


# English 1 (8th Grade)

## Summer Reading Assignment: *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt

Digital Copy:  [Angela's Ashes.pdf](#)

Google Classroom Code: jgvaptzn

**\*\*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)

To fully understand the world Frank McCourt grew up in, research the following and respond in **complete paragraphs** (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?

2. **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

## RUBRIC

**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
<b>Part 1: Pre-Reading Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four topics fully addressed in thoughtful, detailed paragraphs (5–7 sentences each)</li> <li>- Shows understanding of historical and cultural context</li> <li>- Uses formal tone and correct grammar</li> </ul>	<b>20 points</b>
<b>Part 2: Literary Journal (During Reading)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 complete entries with meaningful quotes and insightful analysis</li> <li>- Demonstrates understanding of plot, character, and theme</li> <li>- Clearly connects quotes to meaning</li> <li>- Well organized and free from major grammar issues</li> </ul>	<b>25 points</b>
<b>Part 3: Post-Reading Essay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Essay includes strong thesis, introduction, body, and conclusion</li> <li>- Cites at least 3 quotes with explanation</li> <li>- Clearly analyzes theme or character</li> <li>- Meets word count (500–750 words) and follows MLA format</li> <li>- Few to no grammar/spelling errors</li> </ul>	<b>30 points</b>
<b>Part 4: Creative Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meets all requirements of chosen creative option</li> <li>- Demonstrates thought, effort, and creativity</li> <li>- Reflects understanding of the memoir's key events or themes</li> <li>- Visually or verbally engaging</li> <li>- Completed with care and pride</li> </ul>	<b>25 points</b>