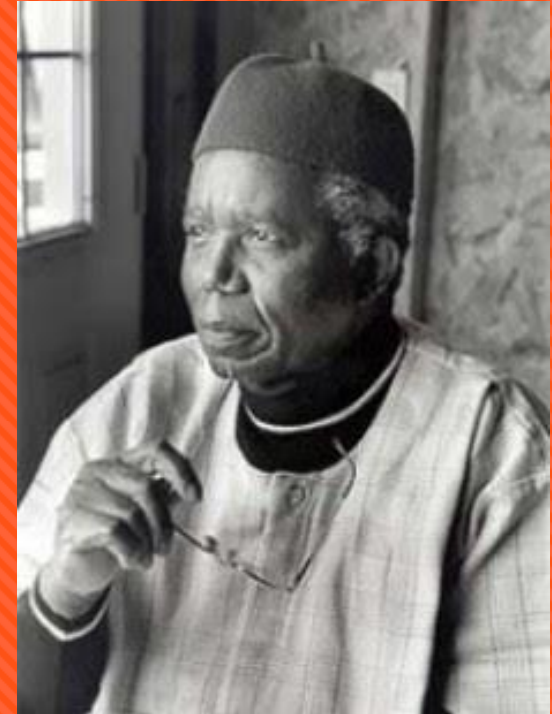
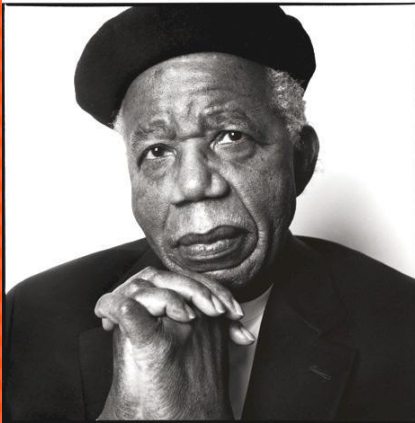


A close-up portrait of Chinua Achebe, an elderly man with glasses and a dark cap, smiling and resting his chin on his hand. The image has a warm, slightly desaturated tone.

CHINUA ACHEBE

By: Ashley Edwards (Bo6)

- Albert Chinualumogu Achebe
- Named after Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria
- That is his Christian given name
- Changed name in college to his Igbo name which is his middle name
- Chinualumogu means “may God fight for me”
- Called Chinua for short



HIS NAME

- Birthdate: November 16, 1930
- Deathdate: March 21, 2013
- Location:
 - Born in Ogidi in Eastern Nigeria
 - Grew up in Igbo town of Ogidi
 - Educated at Government College in Umuahia, Nigeria
 - Graduated from University College, Ibadan in 1954
 - Toured United States with fellow writers to lecture at universities



BACKGROUND

➤ Parents:

- Father: Isaiah Okafor Achebe, was a church missionary society catechist
- Mother: Janet Lleogbunam

➤ Family Life:

- Belonged to Igbo tribe
- Fifth of six children
- Representatives of British Government that controlled Nigeria convinced Isaiah and Janet to abandon their traditional religion and follow Christianity
- Chinua grew up Christian but was always curious about traditional Nigerian faiths

BACKGROUND

- 1961–66: Served as director of external broadcasting on the staff of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation
- 1967: Cofounded a publishing company at Enugu with another poet
- 1969: Achebe toured the United States with fellow writers, lecturing at universities.
- 1976 until 1981: Appointed research fellow at University of Nigeria after his return home and soon became an English professor, a position at which he held for some time
- After an automobile accident in Nigeria in 1990 that left him partially paralyzed, he moved to the United States, where he taught at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
- 2009: Achebe left Bard to join the faculty of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island

BACKGROUND

- Achebe had many goals throughout his life as a writer
- One of his goals within writing his book, "*Things Fall Apart*," was to present western readers, such as ourselves, with a thriving, dynamic African society. The scriptures, at that time, displayed Africa as a wild and primitive world that was completely different from the western ways of living because that was the only side of Africa westerners knew of
- Achebe worked to change the perceptions and assumptions about the place and its people



GOALS

- Achebe had a very long, inspiring career that included many years of broadcasting, teaching, publishing, and creative writing
- He really knew his way with words to provide the full story of Africa to his readers and prove that it wasn't just a land of poverty, hunger, and danger, but that was a beautiful, thriving land full of people with good lives.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Achebe is said to be wordsmith but the way he could **abuse** words was concerning to some
- He joined the language question debates that exploded in African literary circles four decades ago
- Achebe would disagree with those that said African writers wrote solely in their indigenous languages
- He fought for the use of colonial language because of the way it could be used. It describes the African way of life and how impactful it is as well as provides good imaginary detail for readers to interpret their own way
- At seventy-four, Chinua Achebe speaks with the same moral clarity and writes with the same force and consistency as he did over four decades ago, when his first novel contributed to set the stage for what we know today as postcolonial literature

LITERARY LANGUAGE

- 1959: Margaret Wong Memorial
- 1964: New Statesman Jock Campbell Award for Commonwealth Writers
- 1974: New Statesman Jock Campbell Award for Commonwealth Writers
- 1975: Lotus Award for Afro-Asian Writers
- 1987: Booker Prize for Fiction (shortlist)
- 1996: Champion Award (US)
- 2002: German Booksellers Peace Prize
- 2004 Achebe was awarded Nigeria's second-highest honor, but in an open letter to the Nigerian president, Achebe turned down the honor in protest: "I write this letter with a heavy heart.... Nigeria's condition today under your watch is, however, too dangerous for silence. I must register my disappointment and protest by declining to accept the high honor awarded me."
- 2007: Man Booker International Prize
- 2010: Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize
- 2010: Dayton Literary Peace Prize (US)



ACHIEVEMENTS

WORKS CITED

- "Chinua Achebe." Britannica Library, Encyclopædia Britannica, 18 Jul. 2017.library-eb-com.ezproxy.kcls.org/levels/referencecenter/article/Chinua-Achebe/3521. Accessed 29 Feb. 2020.
- "Chinua Achebe Biography." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, www.notablebiographies.com/A-An/Achebe-Chinua.html.
- "Chinua Achebe." *Literature*, 1 Jan. 1970, literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/chinua-achebe.
- Nnaemeka, Obioma. "Achebe, Chinua." *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450*, edited by Thomas Benjamin, vol. 1, Macmillan Reference USA, 2007, pp. 10-11. Gale eBooks, https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.kcls.org/apps/doc/CX2587300018/GVRL?u=kcls_main&sid=GVRL&xid=4de19324. Accessed 1 Mar. 2020.