

Summer Reading

for students entering English 10H

Like fiction writers, authors of non-fiction must decide about how best to tell their stories. In his autobiography *Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt brings the reader into his home in Ireland during a particularly tumultuous time, both for the country and his family. Obtain a copy of this book, which is widely available online, in bookstores and libraries. As you read, focus on the way in which McCourt relays his story to readers. Then, respond to the following prompt in a formal essay:

How do Frank McCourt's chosen narrative techniques shape the reader's impressions of the story's characters, plot, and themes/main ideas? Which literary devices, syntactical and grammatical choices, and choices in perspective make the greatest impact on the reader? Ultimately, what model does *Angela's Ashes* provide for writers interested in telling stories rooted in their own experience?

Your essay should be 3-5 pages in length. It must be guided by a strong thesis, include topic sentences that build cohesion, and incorporate meaningful and relevant textual support that has been properly cited using the MLA format. Its conclusion should explore the broader implications of your topic.

Should you have any questions regarding what to cite and how to cite it, visit the following web address for an overview on the MLA format:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>. In addition to direct quotations, all ideas that are not your own, but that you use in your essay, must be properly cited. This applies to your use of outside resources, such as reviews, analyses, or interviews.

Your essay will be scored using the English Department writing rubric.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Freese at sfreese@hvrhs.org.

