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***Kennebecasis Public Library – Book Club Program***

**Librarian:** Madaline Boutilier

**Email:** [Madaline.boutilier@gnb.ca](mailto:Madaline.boutilier@gnb.ca) **Phone:** (506) 849-5314 and ask for her.

Please let Kirstin know which book(s) are selected so she can contact Madaline to reserve the book(s) the club wants to read next.

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**Date of the next meeting:** Thursday, June 26, at 1:30PM.

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***Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe***

**About the Author:** Chinua Achebe was a Nigerian author and a prominent figure in postcolonial literature, known for his novel *Things Fall Apart* and his contributions to African literature. Born in 1930, Achebe's work explored themes of cultural identity, colonialism, and the impact of social change on individuals and communities. He was a key voice in the African literary renaissance, influencing generations of writers.

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**A) Here are discussion questions to help kick-off discussion. Members can take turns reading the question aloud.**

- 1.** What is important about the title: "Things Fall Apart?" Is there a reference in the novel that explains the title?
- 2.** What are the conflicts in "Things Fall Apart?" What types of conflict (physical, moral, intellectual, or emotional) are present?
- 3.** How do the story's themes relate to the plot and characters?
- 4.** What are some symbols in "Things Fall Apart?" How do they relate to the plot and characters?
- 5.** Are the characters consistent in their actions? Are they fully developed characters? Are some characters more fully developed than others? How? Why?
- 6.** Do you find the characters likable? Are the characters people you would want to meet?
- 7.** What is the primary purpose of the story? Is it important or meaningful?
- 8.** Do you think the novel is meant to be political? What point was the author trying to make? Did he succeed?

9. Why is the novel so controversial? Do you think the book should be censored or banned? Should it be taught in schools?
10. How essential is the setting to the story? Could the story have taken place anywhere else?
11. What is the role of family and community in this novel? How does it change when the missionaries arrive?
12. Does the story end the way you expected? How? Why? What point do you think the author was making with the conclusion of the novel? Does your perspective change knowing there is a sequel?
13. Would you recommend this novel to a friend? Why or why not?
14. How is religion portrayed in this novel? Do you think the Christian missionaries had a positive or negative impact on the characters?
15. What is important about the time period the novel is set in?
16. Why do you think the author's decision to write the novel in English rather than his native language caused controversy?
17. What point is the author trying to make about the African identity? What problems does the author outline? Does he offer solutions?

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#### **B) Book questions and discussion from Book Club Members.**

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#### **C) Discussion and choosing of the next book to read (by popular vote).**

**May:** Things Fall Apart, by Chinua Achebe

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#### **C) Writing Prompts Exercise – Lead by Molly Titus**

How it works: A title is chosen, we write on that title for 10 minutes, then stop. The results can be surprising, satisfying and shocking! If anyone wants to read their piece to the group, they can, but there is no pressure to do so. We may try 2 or 3 prompts, depending on time and enjoyment. All Book Club members are welcome to stay for this writing exercise. All you need is pen and paper.

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