**Okonkwo as Tragic Hero in Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart***

**Important Definitions:**

1. **Tragedy** = of an action that is and of a certain (according to Aristotle.)
2. **Tragic hero** = of story who makes a that inevitably leads to his/her own . Has a (hamartia) that leads to downfall. Oftentimes, this flaw is a sort of excessive (hubris).

**Purpose of tragedy:** to create in the audience, leading to a (catharsis).

**There are 3 main types of tragic hero. Some basic elements of each:**

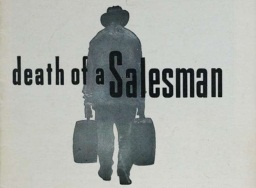
1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or high stature. Heroic or potentially heroic qualities.
* Fated by the Gods or supernatural force to doom or at least to great suffering. Reversal of fortune.
* Challenges fate. Belief in own freedom wins our admiration, despite pending doom.
* Tragic flaw = often resisting fate i.e. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Harsh punishment = death (not always)
* Public mourning

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Noble birth, or high stature. Has potential for greatness = his/her tragedy will have far-reaching effects.
* A good person, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Makes serious errors in judgment, including misreading of situations.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and isolates self
* Recognizes mistakes/flaw too late, so tries to at least die bravely.
* Tragic flaw
* Harsh punishment = death
* Public mourning

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** may be oppressor
* Does not have to be high born. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* May/not result in recognition of tragic flaw
* Harsh Punishment: May/not die
* May/not be mourned

Complete the following chart to show evidence of Okonkwo as a tragic hero. Use specific examples.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tragic Hero Defining quality | Okonkwo Details |
| A person whose fate matters to a nation or people. |  |
| Challenges Fate - struggles against supernatural forces or doom. |  |
| Has a tragic flaw (hamartia), a personality flaw, or is unable to accept a diminished view of the self.  Examples:   * + - Pride (hubris)     - Vanity     - Over confidence     - Arrogance     - Cowardice… |  |
| Fails errors in judgment bring about destruction and/or Fate or accident prevent success. |  |
| Develops deeper self-knowledge; -through suffering becomes enlightened.  Does anyone mourn him? |  |

Is Okonkwo a tragic hero? If so, does he fit any particular category? Explain.