

Grades 9–12

Angela's Ashes

Frank McCourt

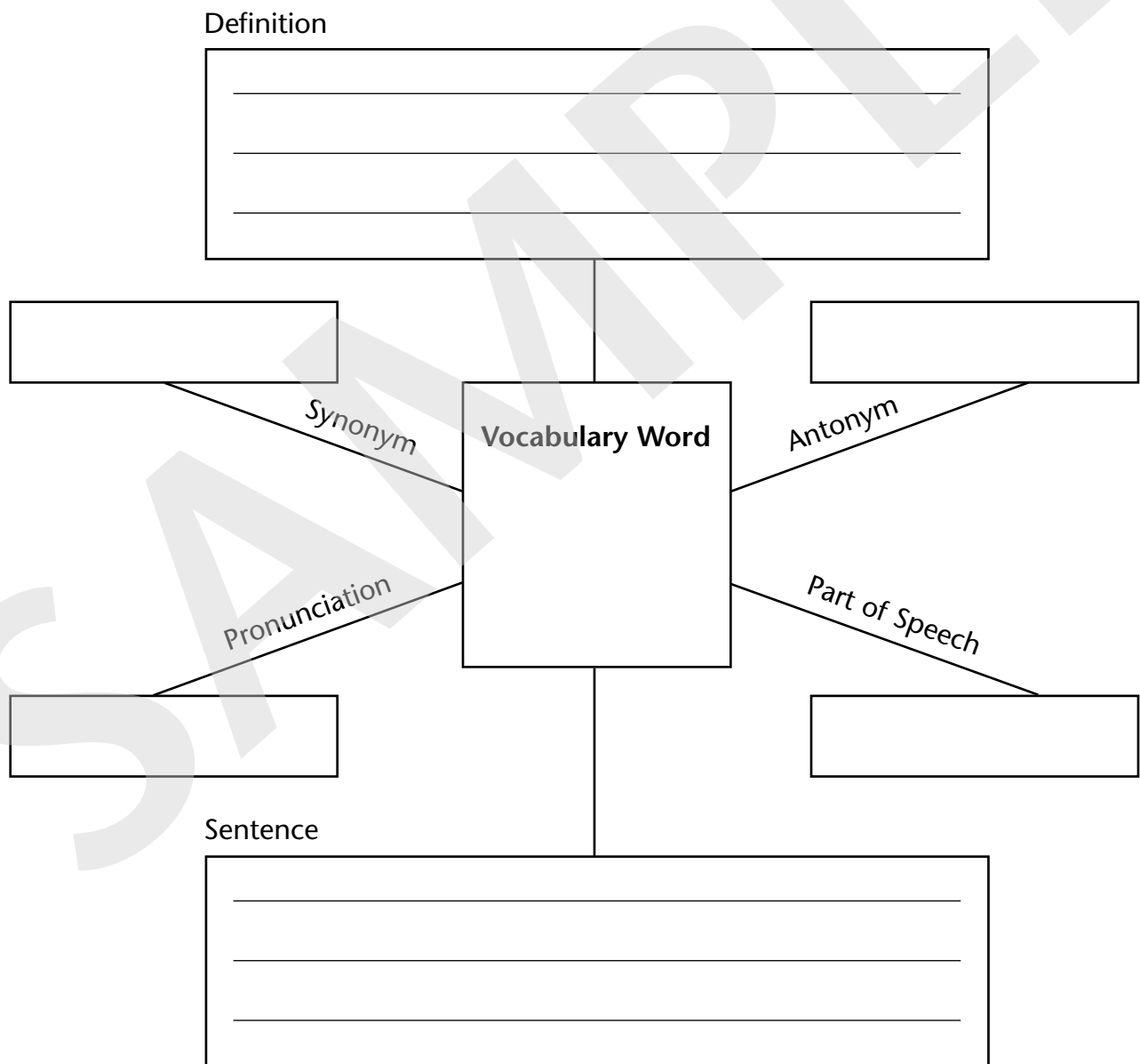
SAMPLE

Name _____

Word Map

sallow	lamentations	contraption	atrocious
gangrene	mandolins	vespers	arrears
liniment	brigade	gallivanting	

Directions: Complete the word map below for six of the vocabulary words above.



Name _____

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief answer to each question as you read the book at home or in class. Use the questions to guide your reading, prepare for class discussions, and review for quizzes and tests. Thought or opinion questions are marked with an asterisk.

Chapter I

1. How does Frank McCourt initially describe his childhood?
2. Why do Delia and Philomena visit Malachy in the speakeasy?
3. What is Malachy's escape plan, and how does it fail?
4. What is Frank's "story," and why can nobody else take ownership?
5. How is life for the McCourts when Malachy brings home his wages? How do things change when he doesn't?
6. Who helps the McCourt family get by in their time of need? What do they do?
7. What does Malachy do after Margaret dies?
- *8. How do Delia and Philomena help Angela after Margaret dies? Do you think this is a good idea?
9. How does Philomena insult Delia's husband? How does Delia respond?
- *10. What is ironic about Angela pointing out the landmarks as Frank's family leaves New York?

Chapter II

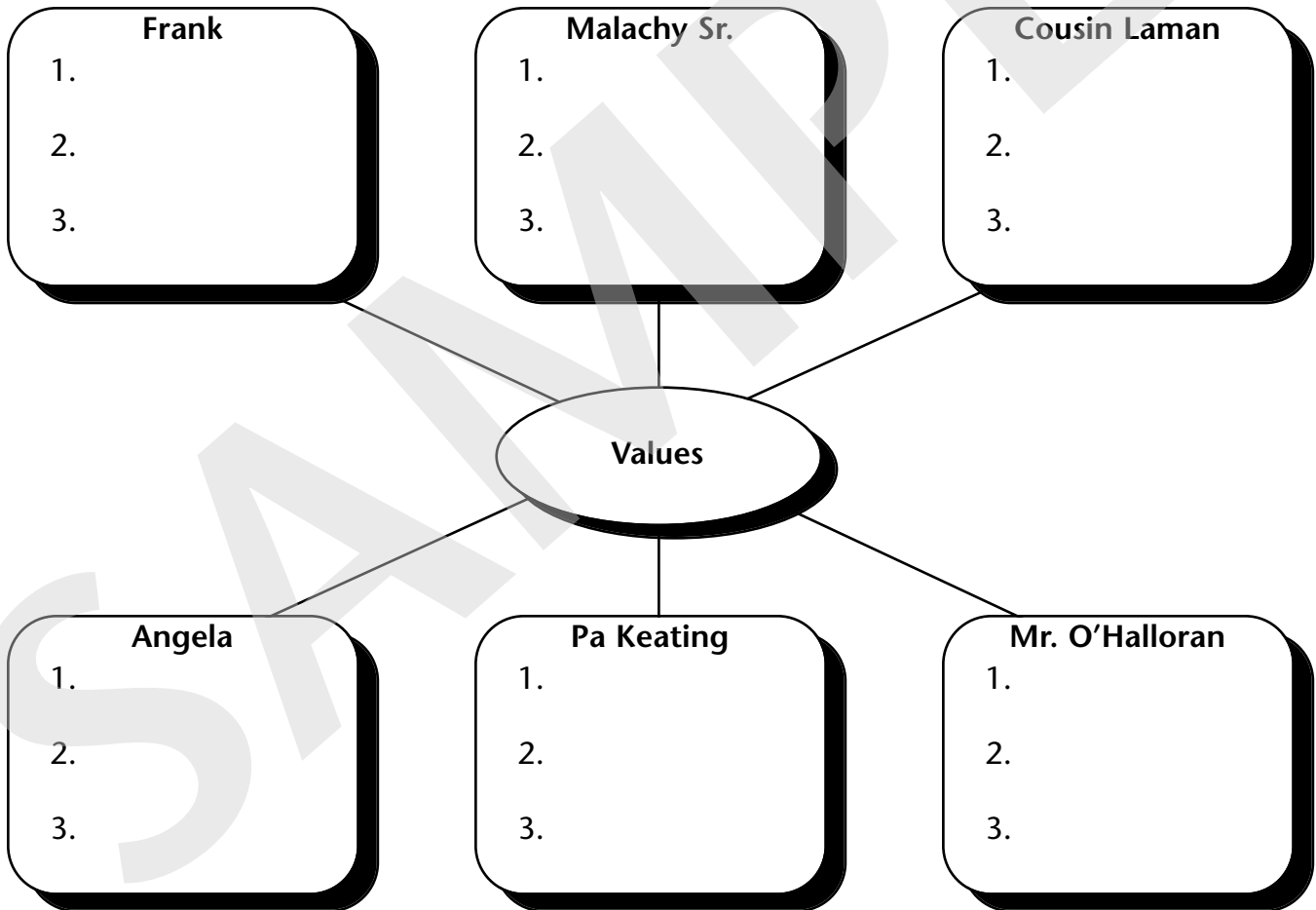
1. What new things both interest and frighten Frank and his siblings when they arrive in Ireland?
- *2. Why do you think Angela cries when Malachy's family offers to send them to Dublin?
3. How can Frank tell if his mother is in a good or bad mood?
4. Who is Mr. Heggarty, and why does Malachy go to see him? What is the result of this visit?
5. What does Grandma do for Angela's family? What unwanted visitors wake the McCourts in the middle of the night? Whom does Malachy inadvertently meet on the street?
6. What does Nora threaten to do when Mr. Quinlivan gives her trouble at the charity office? How does he respond?
- *7. What ideas does Nora have about life in America? Is this an accurate picture?
- *8. What must the family do each time one of the children dies? How do you think this helps Angela?

Name _____

Understanding Values

Values represent people's beliefs about what is important, good, or worthwhile. For example, most families value spending time together.

Directions: Think about the following characters from the book and the values they exhibit. What do they value? What beliefs do they have about what is important, good, or worthwhile? On the chart below, list each character's three most important values, from most important to least. Be prepared to share your lists during a class discussion.



After you have finished the chart and participated in the class discussion, think about which character seems to have values most like your own. Write a paragraph that explains why you chose this character.

Name _____

(Main Idea & Details)

A. True/False: Mark each with a *T* for true or an *F* for false.

- ___ 1. Philomena doesn't trust Malachy because he may have Presbyterians in his family.
- ___ 2. Angela points out the Statue of Liberty as the McCourt family arrives in America.
- ___ 3. The MacNamara sisters come feed and care for the children when Angela can't.
- ___ 4. Frank steals bananas from the Italian grocer to feed his siblings.
- ___ 5. Angela and Malachy were born in Ireland but met in Brooklyn, New York.

(Main Idea & Details)

B. Fill in the Blanks

- 6. When Malachy gets drunk, he comes home singing songs about _____ and Roddy McCorley.
- 7. Frank's sister _____ dies when she is only a few weeks old.
- 8. Frank's father says the Jewish people don't need _____ because they have Moses and _____.
- 9. Malachy plans to run away to _____ rather than marry Angela.
- 10. Although Prohibition was in full swing, Malachy was able to drink in a _____.

(Support Responses)

C. Open-ended Comprehension: On the lines below, explain the effect Frank's baby sister has on the family before and after she dies.
