



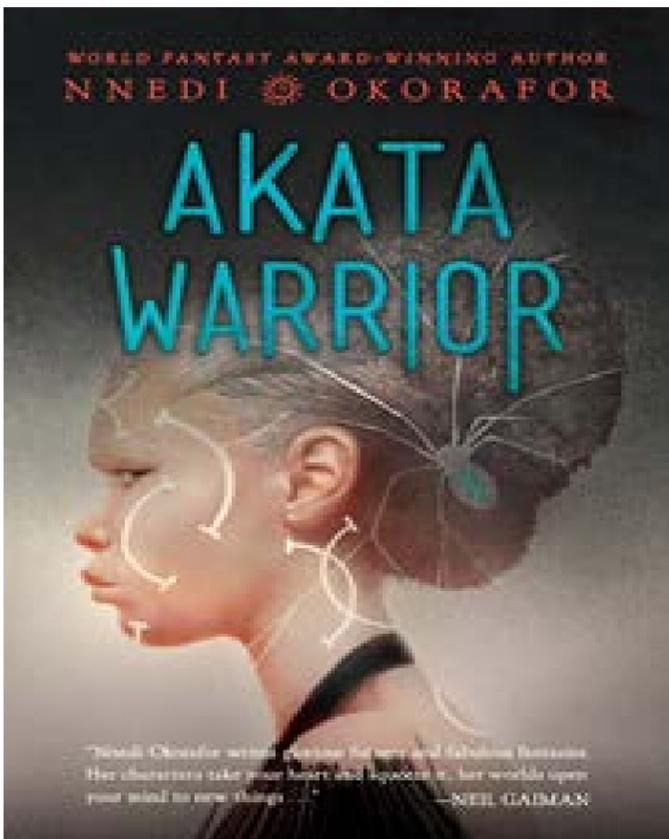
Bringing Africa to your Classroom

Akata Warrior
by
NNedi Okorafor

Topics Covered | Things to Introduce:

- Vulnerabilities/fear
- Self-identity
- Friendship

- Level: High school, young adult
- Country Focus: Nigeria
- Language Focus: Igbo



A year ago, Sunny Nwazue, an American-born Nigerian girl, was inducted into the secret Leopard Society. As she began to develop her magical powers, Sunny learned that she had been chosen to lead a dangerous mission to avert an apocalypse, brought about by the terrifying masquerade, Ekwensu. Now, stronger, feistier, and a bit older, Sunny is studying with her mentor Sugar Cream and struggling to unlock the secrets in her strange Nsibidi book. Eventually, Sunny knows she must confront her destiny. With the support of her Leopard Society friends, Orlu, Chichi, and Sasha, and of her spirit face, Anyanwu, she will travel through worlds both visible and invisible to the mysteries town of Osi, where she will fight a climactic battle to save humanity.

From Author's Blog: About Nnedi Okorafor

Nnedi Okorafor is an international award-winning novelist of African-based science fiction, fantasy and magical realism for both children and adults. Born in the United States to two Nigerian immigrant parents, Nnedi is known for weaving African culture into creative evocative settings and memorable characters. In a profile of Nnedi's work titled, "Weapons of Mass Creation", The New York Times called Nnedi's imagination "stunning".

Discussion Questions

- What does the term *ākata* mean and why is it used?
- What is a Leopard Society and how does one gain acceptance into this group?
- Why is it forbidden by Leopard Law to reveal your spirit self?
- Having lost her spirit face, how does Sunny overcome her vulnerabilities and fears.
- How are Sunny and her friends able to defeat Ekwensu, the terrifying masquerade?
- How does the masquerades in the book relate to the masquerades in Igbo culture? What are the similarities and differences?
- The book does a wonderful job of merging traditional practices with modern values. How is this evident?
- How does the acceptance of her weaknesses (i.e. albinism, losing her spirit face) provide Sunny with a greater sense of self?
- This story provides great examples of the value of friendship. How would you define the value of friendship and how does it manifest in your life?

Activity Suggestions/ Resources

If possible, tell us about a time when you had to overcome some sort of adversity to discover your true self or increase your sense of self-awareness? What types of vulnerabilities and fears did you have to face and/or accept?

If you enjoyed *Akata Warrior* you may also enjoy the prequel, *Akata Witch*, which tells of Sunny's adjustment to her new country, the discovery of her magical abilities and induction into the Leopard society.



Country Fact Box: Nigeria



Capital:

Abuja

Population:

190 Million People

People from Nigeria are called:

Nigerians

Main Languages Spoken in Nigeria:

Igbo, Yoruba, English, Hausa, Fulfulde, Kanuri, Tiv

Language Box: Igbo

How many people speak Igbo as their mother tongue?

32 Million

Practice some Igbo!

Number	English	Igbo
1	One	Ofu
2	Two	Abuo
3	Three	Ato
4	Four	Ano
5	Five	Ise

Good day	<i>ubochi oma</i>
Welcome	<i>nnoo</i>
Good bye	<i>ka e mesia</i>
Please	<i>biko</i>
Thank you	<i>I meela</i>
No	<i>mba</i>
Yes	<i>e-e</i>
Man	<i>nwoke</i>
Woman	<i>nwanyị</i>

For more information on Igbo and what it sounds like, visit

<http://aboutworldlanguages.com/igbo>