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Activity Pack
Literature Made Fun!



Angela's Ashes
BY FRANK MCCOURT



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Table of Contents

Pre-Reading	
Analyzing Publisher's Clues	6
Setting.....	10
Chapter 1	
Premise	14
Chapters 1 – 4	
Vocabulary	16
Chapter 1	
Tone	20
Chapters 1 – 18	
Narrative Voice and Audience	24
Topic	30
Chapter 2	
Vignette	34
Voice	36
Chapter 3	
Dramatization.....	38
Images.....	40
Chapters 1 – 3	
Character Analysis.....	42
Chapter 4	
Research.....	46
Punctuation and Grammar.....	48
Chapter 5	
Poetry	50
Advice.....	54
Chapters 1 – 5	
Research.....	56
Chapter 6	
Creative Writing	60
Chapters 1 – 7	
Motif.....	62

Chapter 7	
Irony	64
Chapter 8	
Context.....	66
Characters.....	68
Newspaper Writing.....	70
Chapters 6 – 8	
Literary Devices.....	72
Chapter 9	
Marketing	76
Motif	78
Chapter 10	
Point of View	80
Investigative Reporting and Writing	82
Chapter 11	
Poetry	84
Style.....	86
Chapter 12	
Motif.....	92
Character Analysis.....	94
Chapter 13	
Point of View	98
Chapter 14	
Creative Writing	102
Chapter 15	
Creative Writing	104
Character Analysis.....	106
Chapter 16	
Character Influences.....	110
Chapter 17	
Recreating a Scene	112
Chapter 18	
Inference.....	114

Post-Reading	
Title	116
Wrap-Up	
Setting.....	118
Film Review.....	122
Appendices	
Terms and Definitions	124
Dramatization of Scenes in the Novel	126
Writing Poems.....	127
Small Group Learning	129
Procedures for Small Group Work	131
Small Group Evaluation Sheet.....	132
Student Roles in Group Discussions	133

All references come from the Scribner edition of *Angela's Ashes*, copyright 1996.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Analyzing Publisher's Clues****Objective:** Using clues given by the publisher to learn about the book**Activity**

A publisher uses the title, cover design, and readers' comments to entice customers to become interested enough in the book to purchase it. The following worksheet will help you explore these features of *Angela's Ashes*. Working individually, fill in your responses. You may use a dictionary.

1. What clues are revealed by the title and subtitle?

2. What is a memoir? How does it differ from an autobiography?

3. Now that you know the difference between autobiography and memoir, what do you expect to read in this book?

4. Study the cover photograph for a moment or two. Form an overall impression of the photograph, and then examine individual parts of it. Based on your observations, list three things you might infer from this photo.

5. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1 – 18**Narrative Voice and Audience**

Objective: Understanding the attitude and voice of the narrator in relationship to audience

Activity

This is a two-part activity.

1. Assume that you and your friends have just attended a school-sponsored trip to a famous science museum. The trip included an overnight stay at a hotel. Compose a brief note about your experience for each of the following:
 - your science teacher
 - the parent/teacher organization that paid for the trip
 - your best friend who cancelled at the last minute because of the flu.
2. Throughout the novel, McCourt's narrative voice changes as he moves through different stages of his life. As you read each chapter, note how the age of the narrator affects his attitude and tone. The first line (for acknowledgments) has been completed to give you an example of what is expected.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 3**Images****Objective:** Reflecting on images used by McCourt's father**Activity**

Malachy McCourt loved telling stories, and his son Frankie loved hearing them. Two of Malachy McCourt's most memorable stories surface in Chapter 3: Italy and the Angel on the Seventh Step. Working in small groups, read each story and reflect on the image presented. Together, fill in the appropriate answers for each story.

Italy image:**What this section reveals about Malachy McCourt**

--

Angel on the Seventh Step:**What these sections reveal about Frank McCourt**

--

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: _____

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 9**Marketing**

Objective: Exploring ways to market English work to Irish workers

Activity

In Chapter 9, McCourt describes English agents who are in Limerick trying to recruit Irish workers to come to England for work. Assume that you are one of the English agents. You ask your boss for some marketing help. Your boss responds by agreeing to an advertising campaign either in the local newspaper or on the radio. Working in groups, devise a marketing plan that could be effective. Create the radio or print ads and present them to the rest of the class. Use your imaginations but make sure the campaign is consistent with the time and the place of *Angela's Ashes*.