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

AP English Literature

**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?