

# Read Global: *Things Fall Apart*

## Readalikes

From NoveList Plus: <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/az.php>

*Lyrics Alley*, Leila Aboulela. FIC ABO

Reason: *Lyrics Alley* is set in Sudan while *Things Fall Apart* takes place in Africa, but both novels are moving portraits of individuals set against countries filled with political strife. – Victoria Caplinger

\**Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. FIC ADI

Reason: *Purple Hibiscus* and *Things Fall Apart* detail the disruptions in traditional tribal and family life wrought by major political changes. Both novels also feature self-made men and household tyrants unmade by the changes. – Shauna Griffin

\**Say You're One of Them*, Uwem Akpan. FIC AKP

Reason: *Things Fall Apart* tells the sobering story of European missionaries in Africa, while *Say You're One of Them* depicts heartbreaking scenes of chaos and war, as narrated by African children. Both books are haunting and harrowing. – Victoria Caplinger

*She Would Be King*, Wayetu Moore. FIC MOO

Reason: These books are thought-provoking and stylistically complex, and they have the theme “facing racism”; the genres “historical fiction” and “literary fiction”; the subjects “colonialism,” “race relations,” and “racism”; and have characters that are complex.

\**Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi. FIC GYA

Reason: These books are bleak, stylistically complex, and issue-oriented, and they have the theme “facing racism”; the genre “literary fiction”; the subjects “race relations” and “racism”; and have characters that are complex.

*The Bride Price*, Buchi Emecheta. FIC EME

Reason: These books are bleak and stylistically complex, and they have the genre “psychological fiction”; and the subjects “culture conflict,” “Igbo (African people),” and “villages.”

\**Exit West*, Mohsin Hamid. FIC HAM

Reason: These books are bleak, and they have the theme “facing racism”; the genres “literary fiction” and “war stories”; and the subject “culture conflict.”

\**A Bend in the River*, V.S. Naipaul, V. S. FIC NAI

Reason: These books are thought-provoking, bleak, and stylistically complex, and they have the genres “modern classics” and “literary fiction”; and the subjects “colonialism” and “villages.”

\**The Old Drift*, Namwali Serpell. FIC SER

Reason: These books are stylistically complex, and they have the theme “facing racism”; the genre “literary fiction”; and the subjects “colonialism,” “race relations,” and “postcolonialism.”

\* ebook or eaudiobook available

## Notes & Resources

[The Second Coming](#), W.B. Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.  
Surely some revelation is at hand;

Surely the Second Coming is at hand.  
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out  
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi  
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert  
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,  
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,  
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it  
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.  
The darkness drops again; but now I know  
That twenty centuries of stony sleep  
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle  
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,  
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

## Library Resources

[Gale Literature](#)

An integrated research experience that brings together a variety of literary databases in a digital environment, allowing researchers and students to search across resources to discover and analyze content in useful ways. A combination of literary content and dependable searchability enriched by database features and design to advance the study of literature.

[Literature Resource Center](#)

Provides readers, students, and researchers with full-text and multimedia biographies, overviews, analysis, reviews, and criticism, including primary sources, on authors and works from around the world, past and present.

[LitFinder](#)

Offers poems, short stories, speeches, and plays alongside information on authors past and present, with biographies, summaries, images, and references to additional resources.