**Making Meanings**

**Marriage Is a Private Affair**

**First Thoughts**

**1.** What are some similarities and differences between your generation’s attitudes toward love and marriage and those of the generation before you.

**Shaping Interpretations**

**2.** What is the **irony** of the story’s title?

**3.** This story bursts with **conflicts** among people and ideas. What are at least two of these conflicts? Does the story resolve them? If so, how?

**4.** How would you describe Okeke’s **character**? Use details from the story to support your answer.

**5.** What do you think happened to the herbalist, and why would Achebe include that anecdote?

**6.** What might the rain at the end of the story **symbolize**?

**7.** The story’s subject is a marriage that occurs against a parent’s wishes, but what is the story’s **theme** (main idea)?

**Extending the Text**

**8**. You hear much talk today about “traditional values” and about the “multicultural society.” What are some contemporary examples of clashes in values, and how would you relate them to this story’s plot and theme?