HWL Seminar Prep

1. How successful is Achebe in illustrating through Part 1 of Things Fall Apart “a balance of stories where every people will be able to contribute to a definition of themselves”?
2. Achebe said, “It was only later I discovered [Yeats’s] theory of circles or cycles of civilization. I wasn’t thinking of that at all when it came time to find a title. That phrase ‘things fall apart’ seemed to me just right and appropriate.” How appropriate is the novel’s title given the central idea of the titular poem?
3. Achebe has also said, “I believe in the complexity of the human story and that there’s no way you can tell that story in one way and say, this is it. Always there will be someone who can tell it differently depending on where they are standing….This is the way I think the world’s stories should be told—from many different perspectives.” Based on the various texts read in this unit, do you agree or disagree with Achebe’s interpretation?
4. How does literature engage readers in developing an understanding of the human condition? (RL.9-10.2)