English 1 (8th Grade)

Summer Reading Assignment: Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

Digital Copy: ■ Angela's Ashes.pdf Google Classroom Code: vwymqz52

**If you do not have access to a device over the summer, hard copies of this assignment and the book are available in the front office.

PART [*]	1: Pre-Reading Assignment — Building Background (Due before reading)
	understand the world Frank McCourt grew up in, research the following and respond in complete aphs (5–7 sentences each in MLA format. According to it says "").
1.	The Great Depression & Irish Immigration: What was life like for Irish immigrants during the Great Depression in America? Why did many return to Ireland?
<i>2.</i>	Catholicism in Ireland: What role did the Catholic Church play in everyday Irish life during the 1930s and 40s?
3.	Limerick, Ireland – Setting Study: Describe the geography, economy, and social conditions of Limerick during McCourt's childhood.
4.	Memoir vs. Autobiography: Define both and explain how Angela's Ashes fits into the memoir category. Why might McCourt choose this format?

PART 2: During Reading Assignment — Literary Journal (Ongoing while reading)

As you read *Angela's Ashes*, keep a **literary journal** with at least **10 entries** (1 per 2-3 chapters - Complete on Google Docs and be sure to number your entries)

Each journal entry should include:

- A **meaningful quote** from the chapter (with page number).
- A **1-paragraph analysis** (5–8 sentences) that explains:
 - What's happening in the story
 - Why the quote is important
 What it reveals about Frank, his family, or a major theme (poverty, religion, shame, resilience, etc.)

Example format:

• Quote: "It's lovely to know the world can't interfere with the inside of your head." (McCourt, p. 208)

• Analysis: [Your paragraph here.]

PART 3: Post-Reading Assignment — Critical Reflection (Typed, MLA format)

After finishing the novel, write a well-developed **literary analysis essay** (500–750 words) on **one** of the following topics: (type in a Google Doc)

Choose ONE:

- 1. Analyze how poverty affects identity and development in Angela's Ashes.
- 2. Explore the role of religion in shaping Frank McCourt's childhood and values.
- 3. Discuss the influence of family and parental figures (especially Angela and Malachy) on Frank's journey to adulthood.

Your essay must:

- Have a clear thesis
- Use at least 3 direct quotes from the memoir
- Include thoughtful commentary and analysis
- Be free from grammar/spelling errors

PART 4: Creative Project — "Voices from the Memoir"

Choose one of the creative options below to demonstrate your connection to the text:

Option A: Visual Digital Timeline Poster: Create a **visual timeline** (via Canva) of Frank's life with **at least 8 significant moments**, **including**:

- Descriptions of the event
- Visuals (drawings or printed images)
- Emotional tone/impact on Frank's growth

Option B: Illustrated Digital Map of Frank's Journey: Design a **detailed map** (via Canva or Google Doc) showing the key locations Frank travels to throughout the memoir (Brooklyn, Limerick, various neighborhoods, etc.). **Include:**

- Descriptions of each place
- Events that occurred there
- Quotes or illustrations tied to each location

Option C: Character Scrapbook (Angela or Frank): Create a **scrapbook** (via Canva) from the perspective of Frank or Angela. **Include:**

- 6–8 pages with letters, drawings/photos, mementos, diary entries, etc.
- Each page should represent an important memory or theme
- Include quotes and visual detail

Option D: Spoken Word Poem or Monologue: Write <u>and</u> perform/record a spoken word poem or dramatic monologue from Frank's point of view reflecting on a turning point in his life. Your piece must: (submit the typed work via Google Doc and video)

- Be at least 1.5–2 minutes long
- Use vivid language and emotion
- Include lines/phrases inspired by the memoir

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Note: When submitting your work to Google Classroom, you should answer Part 1 on this document. Part 2 and Part 3 should be completed on a Google Doc. Part 4 should be completed based on the option you chose to complete (either Google Doc or Canva). If you use Canva, you MUST share it with me prior to submitting your work.

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Component	Criteria	Points
Part 1: Pre-Reading Research	- Four topics fully addressed in thoughtful, detailed paragraphs (5–7 sentences each) - Shows understanding of historical and cultural context - Uses formal tone and correct grammar	20 points
Part 2: Literary Journal (During Reading)	 - 10 complete entries with meaningful quotes and insightful analysis - Demonstrates understanding of plot, character, and theme - Clearly connects quotes to meaning - Well organized and free from major grammar issues 	25 points
Part 3: Post-Reading Essay	- Essay includes strong thesis, introduction, body, and conclusion - Cites at least 3 quotes with explanation - Clearly analyzes theme or character - Meets word count (500–750 words) and follows MLA format - Few to no grammar/spelling errors	30 points
Part 4: Creative Project	- Meets all requirements of chosen creative option - Demonstrates thought, effort, and creativity - Reflects understanding of the memoir's key events or themes - Visually or verbally engaging - Completed with care and pride	25 points