

# Introduction to Twentieth-Century Literature

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(Murray 019, Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30–4:30)

April 10, 2017. Achebe (3).

- ▶ Victoria: the *egwugwu* (89)
- ▶ Milly: the *ogbanje* (77)

# Achebe reads

- ▶ 133–35 (PEN America audio)
- ▶ Why here?

## writing back

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One could almost write a whole chapter on him. Perhaps not a whole chapter but a reasonable paragraph. (208–9)

- ▶ How does the novel respond to the Commissioner?

## interpretation

“Your buttocks understand our language,” said someone light-heartedly and the crowd laughed.

“What did he say?” the white man asked his interpreter. But before he could answer, another man asked a question: “Where is the white man’s horse?” he asked. The Ibo evangelists consulted among themselves and decided that the man probably meant bicycle. They told the white man and he smiled benevolently.

“Tell them,” he said, “that I shall bring many iron horses when we have settled down among them.” (145)

which side is he on?

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(146)

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The hymn about brothers who sat in darkness and in fear seemed to answer a vague and persistent question that haunted his young soul—the question of the twins crying in the bush and the question of Ikemefuna who was killed. (147)

## next

- ▶ read Quayson; bring printout; takes notes on:
  - ▶ address to other scholars
  - ▶ major claims
  - ▶ argue back?
- ▶ “Chike’s School Days” in *N*: strongly encouraged but optional