



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

Angela's Ashes

Frank McCourt

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Angela's Ashes

Frank McCourt

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Note to the Teacher

Selected activities, quizzes, and test questions in this Novel Units® Student Packet are labeled with the following reading/language arts skills for quick reference. These skills can be found above quiz/test questions or sections and in the activity headings.

Basic Understanding: The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of written texts. The student will:

- use a text's structure or other sources to locate and recall information (Locate Information)
- determine main idea and identify relevant facts and details (Main Idea and Details)
- use prior knowledge and experience to comprehend and bring meaning to a text (Prior Knowledge)
- summarize major ideas in a text (Summarize Major Ideas)

Literary Elements: The student will apply knowledge of literary elements to understand written texts. The student will:

- analyze characters from a story (Character Analysis)
- analyze conflict and problem resolution (Conflict/Resolution)
- recognize and interpret literary devices (flashback, foreshadowing, symbolism, simile, metaphor, etc.) (Literary Devices)
- consider characters' points of view (Point of View)
- recognize and analyze a story's setting (Setting)
- understand and explain themes in a text (Theme)

Analyze Written Texts: The student will use a variety of strategies to analyze written texts. The student will:

- identify the author's purpose (Author's Purpose)
- identify cause and effect relationships in a text (Cause/Effect)
- identify characteristics representative of a given genre (Genre)
- interpret information given in a text (Interpret Text)
- make and verify predictions with information from a text (Predictions)
- sequence events in chronological order (Sequencing)
- identify and use multiple text formats (Text Format)
- follow written directions and write directions for others to follow (Follow/Write Directions)

Critical Thinking: The student will apply critical-thinking skills to analyze written texts. The student will:

- write and complete analogies (Analogies)
- find similarities and differences throughout a text (Compare/Contrast)
- draw conclusions from information given (Drawing Conclusions)
- make and explain inferences (Inferences)
- respond to texts by making connections and observations (Making Connections)
- recognize and identify the mood of a text (Mood)
- recognize an author's style and how it affects a text (Style)
- support responses by referring to relevant aspects of a text (Support Responses)
- recognize and identify the author's tone (Tone)
- write to entertain, such as through humorous poetry or short stories (Write to Entertain)
- write to express ideas (Write to Express)
- write to inform (Write to Inform)
- write to persuade (Write to Persuade)
- demonstrate understanding by creating visual images based on text descriptions (Visualizing)
- practice math skills as they relate to a text (Math Skills)

Name _____

Angela's Ashes
Activity #8 • Vocabulary
Chapters X–XII

Word Map

sallow
gangrene
liniment

lamentations
mandolins
brigade

contraption
vespers
gallivanting

atrocious
arrears

Directions: Complete the word map below for six of the vocabulary words above.

Definition

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Synonym

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Antonym

Vocabulary Word

Pronunciation

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Part of Speech

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Sentence

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Name _____

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief answer to each question as you read the book at home or in class. Use the questions to guide your reading, prepare for class discussions, and review for quizzes and tests. Thought or opinion questions are marked with an asterisk.

Chapter I

1. How does Frank McCourt initially describe his childhood?
2. Why do Delia and Philomena visit Malachy in the speakeasy?
3. What is Malachy's escape plan, and how does it fail?
4. What is Frank's "story," and why can nobody else take ownership?
5. How is life for the McCourts when Malachy brings home his wages? How do things change when he doesn't?
6. Who helps the McCourt family get by in their time of need? What do they do?
7. What does Malachy do after Margaret dies?
- *8. How do Delia and Philomena help Angela after Margaret dies? Do you think this is a good idea?
9. How does Philomena insult Delia's husband? How does Delia respond?
- *10. What is ironic about Angela pointing out the landmarks as Frank's family leaves New York?

Chapter II

1. What new things both interest and frighten Frank and his siblings when they arrive in Ireland?
- *2. Why do you think Angela cries when Malachy's family offers to send them to Dublin?
3. How can Frank tell if his mother is in a good or bad mood?
4. Who is Mr. Heggarty, and why does Malachy go to see him? What is the result of this visit?
5. What does Grandma do for Angela's family? What unwanted visitors wake the McCourts in the middle of the night? Whom does Malachy inadvertently meet on the street?
6. What does Nora threaten to do when Mr. Quinlivan gives her trouble at the charity office? How does he respond?
- *7. What ideas does Nora have about life in America? Is this an accurate picture?
- *8. What must the family do each time one of the children dies? How do you think this helps Angela?

Name _____

Story Map

Directions: Fill in each box below with information about the book.

The Story Map consists of the following boxes and connections:

- Main Characters** (top left)
- Setting (time and place)** (top right)
- Main Conflict** (middle left)
- Summary of Major Story Events** (center)
- Climax** (bottom left)
- Resolution of Conflict** (bottom right)

Dashed arrows indicate the following relationships:

- From **Main Characters** to **Setting (time and place)**
- From **Setting (time and place)** to **Main Conflict**
- From **Main Conflict** to **Summary of Major Story Events**
- From **Summary of Major Story Events** to **Climax**
- From **Climax** to **Resolution of Conflict**
- From **Summary of Major Story Events** to **Resolution of Conflict**
- From **Resolution of Conflict** back to **Summary of Major Story Events**