

from Angela's Ashes (page 243) **Active Reading SkillBuilder****Making Inferences**

Every time people use bits of evidence to figure something out, they are **making inferences**. They are combining facts with what they already know from personal experience. Making inferences is an important skill in reading nonfiction as well as fiction. It allows readers to learn more about people, places, or events that they encounter in their reading. As you read this excerpt from *Angela's Ashes*, record the facts you learn from your reading and any inferences you make. Also record other clues that help you make the inferences.

What I Know as Fact	What I Can Infer	Other Clues That Led to Inference
<i>Frank's father kissed him for the first time in the hospital.</i>	<i>Frank's father is not demonstrative but he still loves Frank.</i>	

from Angela's Ashes (page 243)**Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Memoir**

In a **memoir**, a writer usually describes important events from his or her own life. Most memoirs share the following characteristics:

- They use the first-person point of view.
- They are true accounts of actual events.
- Although basically personal, they may also deal with historical events or social issues.
- They often include the writer's feelings and opinions about historical or social issues.

On the chart below, list instances from the excerpt from *Angela's Ashes* where the author refers to historical or social issues. Also, describe any opinions about these issues that are expressed either by the author or by someone else in the selection.

<i>from Angela's Ashes</i>	
References to Historical or Social Issues	Opinions Expressed
<i>The war</i>	<i>Good for jobs</i>

Follow Up: What does the evidence in your chart tell you about Ireland and the Irish people during the time in which this memoir was written?

from Angela's Ashes (page 243)**Words to Know SkillBuilder****Words to Know**clamoring
exceptioninduced
paganperfidy
potentprivilege
reciterelapse
torrent

A. Complete each analogy with one of the words above. In an analogy, the last two words must be related in the same way that the first two are related.

1. SLOW : RAPID :: weak : _____
2. GOODNESS : EVIL :: honesty : _____
3. AFFECTED : CAUSED :: influenced : _____
4. HEALTH : ILLNESS :: recovery : _____
5. BELIEF : FAITH :: heathen : _____
6. SNOWSTORM : BLIZZARD :: flood : _____
7. EAR : LISTEN :: mouth : _____
8. LAW : EXEMPTION :: rule : _____

B. Circle the word in each group that is closest in meaning to the boldfaced word.

1. **perfidy** doubt treachery alarm confusion
2. **pagan** worker leader promoter heathen
3. **privilege** advantage reward idleness mystery
4. **potent** disturbing weak powerful wicked
5. **induced** forced influenced prevented accomplished
6. **clamoring** speaking objecting listening demanding
7. **relapse** worsening restriction interruption surprise

C. Write several interview questions for a magazine interview with Frank McCourt. Use at least **four** of the Words to Know.

from Angela's Ashes (page 243)**Selection Quiz**

Recall the events in McCourt's memoir, and then answer the questions in one or two sentences.

1. At the beginning of the story, why does Frank think he is going to die?

2. What makes the nurse angry enough to move Frank to a different ward?

3. The nurse says that Patricia "will never know a gray hair." What does she mean?

4. Why is Frank unhappy on the new ward?

5. At the end of the story, what does Seamus recite for Frank?

from Angela's Ashes (page 243)**Selection Test**

A. In this memoir, McCourt brings the reader directly into the world of his youth. In the chart below, answer each question about his world. Then, in the box to the right of each question, write notes to explain ways in which each aspect of McCourt's world affected his childhood. (10 points each)

McCourt's World	How It Affected Him
1. Where did he live?	
2. What was his religion?	
3. What problems did his family have?	

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (5 points each)

- _____ 1. The happy moments McCourt remembers from his hospital stay call attention to his
 a. playful nature. c. interest in history.
 b. scientific mind. d. love of words.
- _____ 2. You can tell that Patricia Madigan was
 a. an intellectual child. c. shy and reserved.
 b. high-spirited. d. tense and anxious.
- _____ 3. Seamus is unhappy about the book Patricia gives McCourt because
 a. it is not a poetry book.
 b. he thinks McCourt should rest.
 c. it is all about England.
 d. he cannot read it himself.

- _____ 4. Because of Patricia and McCourt, Seamus begins to
- memorize poetry.
 - like children.
 - write letters to the *Limerick Leader*.
 - learn how to read.

C. Words to Know. Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- _____ 1. When a patient has a relapse, his or her condition
- improves.
 - is stable.
 - worsens.
- _____ 2. A potent medicine is
- powerful.
 - useless.
 - harmful.
- _____ 3. It is a privilege of democracy to be able to
- work.
 - vote.
 - travel.
- _____ 4. Someone who is clamoring is making
- unfounded claims.
 - loud demands.
 - accusations.
- _____ 5. A person who commits an act of perfidy is
- treacherous.
 - honest.
 - worried.

D. Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of the selection. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (15 points)

- In what ways did books and poetry affect McCourt's hospital stay? Cite at least **three** ways in which literature was important to McCourt and the people around him.
- McCourt's father is only a minor character in this selection, yet it is clear that he is very important to McCourt. Discuss McCourt's relationship with his father, using evidence from the selection.

E. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (15 points)

If you were going to write a memoir about your childhood, what important aspects of your world would you be sure to tell about? Why?