

freak the mighty study guides

freak the mighty study guides are essential tools for students and educators delving into the compelling narrative of "Freak the Mighty" by Rodman Philbrick. This novel, celebrated for its themes of friendship, courage, and the challenges of adolescence, requires thoughtful analysis to fully appreciate its depth. The study guides available offer a comprehensive breakdown of the book's plot, character development, themes, and literary devices, making them invaluable resources for effective learning and teaching. In this article, we will explore the various aspects of "Freak the Mighty" study guides, including their structure, key themes, character analysis, and tips for utilizing these guides effectively.

Following the overview, we will present a detailed Table of Contents to guide you through the article.

- Introduction to "Freak the Mighty" Study Guides
- Understanding the Novel's Themes
- Character Analysis
- Plot Summary and Structure
- Effective Use of Study Guides
- Conclusion

Understanding the Novel's Themes

The themes in "Freak the Mighty" play a significant role in shaping the reader's understanding of the characters' experiences and growth. The novel addresses several profound themes, including friendship, the struggle against adversity, and the importance of courage. These themes resonate deeply with young readers and provide a foundation for critical discussions in a classroom setting.

Friendship and Loyalty

At the heart of "Freak the Mighty" lies the theme of friendship, particularly the bond between the main characters, Max and Kevin (Freak). Their friendship transcends their individual challenges, showcasing

how loyalty and support can empower individuals to overcome obstacles. The character dynamics illustrate how their unique strengths complement each other, leading to personal growth and self-discovery.

Overcoming Adversity

The theme of overcoming adversity is prevalent throughout the novel. Max faces the challenges of living in a troubled home, while Kevin battles physical limitations due to his medical condition. Their journey together symbolizes the resilience of the human spirit. This theme is crucial for discussions on empathy, understanding, and the strength required to face life's difficulties.

Courage and Identity

Courage is another significant theme in "Freak the Mighty." Both characters must confront their fears and insecurities to become who they truly are. As they navigate their friendship, they learn valuable lessons about identity and self-acceptance. This theme encourages readers to reflect on their own lives and the importance of facing fears to achieve personal growth.

Character Analysis

Character analysis is a fundamental component of studying "Freak the Mighty." Understanding the complexities of the characters allows readers to engage more deeply with the text and appreciate the narrative's emotional weight. Below, we will examine the two primary characters, Max and Kevin, along with supporting characters that enrich the story.

Maxwell "Max" Kane

Max is the protagonist of the novel, a boy who struggles with his identity and self-worth due to his difficult upbringing. Initially portrayed as a loner, Max's character evolves throughout the story as he forms a close bond with Kevin. His journey is marked by moments of self-discovery, demonstrating how friendship can shape one's identity. Max's development highlights themes of courage and resilience.

Kevin "Freak" Avery

Kevin, known as Freak, is a brilliant boy with a physical disability that impacts his mobility. Despite his challenges, he possesses an extraordinary intellect and an imaginative spirit. Kevin's character represents the triumph of the mind over physical limitations. His relationship with Max brings out the best in both characters, showcasing the power of friendship and collaboration.

Supporting Characters

Supporting characters, such as Gwen (Kevin's mother) and Grim and Gram (Max's grandparents), play critical roles in the narrative. They provide context and help illuminate the main characters' struggles. These characters contribute to the themes of family, support, and the various forms of love that exist in different relationships.

Plot Summary and Structure

Understanding the plot and structure of "Freak the Mighty" is essential for effective analysis. The narrative unfolds through a series of events that highlight the growth of Max and Kevin, culminating in a poignant conclusion that leaves a lasting impact on readers.

Plot Overview

The story begins with Max's perspective, setting the stage for his struggles and his friendship with Kevin. As the plot progresses, readers witness their adventures, including their escapades in the neighborhood and their encounters with bullies. The narrative structure alternates between moments of levity and profound emotional depth, engaging readers while imparting valuable life lessons.

Key Events and Climax

Several key events shape the story's development:

1. Max and Kevin meet and form an inseparable bond.
2. The duo embarks on various adventures, strengthening their friendship.
3. They confront challenges that test their courage and loyalty.

4. The climax occurs with a dramatic and emotional turning point that changes their lives forever.

Effective Use of Study Guides

Utilizing "Freak the Mighty" study guides can enhance comprehension and retention of the material. These guides typically include summaries, analysis, discussion questions, and activities that promote engagement with the text.

Components of a Good Study Guide

A well-structured study guide should encompass the following components:

- Chapter summaries: Brief overviews of each chapter to aid recall.
- Character profiles: In-depth analyses of main and supporting characters.
- Thematic exploration: Detailed examinations of the novel's themes.
- Discussion questions: Thought-provoking questions that encourage critical thinking.
- Quizzes and activities: Engaging exercises that reinforce learning.

Tips for Maximizing Study Guide Use

To maximize the effectiveness of study guides, students should consider the following tips:

- Read the novel alongside the study guide for context.
- Use discussion questions as a basis for group discussions.
- Take notes in the guide to personalize learning.

- Review chapters and summaries regularly to reinforce understanding.
- Engage with quizzes to assess comprehension and retention.

Conclusion

In summary, "Freak the Mighty" study guides are invaluable resources that facilitate deeper understanding of Rodman Philbrick's novel. By exploring the rich themes, complex characters, and engaging plot structure, students and educators can foster meaningful discussions and insights. Utilizing study guides effectively not only enhances comprehension but also encourages critical thinking and personal reflection. As readers navigate the challenges and triumphs of Max and Kevin, they are invited to reflect on their own lives and the importance of friendship, courage, and resilience. The journey through "Freak the Mighty" is not just a story; it is a powerful exploration of the human experience.

Q: What is the primary theme of "Freak the Mighty"?

A: The primary theme of "Freak the Mighty" is the power of friendship and loyalty, demonstrated through the bond between Max and Kevin as they face various challenges together.

Q: How can study guides enhance comprehension of the novel?

A: Study guides provide summaries, character analyses, thematic discussions, and engaging activities that help reinforce understanding and promote critical thinking about the text.

Q: Who are the main characters in "Freak the Mighty"?

A: The main characters are Maxwell "Max" Kane and Kevin "Freak" Avery, whose friendship and adventures drive the narrative and highlight key themes of courage and resilience.

Q: What role do supporting characters play in the story?

A: Supporting characters, such as Gwen and Grim and Gram, provide context and depth to the main characters' journeys, illustrating various forms of support and love within families.

Q: What are some effective strategies for using study guides?

A: Effective strategies include reading the novel alongside the guide, engaging in group discussions using study questions, and regularly reviewing chapter summaries to reinforce learning.

Q: How does the plot of "Freak the Mighty" unfold?

A: The plot revolves around Max and Kevin's friendship, their adventures, and the challenges they face, culminating in a significant emotional climax that impacts their lives.

Q: What lessons can readers learn from "Freak the Mighty"?

A: Readers can learn about the importance of friendship, the resilience needed to overcome adversity, and the value of courage in the face of personal challenges.

Q: How does "Freak the Mighty" address the theme of overcoming adversity?

A: The novel portrays Max and Kevin's individual struggles and their journey together, illustrating how friendship and support can empower individuals to confront and overcome life's challenges.

Q: Why is character analysis important in studying "Freak the Mighty"?

A: Character analysis deepens the understanding of the narrative, highlighting the characters' complexities and their development, which enhances the overall appreciation of the story's themes.

Q: What makes "Freak the Mighty" a relevant study for students today?

A: "Freak the Mighty" addresses universal themes such as friendship, identity, and resilience, making it relatable and meaningful for students navigating their own challenges in life.

Freak The Mighty Study Guides

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freak the mighty study guides: Freak the Mighty Study Guide Bookrags Com, 2013-10 The Freak the Mighty Study Guide contains a comprehensive summary and analysis of Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick. It includes a detailed Plot Summary, Chapter Summaries & Analysis, Character Descriptions, Objects/Places, Themes, Styles, Quotes, and Topics for Discussion on Freak the Mighty.

freak the mighty study guides: *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick Kathleen Woken-Rowley, 2006 Contains pre-reading activities, vocabulary worksheets, comprehension questions, study guides, extension activities, essay and writing ideas, alternative assessments, quizzes, and unit tests for the study of Philbrick's adolescent novel, *Freak the Mighty*.

freak the mighty study guides: *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick Jean Jamieson, 1998-12 New ways to teach reading, writing and the love of literature--Cover

freak the mighty study guides: *The Mighty* Estelle Kleinman, 1998-01-01 Novel-Ties study guides contain reproducible pages in a chapter by chapter format to accompany a work of literature of the same title.

freak the mighty study guides: *A Single Shard - Literature Kit* Gr. 5-6 Marie-Helen Goyetche, 2009-10-01 Gain a sense of responsibility and knowing what it's like to have someone's fate in their hands. Our resource is great for quizzes, vocabulary and writing prompts. Predict what will happen between Tree-ear and Min, and whether Tree-ear will become a potter. Match characters to their actions in the story. Use words in a sentence to show its meaning. Describe how Tree-ear prepares the clay for Min, and how different the process would be today. Write the step-by-step instructions on Kang's new technique for making pottery. Compare Min and Kang's work in a Venn Diagram. Design a poster advertising Min's pottery. Find the cities from the novel on a setting map of Korea. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: Set in 12th Century Korea, Tree-ear—an orphaned little boy—lives under a bridge with a disabled older friend and caretaker named Crane-man. Tree-ear is fascinated with a local potter named Min and dreams of creating his own ceramics. The trade of potter is unfortunately passed down from father to son, therefore Min can't teach Tree-ear the trade. The Royal Emissary tours the village in search for a new potter for the palace. Min and Kang—another pottery-maker—compete for the honor. The emissary chooses Kang but tells Min that if he can create more work and bring it to Puyo, he will reconsider his choice. Now, Min's fate rests in the hands of Tree-ear, who must deliver the pottery to the palace.

freak the mighty study guides: *Hattie Big Sky - Literature Kit* Gr. 5-6 Nat Reed, 2011-08-09 Get an idea of what life was like on a homestead during World War I. Challenge students to make meaningful connections to the novel. Identify the biggest obstacles for Hattie as she works on her homestead alone. Students translate common expressions used in the novel into their own words. Do some investigation into the state of Montana, including by what nicknames this state is known by. Research the possible origins of the expression 'doughboys', as Hattie uses it to describe American soldiers fighting in Europe. Find examples of personification used in the novel. Students brainstorm who the possible antagonist of the story may be. Students put themselves into Hattie's mindset to write a reply letter to Charlie. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: *Hattie Big Sky* is a Newbery Honor-winning story about a young orphan who inherits a homestead claim in the Montana prairies. Hattie, at the age of 16, goes off to live at her uncle's homestead in Montana in 1918. Alone, Hattie is met with the hardships that come with the primitive conditions. Throughout all of her trials and small triumphs, Hattie keeps up a correspondence with her school friend, Charlie, who enlisted in the army to fight in The Great War. It is through his eyes that Hattie is able to see glimpses of the harsh cruelty of warfare. As the story unfolds, Hattie is met with experiences that leave her discouraged and bewildered, but stronger and more resolutely determined to make something of herself.

freak the mighty study guides: *Bud, Not Buddy - Literature Kit* Gr. 5-6 Marie-Helen Goyetche, 2007-03-01 Run off to Grand Rapids on a humorous adventure filled with interesting characters, all

leading to a place to call home. Pose questions that will initiate great conversation and discussion in any classroom. Discuss the concept of perseverance, and determine why it is an important quality to have. Match characters to their statements. Determine the purpose of the author's intentional use of spelling mistakes in the novel. Match vocabulary words to their definitions before using them in a sentence. Students create their own family tree to compare with Bud's. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: A touching and humorous story about a ten-year-old boy on the run. Foster child Bud Caldwell leaves Flint, Michigan during the height of the Great Depression in 1936. When Bud eventually arrives in Grand Rapids, he meets Herman Calloway and all the members of the band who welcome him into their lives. As the story comes to a close, we learn that Calloway is Bud's grandfather, and Bud at last has a place to call "home". A captivating story told in Bud's point of view, this novel is an excellent read aloud. The historical setting, intriguing cast of characters and themes of racial and societal prejudice, all provide excellent opportunities for teaching, learning and discussion.

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freak the mighty study guides: Dear Mr. Henshaw - Literature Kit Gr. 5-6 Marie-Helen Goyetche, 2009-02-01 Explore the ultimate first-person narrative through the eyes of a young boy and his tale of self-discovery. Our resource is developmentally appropriate for students with special needs who read at a lower grade level. Students predict who Mr. Henshaw might be, and why he would be receiving a letter. Find antonyms to the vocabulary words found in the novel. Answer multiple choice questions about Leigh. Students become Leigh and write their own list of questions for Mr. Henshaw. Solve the mystery of the lunch thief. Create a to-do list for writing based on what Mrs. Badger suggests to Leigh. Imagine how Leigh and Mr. Henshaw's relationship would progress through the years and write a new letter from Leigh as an adult. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: This Newbery Medal-winning classic story is about Leigh Botts, a young boy who lives with his divorced mother and misses his father. The book is a collection of letters written from Leigh to Mr. Henshaw, his favorite author. The letters show increasing emotional and literary complexity as Leigh grows. They also reflect his desire to become a writer. Through his journal, Leigh learns a great deal about writing and about himself. The diary reveals Leigh's loneliness at school and details his troubles with an unknown schoolmate. When Leigh is in sixth grade, Mr. Henshaw writes back to answer the ten questions Leigh sent to him for the Author Report assignment. Through his journal, Leigh learns a great deal about writing and about himself.

freak the mighty study guides: Paper Bag Princess - Literature Kit Gr. 1-2 Marie-Helen

Goyetche, 2007-05-01 Don't judge a Prince by his clothing in this fairy tale. Students become engaged in the novel by discussing the reactions of its characters. Identify the vowel sounds from vocabulary words found in the story. Correct a set of sentences with their missing capital letters. Identify statements from the book as true or false. Students put themselves in Elizabeth's shoes and decide what they would have done to outwit the dragon. As a newspaper reporter, think of five questions to ask Princess Elizabeth and Prince Ronald about their ordeal with the dragon. Come up with things to change about the story, things not to change, and things to add with a Story Makeover graphic organizer. Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: This is the story of Princess Elizabeth, who is in love with Prince Ronald. They plan to soon marry. One day, a terrible dragon smashes Elizabeth's castle, burns her clothes and disappears with her Prince Ronald. Everything is burnt, so she wears a paper bag and sets off to go get him. She outwits the dragon by challenging him. Exhausted by all the activity, the dragon falls fast asleep. Elizabeth steps over the dragon, goes into the cave and rescues Prince Ronald. Astonished by his reaction, she tells him his clothes are pretty and his hair is tidy, but in fact he's a bum. They don't get married after all.

freak the mighty study guides: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* - Literature Kit Gr. 9-12
Chad Ibbotson, 2014-09-11 Travel down the Mississippi on an adventure that deals with themes of freedom, society and social prejudices. Before reading and after reading questions, along with suggested writing activities, help to fully engage students in the book. Students brainstorm the differences and similarities between Huck and Jim before predicting the outcome of their interaction. Explain how Huck tries to help the gang on the shipwreck. Put events from the story in order as they happened when Huck meets King and Duke. Find the synonym of the vocabulary words found in the text. Students reflect on the relationship between Huck and Jim as it progresses through the novel. Compare the friendships between Jim, Huck and Tom in a three-circle Venn Diagram. Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, written by Mark Twain, is the classic story of a young boy who travels down the Mississippi on a raft with a runaway slave. The story begins with Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer, who have each earned themselves \$6,000. Feeling restless, Huck yearns for the freedom he once had before finding himself under the care of the Widow Douglas. He is then taken away by his estranged father, who sets his sights on Huck's newfound fortune. Huck soon runs away, setting off down the Mississippi River, where he befriends a runaway slave named Jim. During their journey, they encounter many characters and hardships that threaten their freedom.

freak the mighty study guides: *The Great Gilly Hopkins* - Literature Kit Gr. 5-6
Marie-Helen Goyetche, 2006-11-01 Discover the importance of family, friendships, and what it means to be loved by those around. Present new vocabulary words in a variety of ways to ensure students are excited to expand their literacy skills. Find the antonym for each word. Match words to their definitions, then identify their part of speech. Explore character motivations by stating why Gilly didn't tell Trotter who the visitor was. Explain the expression demon possession by writing a story based on this idea. Write a personal reflection on the poem found in the story. Conduct a class survey on things considered to be important in daily life. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: A story about a bold and brazen eleven-year-old girl-and foster child-who has great expectations about life. Gilly runs away from her foster home looking for her real mother. Not finding her, she begins to adjust to life with the foster family. On Thanksgiving weekend, while Gilly is busy taking care of everyone with the flu, Gilly's grandmother shows up. She has come to take Gilly to live with her in Virginia. Gilly must move to a new home against her will. She realizes how she is loved at the foster house, and learns many valuable life lessons, relationships and prejudice.

freak the mighty study guides: *The Family Under the Bridge* - Literature Kit Gr. 3-4 Nat Reed, 2010-09-09 Expose your students to the hardships of poverty and the power that comes with family.

Multi-leveled questions and prompts will have students digging deeper while making connections. Investigate the setting to determine what is already known about the historic country of France. Explain what is ironic about Armand's words to the pigeons. Recall what was read by completing a paragraph from the novel with its missing words. Predict what will happen with the children's request to Father Christmas after a cliffhanger. Research information on Provence, Saint Sara or the Tournelle Bridge and create a report with interesting facts on these places mentioned in the novel. Complete an analysis of the novel, detailing the conflict, setting, point of view and theme, among others. Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: *The Family Under the Bridge* is a Newbery Honor winning story about the Calcet family—a mother and her three children—who end up living under a bridge on the Seine River. Here, they befriend the carefree Parisian hobo, Armand. When two nosy women appear at their makeshift home, and it appears that the authorities have been summoned, Armand takes the family to live with a community of gypsies. Here, they are befriended and their relationship with the old hobo deepens. After promising the children a new home for Christmas, Armand decides his only option is to seek employment, and he manages to get a job as the caretaker of an apartment building, which offers the family a place to stay. Here, they determine to live as one big family, with Armand serving as the grandfather the children never had.

freak the mighty study guides: *Sing Down the Moon - Literature Kit Gr. 5-6* Michelle Jensen, 2015-02-24 Gain a fresh perspective of the migration of the Navaho people through the eyes of a young girl. Unique and varied materials supplement a study of this novel. Students are asked to describe what they already know of the Navaho people. Write the name of the character next to each quote from the story. Identify the cause or effect of each event in the book. Finish off sentences with vocabulary words found in the novel. Explain how Rosita was able to adapt to life in a town whereas Bright Morning was not. Students do some research to find the meaning and origin of their name. Gather facts and complete a character analysis of Tall Boy. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: *Sing Down the Moon* is a Newbery Honor-winning story told through the perspective of a young Navaho girl. Fourteen-year-old Bright Morning takes her family's sheep to graze one spring day. While tending to the flock, she is captured by Spanish Slavers and sold into service. Fortunately, she is able to escape and return home. Unfortunately, her home is promptly taken from her as her tribe is forced out of their canyon in Arizona and relocated to Fort Sumner in New Mexico. The long walk of the Navaho people is described through the eyes of Bright Morning, who sees the migration as the end of her people.

freak the mighty study guides: *The Tale of Despereaux - Literature Kit Gr. 3-4* Marie-Helen Goyetche, 2006-12-01 Learn the value of courage and fortitude with this twist on the classic fairy tale. Our comprehensive resource has response questions and activities that are great for guided reading and independent work. Use clues to match vocabulary words from the novel to a crossword puzzle. Show understanding of details from the book by answering short questions. Imagine the inner qualities Roscuro has by describing why he decides never to torture another prisoner again. Compare the expression, not the sharpest knife in the drawer, with the character Mig. Organize a character's actions and thoughts as they happened in the story on a graphic organizer. Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: A story of a special mouse who is on a dangerous quest to rescue the princess. Despereaux falls in love with a princess, even though mice and humans are not supposed to! Caught, Despereaux is sentenced to the dungeon; however, he escapes and goes looking for his beloved princess. Unfortunately, the Princess has already been tricked and has been taken to the dungeon. Despereaux must save his love, and together with the help of his friends, eventually rescues her. As his quest comes to a close, Despereaux realizes that he still cannot marry the Princess, but they become friends. The story ends with the King, the Princess and Despereaux eating a feast and living happily together forever.

freak the mighty study guides: Where the Wild Things Are - Literature Kit Gr. 1-2

Marie-Helen Goyetche, 2007-01-01 Escape to a land of Wild Things to discover that being with people who love you best is more important than misbehaving. Get into Max's mindset and decide whether he regrets being a Wild Thing. Match the beginning of a word with its ending. Transform words from the story in their past tense to their present tense. Complete statements about the story by adding the word 'before' or 'after' to make them true. Students describe a time when they made 'mischief' just like Max, and what the consequences were. Create a Wild Things menu complete with meal, vegetables, drink, and dessert. Students compare themselves with Max to see what things they have in common in a Venn Diagram. Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: This story is based on a mischievous boy named Max, who dresses up in a wolf suit and does things he shouldn't. His mom gets upset and calls him a Wild Thing! Max retaliates by screaming back to his mom, I'll eat you up! From within his imagination, Max's room goes from forest to ocean with Max inside the little boat where he comes up to the land of Wild Things. Max becomes lonely and he smells good things to eat. Wanting to be with someone who loved him best of all, he leaves the land of Wild Things. He comes back to his own room where he finds his supper, still hot, waiting for him.

freak the mighty study guides: The Higher Power of Lucky - Literature Kit Gr. 5-6 Nat Reed, 2009-04-01 Run off with Lucky and experience a series of misadventures, all while searching for a place to belong. The chapter comprehension questions are easy for students to understand. Answer multiple choice questions about the town that Lucky lives in. Students determine how Lucky felt toward Lincoln, and defend their opinion with proof from the text. Research the chukar bird and find some interesting facts about it. Describe the dust storm event from the point of view of Brigitte or Miles' grandmother. In pairs, students investigate a topic from the novel and interview each other about that topic. On a Cluster Word Web, students write details about their chosen topic. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: In a small town in the California desert, a 10-year-old girl named Lucky is looked after by her new guardian Brigitte, after her mother dies. Worried that her new guardian will abandon her, Lucky seeks help from her Higher Power. After discovering three signs to leave, Lucky runs away with her dog during a sandstorm. During this great misadventure, she inadvertently saves the life of a child. Their relationship is resolved when Brigitte reveals she is not moving away.

freak the mighty study guides: Angela's Ashes - Literature Kit Gr. 9-12 Paul Bramley, 2012-12-06 Follow the true experiences of Frank McCourt as he struggles to support his family during his youth. Help students enjoy the novel with different activities to help comprehend the difficult vocabulary words. Students are asked to predict what will happen in the novel prior to reading it, by exploring the literary device: foreshadowing. Answer true or false questions about the family's move to Ireland. Describe the valuable lesson Mr. Halloran teaches Frank and the boys. Recall the moment Frank experienced pure joy. Describe Frank's relationship with his father and religion, and explain how this changes throughout the novel. Deconstruct a character by identifying whether Frank is a good or bad person and providing proof from the text to support this claim. Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: Angela's Ashes is a Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir about the author's own childhood and young adulthood. Frank—the eldest son of Malachy and Angela McCourt—vividly describes the hardships endured by his family. First living in Brooklyn, the family moves back to Ireland after the death of Frank's sister, Margaret. There, the family lives in poverty, as Frank's father spends all the welfare money, leaving little for food and clothes. Frank's father finally gets work in England, but neglects to send money home to his struggling family, leaving Frank to support them. The story continues with Frank searching tirelessly for a job, settling in at the post office. Eventually, Frank is able to earn enough money to return to America, hoping to start a new life.

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