MOTIF & JUXTAPOSITION

UNDERSTANDING OUR PROTAGONIST
vocabulary...

➔ **MOTIF**

➔ an object or idea that repeats itself throughout a literary work;
➔ a recurrent image, idea, contrast, or symbol that develops or explains a theme

FOR EXAMPLE:

➔ Loneliness/Companionship (OMAM)
➔ Strength/Weakness (OMAM)
➔ Sensory details, like the beating of a heart (Poe’s “AT-TH”)
➔ The ring of power (LOTR)
➔ The yellow-brick road (TWOO)
➔ The whistle of the mockingjay (THG)
vocabulary...

➔ **JUXTAPOSITION**
➔ a person, concept, place, idea or theme placed parallel to another in a story:
➔ the purpose of juxtaposing two related entities close together in literature is to highlight the contrast between the two and compare them

**EXAMPLES:**
➔ Lenny and George
➔ Good and Evil
➔ Mike and Sully
➔ Legolas and Gimli
➔ Different Realities/Worlds (like in “The Matrix”)
➔ "Her rosy lips touched her withered cheek."
vocabulary...

➔ **FOIL**

➔ a character in a story who contrasts with the main character, usually to highlight one of their attributes

**EXAMPLES:**

➔ Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, and Ron Weasley (consider how each character helps to define the others)

➔ Superhero and their Arch-Enemy
vocabulary...

➔ PROTAGONIST
➔ the main character or lead figure in a novel, play, story, or poem;
➔ typically are the most well-rounded (authentic) characters; who we tend to empathize with

EXAMPLES:
➔ well, you know, main characters and stuff. They are not always likeable, though. What about Okonkwo?

➔ ANTAGONIST
➔ a character in a story or poem who deceives, frustrates, or works again the main character, or protagonist, in some way;
➔ any challenge, person, animal, or construct that prevents the main character from achieving their goals

EXAMPLES:
➔ villain
➔ disaster
➔ an idea or virtue (like evil, or corruption)
➔ even death
How does this clip fulfill the requirements of our vocab?

Where might they be present in Things Fall Apart?