the Nigerian village of Umuofia after a female member of the village has been murdered by the enemy tribe of Mbaino. To prevent a war, Mbaino sends the killer’s son Ikemefuna to live in Umuofia with powerful tribesman Okonkwo.

Okonkworuled his household with a heavy hand. His wives, especially the youngest, lived in perpetual fear of his fiery temper, and so did his little children. Perhaps down in his heart Okonkwo was not a cruel man. But his whole life was dominated by fear, the fear of failure and of weakness. It was deeper and more intimate than the fear of evil and capricious gods and of magic, the fear of the forest, and of the forces of nature, malevolent, red in tooth and claw. Okonkwo’s fear was greater than these. It was not external but lay deep within himself. It was the fear of himself, lest he should be found to resemble his father. Even as a little boy he had resented his father’s failure and weakness, and even now he still remembered how he had suffered when a playmate had told him that his father was agbala. That was how Okonkwo first came to know that agbala was not only another name for a woman, it could also mean a man who had taken no title. And so 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.

During the planting season Okonkwo worked daily on his farms from cock-crow until the chickens went to roost. He was a very strong man and rarely felt fatigue. But his wives and young children were not as strong, and so they suffered. But they dared not complain openly. Okonkwo’s first son, Nwoye, was then twelve years old but was already causing his father great anxiety for his incipient laziness. At any rate, that was how it looked to his father, and he sought to correct him by constant nagging and beating. And so Nwoye was developing into a sad-faced youth.

…So when the daughter of Umuofia was killed in Mbaino, Ikemefuna came into Okonkwo’shousehold. When Okonkwo brought him home that day he called his most senior wife and handed him over to her.

“He belongs to the clan,” he told her. “So look after him.”

“Is he staying long with us?” she asked.

“Do what you are told, woman,” Okonkwo thundered, and stammered. “When did you become one of the ndichie of Umuofia?”

And so Nwoye’s mother took Ikemfuna to her hut and asked no more questions.

As for the boy himself, he was terribly afraid. He could not understand what was happening to him or what he had done. How could he know that his father had taken a hand in killing a daughter of Umuofia? All he knew was that a few men had arrived at their house, conversing with his father in low tones, and at the end he had been taken out and handed over to a stranger. His mother had wept bitterly, but he had been too surprised to weep. And so the stranger brought him, and a girl, a long, long way from home, through lonely forest paths. He did not know who the girl was, and he never saw her again.

1. This passage is told from which narrative point of view? RSL6
   1. Third person limited
   2. Third person omniscient
   3. First person
   4. Second person
2. The fact that “agbala” is a term for a woman and an unsuccessful man reveals what about Umuofian culture? RSL6
   1. Women are viewed as the weaker sex.
   2. Women are admired for their strength.
   3. It is acceptable for a woman to be in a position of leadership.
   4. Men are admired for their gentleness.
3. Which of the following phrases most accurately describes the narrator’s point of view? RSL6
   1. The narrator only has access to Okonkwo’s thoughts
   2. The narrator only has access to Ikemfuna’s thoughts.
   3. The narrator has access to both Okonkwo’s and Ikemfuna’s thoughts.
   4. The narrator has access to the thoughts of many of the characters, including Okonkwo, Ikemfuna, and Okonkwo’s wives.
4. According to the passage, all of the adjectives would describe Okonkwo’s culture EXCEPT…RSL6
   1. oppressive
   2. Strict
   3. understanding
   4. Orderly
5. All of the following details help to establish the passage’s point of view EXCEPT…RSL6
   1. One of those things was gentleness and another was idleness.
   2. As for the boy himself, he was terribly afraid.
   3. His wives, especially the youngest, lived in perpetual fear of his fiery temper, and so did his little children.
   4. And so Okonkwo was ruled by one passion—to hate everything that his father Unoka had loved.