“An Image of Africa: Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*”

**Part I**

As you read the essay, please respond to the following questions to establish a baseline understand of Achebe’s arguments.

1. Why is the fact that for Conrad the Thames represents silence and the Congo represents frenzy significant to Achebe?
2. Achebe quotes a couple of long paragraphs that describe the Africans Marlow encounters. What does Achebe claim Conrad is trying to portray about the African’s humanity in relation to Europeans?
3. What reasons does Achebe give to account for the fact that Conrad generally doesn’t allow the African characters to speak in his story?
4. Achebe asserts that nobody has ever commented on Conrad’s racism before. What reasons does he give for this?

**Part II**

You have just read Achebe’s argument – now you need to either support or refute his ideas. Find three direct quotes from *Heart of Darkness* that either support or refute Achebe’s claim that the book is racist and should not be considered “art.” (Note: By extension he is arguing that the book should not be taught due to its content.) Write each quote down on the **front** of a 3x5 card (one quote per card, no more than 40 words in length), providing a brief discussion on the **back** of the card as to how the quote supports YOUR position. Bring the three cards to class tomorrow and prepare to defend your position in a class debate.