

J.M. Hanks High School  
Summer Reading: PreAP Sophomore English  
For Fall, 2011

This summer you will investigate two texts. The first is a fable that satirizes revolutionary and post-revolutionary Russia. *Animal Farm* was written by George Orwell, a British writer, and published in 1945 at the end of World War II. The second is a Pulitzer prize winner by Frank McCourt entitled *Angela's Ashes: A Memoir*. *Animal Farm* is available copyright free on the Internet at Project Gutenberg; a printer friendly version can be downloaded from <http://www.mrsbaggett.com/preAPsophomores/preapsummerread.html> . You can print out this text and annotate your printout. *Angela's Ashes* can be purchased used from amazon.com for as little as \$4.00. These two books also are widely available at libraries and bookstores.

What you need to buy, borrow or download:

- Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. 1945.
- McCourt, Frank. *Angela's Ashes*. 1999.

**Your Missions:**

1. Keep a commonplace book—a detailed journal of your reactions, opinions, and/or confusions about each text AND quotable passages that make you pause and think. Note the page number(s) that forms the basis for your ideas or where you found the quotation in your commonplace book. The commonplace book is the granddaddy of all blogs, which is why you're keeping one this summer. You may use a notebook or a Word file; just make sure to label and date each entry. Print out your Word document or bring your journal to class the first day of the fall semester. See <http://www1.assumption.edu/users/lknoles/commonplacebook.html> for a detailed history and explanation about commonplace books. A model example of the kind of entries you should write appears on the back of this page.
2. Requirements for each text:
  - *Animal Farm*: A minimum of 3 entries for each chapter (at least 30 entries for the entire book).
  - *Angela's Ashes*: A minimum of 2 entries for each chapter (at least 36 entries for the entire book)

## Model Commonplace Book

### Regarding *Siddhartha*:

This entry combines a reader response and a quotation from the text. At least half of your entries should include a quotation.

Response that connects story to the reader's life.

Vocabulary entry. Don't forget to write the page # where you found the word.

1. From the description early in the novel, I don't know why anyone would want to be an ascetic. Hesse's describes them as "three thin worn-out men, neither old nor young, with dusty and bleeding shoulders, practically naked, scorched by the sun, solitary, strange and hostile--lean jackals in the world of men. Around them hovered an atmosphere of still passion, of devastating service, of unpitying self-denial" (6). What do they hope to achieve????

2. It must have been hard for Siddhartha to leave his family. I think going away to college will probably be a lot like what Siddhartha feels when he leaves. I hope my Dad is as understanding as Siddhartha's Dad is.

3. Words to learn and understand:  
sallow (1) of a sickly, yellowish color  
ablutions (1)  
Brahmins (2)  
discourses (5)

[Note: the numbers in parenthesis refer to the pages on which the words appear. It would be a good idea to look up the words in an online dictionary and cut and paste the likely definition next to the word, as I have done with "sallow."]

You'd do the same thing for the other texts, observing the entry requirements in your commonplace book for each.

**Remember to note page numbers for both ideas and quotes!**