



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

ANGELA'S ASHES

BY FRANK MCCOURT



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Written by Catherine L. Lavin

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1 – 4**Vocabulary****Objective:** Understanding meaning of unfamiliar words**Activity**

Study the vocabulary in the following chart. Each of these vocabulary words was used in Chapters 1 – 4. Explain the meaning of each word. Use it in a sentence within the context of Angela's Ashes. The first sample has been completed for you. You may use a dictionary, if necessary.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Science Teacher:

Dear _____,

Parent/Teacher Organization:

Dear _____,

Best Friend:

Dear _____,

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 2

Vignette

Objective: Writing a vignette

Activity

A *vignette* can be described as a short descriptive literary sketch or a brief incident or scene. McCourt's memoir is filled with such sketches. In them we learn about Frank McCourt's dreams, frustrations, and satisfactions as we are being introduced to family, friends, and places. In Chapter 2 we see him arriving in Ireland and meeting his father's family; we travel to Dublin with him; we meet his mother's family for the first time; and we "witness" several sad moments in his life.

To prepare yourself to write a vignette from your own life, sketch a blueprint of where you lived as a young child. Draw the floor plan of your home; add neighbors and neighboring buildings. You don't have to be artistic. Stick figures work well. The drawing only has to make sense to you. Mark the spots where you recall good or bad things happening to you. Many memories should come back to you through your drawing.

Choose a particular incident and tell your own story. Let your readers know how old you are. Recall your senses. What did you see, hear, smell, touch, and taste? What did you know? Want to know? Hope for? Your vignette must be a minimum of two pages, but feel free to make it longer if needed to tell your story.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 4

Research

Objective: Updating information regarding the Roman Catholic Church

Activity

The one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Roman Catholic Church described in *Angela's Ashes* bears little if any resemblance to Catholicism in the United States today. Research current Roman Catholic teaching in the United States regarding the following topics that are covered in Chapter 4:

- Approved catechism or religion books used in preparation for First Communion and First Confession
- Bread used for Communion
- Manner of receiving Communion
- Use of Latin
- Language used in local communities
- Mystical Body of Christ
- Sin
- Grace

For your research, use a minimum of four sources. Only two may be from the Internet. You may interview priests or religion teachers.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What is the mood of this poem?

2. In what ways does the poem reflect Malachy McCourt?

3. Explain whether or not the words spoken about Limerick were true in Angela's experience.

4. How does the image of the river in the poem compare with the way *Angela's Ashes* presents the River Shannon?

5. Why do you think Frank is confused when he hears the poem?

6. Why do you think Minnie MacAdorey gave Angela this poem?

7. What difference would it have made if McCourt had used this poem in Chapter 1?

8. What insights did you gain from this discussion?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 6**Creative Writing**

Objective: Using clues given in Chapter 6 to evaluate McCourt's school and his teachers

Activity

You are very familiar with report cards that evaluate students. Working in small groups, use your experience and understanding of evaluations to devise a report card for Leamy's National School. Use your imagination in deciding what to evaluate and how to rank the school. Some topics you might consider covering are teachers, building, equipment, hygiene, and morale.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 8**Characters**

Objective: Exploring the impact that relationships with certain characters have on the narrator

Activity

In Chapter 8 Frank describes what it like to be in Mr. Thomas O'Halloran's sixth-term class. He also depicts rituals with his dad. Both men are educators of Frank McCourt and have a strong impact on McCourt's development.

1. As you read Chapter 8, note what Frank learned from each man.

Mr. Thomas O'Halloran	Mr. Malachy McCourt

2. Why do you think McCourt included vignettes about both his father and Mr. O'Halloran within the same chapter?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 10

Investigative Reporting and Writing

Objective: Exploring ways a reporter might interview the characters in this chapter

Activity

In Chapter 10 Angela develops pneumonia and nearly dies. Assume that you are an investigative reporter for the *Limerick Leader*. You are asked to look up all the people involved in the drama and interview them. Present your completed interviews as if they were ready to publish in the newspaper.

Decide what questions you want to ask each character. Then compose answers. Use a separate piece of paper for longer questions and answers.

- Angela
- Frank
- Malachy
- Michael
- Alphie
- Maids on the rich avenues
- Rich woman who talks with Malachy
- Guard Dennehy
- Grandma
- Aunt Aggie
- Doctor
- Uncle Pa Keating
- Woman in church
- Malachy McCourt, Sr.