

哈佛

蓝星双语名著导读

Today's Most Popular Study Guides

安琪拉的灰烬

Angela's Ashes

〔美〕 Frank McCourt 原著

Catherine Buchanan 导读

王晓华 翻译

SMARTER

BETTER

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致读者

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否希望站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”系列是全美最风行的经典名著导读笔记,由哈佛学生们融会名著阅读和文学学习精华,亲笔撰写而成。蓝星系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括名著的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关的思考题、推荐论题、小测验以及延伸阅读篇目。

如今“蓝星”漂洋过海,轻轻落在了国内英语学习读者的掌中,读者不需走出国门,即可轻松掌握哈佛课堂上的知识。

蓝星系列丰富的内容编排,使我们不仅仅停留于名著内容的了解,而且对著作的精华和内涵有更全面、深入的掌握,进而对英语语言和文化做更进一步的了解和研究。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实,使我们在有限的闲暇时间内阅读更多的书,同时迅速增强英语水平,提高文学修养,增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司之前推出的“蓝星”系列50册,在图书市场上收到了很好的反响。本次新推出的品种同样精挑细选了国外近现代经典作品,以期进一步丰富该系列的内容。本次出版仍由天津外国语学院张滨江教授和青年教师负责翻译和审校,并严格按照原作的风格,提供原汁原味的英语环境,让读者自由地阅读、想象和发挥。

蓝星闪耀,伴你前行!

CONTEXT

Frank McCourt spent his infant years in Brooklyn, his impoverished adolescence in Limerick, Ireland, and most of his adult life as a teacher in the United States. Though he never attended high school, McCourt spent more than thirty years teaching writing at Stuyvesant, a prestigious public high school in New York City. McCourt found his teaching career—which he has referred to as a “learning career”—fulfilling, but he never gave up his dream of becoming a writer. When he retired from teaching, McCourt and his brother Malachy began to perform a two-man show entitled *A Couple of Blackguards*, which featured many of the songs the McCourts sang together back in Ireland.

McCourt decided to pursue his dream of becoming a writer by telling his own story, in the present tense, more than four decades after he left behind Ireland and the bleak, painful upbringing that fills his memoir. Waiting decades before writing his autobiography gave McCourt the perspective to talk about his troubled childhood at a comfortable distance. He treats the subject of his own difficult life with evenhandedness and objectivity, showing none of the spite, regret, or rancor we might expect. Yet he never downplays the suffering from acute hunger and deprivation he endured throughout his youth. As he has said, *Angela's Ashes* is “an epic of woe.”


Angela's Ashes won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics' Circle Award, and spent 117 weeks on *The New*

来龙·去脉

弗兰克·麦考特幼年时生活在布鲁克林，他在爱尔兰的利默里克度过了贫困的少年时代，成年后在美国执教大半生。尽管从未上过高中，麦考特却在纽约市一所享有盛名的公立中学——Stuyvesant 中学从事写作教学 30 多年。麦考特发现教书令他受益匪浅，他称此为“学海生涯”，但他从未放弃成为一个作家的梦想。退下讲台之后，麦考特和弟弟小马拉奇开始了由他们二人表演的“两个流氓”的演出活动，表演中的那些歌曲颇具特色，是他们曾在爱尔兰老家时吟唱过的。


远离爱尔兰、远离那段艰辛凄凉的成长岁月 40 多年之后，麦考特决心用自己的故事来追寻他的作家梦。他用现在时态将往事尽收于自传之中。时隔多年再来写自传使麦考特能够站在适当的距离去讲述他那不平静的童年。在对自己艰难生活的主题处理上，他保持了公平和客观，没有像通常人们料想的那样流露出仇视、追悔或怨恨。然而他也没有美化整个少年时代所经受过的食不果腹、一无所有的生活。正如他所说，《安琪拉的灰烬》是一部“悲哀的史诗”。

《安琪拉的灰烬》荣获普利策文学奖、国家图书评论界大奖，并雄踞《纽约时报》畅销书榜 117 周之久。

York Times hardcover best-seller list. McCourt's memoir and its sequel, *'Tis*, which tells of his experiences as a young man in America, have become worldwide best-sellers translated into many languages. A film version of *Angela's Ashes* appeared in 1999. Both books have vaulted McCourt from an unknown first-time writer in his late sixties to a world-renowned author deluged with thousands of fan letters and requests for speaking engagements. McCourt's success is a testament to patience and perseverance. *Angela's Ashes* serves as a living record of the strong moral values and healthy sense of humor McCourt maintained despite the suffering and woe he endured as a child. 

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麦考特的自传及其续篇《就是这里了》(讲述了他年轻时在美国的经历)已经成为全球畅销小说,被译成多种语言。1999年《安琪拉的灰烬》被搬上银幕。这两本书使麦考特从一个60多岁不为人知的处女作家一举成名,成千上万封的书信和演讲预约蜂拥而至。麦考特的成功证明了他的耐心和毅力。《安琪拉的灰烬》是一部鲜活的档案,见证了少年麦考特强烈的道德价值观和健康的幽默感,虽历经苦难却不曾被泯灭。 

PLOT OVERVIEW

The narrator, Frank McCourt, describes how his parents meet in Brooklyn, New York. After his mother, Angela, becomes pregnant with Frank, she marries Malachy, the father of her child. Angela struggles to feed her growing family of sons, while Malachy spends his wages on alcohol. Frank's much-loved baby sister, Margaret, dies and Angela falls into depression. The McCourts decide to return to Ireland. More troubles plague the McCourts in Ireland: Angela has a miscarriage, Frank's two younger brothers die, and Malachy continues to drink away the family's money.

Frank's childhood is described as a time of great deprivation, but of good humor and adventure as well. When the first floor of the house floods during the winter, Angela and Malachy announce that the family will leave the cold damp of the first floor, which they call "Ireland," and move to the warm, cozy second floor, which they call "Italy." Although Malachy's alcoholism uses up all of the money for food, he earns Frank's love and affection by entertaining him with stories about Irish heroes and the people who live on their lane.

Over the course of a few years, Angela gives birth to two sons, Michael and Alphonsus. Alphonsus is called "Alphie" for short. As Frank grows older, the narration increasingly focuses on his exploits at school. When Frank turns ten, he is confirmed (Confirmation is a ritual that makes one an official Christian or Catholic. When Frank was growing up, people

情节·览

故事叙述者弗兰克·麦考特讲述了他的父母在纽约的布鲁克林区相遇的情形。在母亲安琪拉怀上弗兰克之后，她嫁给了孩子的父亲马拉奇。孩子接二连三地降生，安琪拉为了养育他们想尽办法。而与此同时，马拉奇却把工资都花在喝酒上。惹人疼爱的小妹妹玛格丽特尚在襁褓中就夭折了，这使安琪拉陷入绝望。麦考特一家决定返回爱尔兰。然而在爱尔兰，麦考特一家更是祸事连连：安琪拉流产，弗兰克的两个小弟弟夭折，而马拉奇仍继续酗酒，花光家里所有的钱。

弗兰克的童年被描述成一段穷困潦倒的时光，但同时又十分有趣，充满冒险。冬天，当家里的一楼被水淹没后，安琪拉和马拉奇宣布全家将搬出他们称之为“爱尔兰”的阴冷潮湿的一楼，搬去所谓的“意大利”——温暖舒适的二楼住。尽管马拉奇酗酒花光了所有用来买食物的钱，但讲给弗兰克的那些爱尔兰英雄故事以及街坊邻居们的趣闻轶事还是为他赢得了弗兰克的爱。

接下来的几年中，安琪拉又生了两个儿子：迈克尔和阿尔芬斯。阿尔芬斯的小名叫“阿非”。随着弗兰克年龄渐长，故事渐渐集中到他在学校的事迹上。弗兰克长到10岁便接受了坚信礼（坚信礼是使人成为正式的基督徒或天主教徒的宗教仪式。当孩子逐渐长

were confirmed around ages seven to ten). Right after his confirmation, Frank falls ill with typhoid fever and must stay in the hospital for months. There, he gets his first introduction to Shakespeare. Frank finds comfort in stories of all kinds, from Shakespeare to movies to newspapers. By the time he returns to school, his gift for language is obvious. In particular, Frank's flair for storytelling gets him noticed by his teacher.

With the onset of World War II, many fathers in Limerick go to England to find work and send money back to their families. Eventually, Malachy goes as well, but he fails to send money home. Frank begins to work for Mr. Hannon. This is the first in a series of jobs. Frank will go on to work for Mr. Timoney, Uncle Ab, the post office, Mrs. Finucane, and Mr. McCaffrey. Frank enjoys the feeling of responsibility he gets from working, and he dreams of saving enough to provide his family with food and clothes.

The McCourts get evicted from their lodgings and must move in with Angela's cousin Laman. Angela begins sleeping with Laman, an arrangement that makes Frank increasingly uncomfortable and angry. He also begins to feel guilty about his own sexual feelings. The priests' strict mandates against masturbation make Frank feel guilty when he masturbates.

While working as a messenger boy, Frank begins a sexual relationship with a customer, Theresa Carmody, who eventually dies of consumption, leaving Frank heartbroken. Frank saves enough money to get to New York. On his first night there, he attends a party and sleeps with an American woman. Though sad to leave behind Ireland and his family, Frank has great expectations for the future. 