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# KENNEDY CATHOLIC PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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## English 12 - Summer 2026 Reading Assignments

“There is no friend as loyal as a book.” – Ernest Hemingway

Please purchase (or find an online copy) and read:

- **Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (There should be a free version online)**
- **Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt**

### **Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen**

“Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* is often considered one of the greatest novels of all time; the story of proud William Darcy and the prejudices of Elizabeth Bennet. From Lizzie’s perspective their spirited courtship plays out on the page; in this witty comedy of manners, upbringing, morality, education, and marriage in early 19th century society.” *Literary-Exploration.com*

Once you have finished the novel, consider the following: Darcy and Elizabeth’s relationship had to overcome many obstacles in order to thrive.

#### **In a well written essay:**

- Analyze and discuss these obstacles. Discuss not only the personal and social obstacles (family members, siblings, peers), but also obstacles **within** the main characters; in other words, character issues, such as pride, prejudice, mistaken impressions, and bad judgments. Main question: How does overcoming these obstacles contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole? Make sure to cite page numbers for information you use from the novel. **(Length: 750 words or slightly more)**

### **Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt**

Frank McCourt, a teacher in the New York public school system, waited more than four decades to tell the story of his childhood, and it's been well worth the wait. With *Angela's Ashes*, he has used the storytelling gifts he inherited from his father to write a book that redeems the pain of his early years with wit and compassion and grace.” *NY Times*

As you read this novel, consider the following: **the choices or decisions that person makes frequently influence the consequences that result from those decisions.**

#### **In a well written essay:**

- Identify three major choices or decisions Frank McCourt makes in the book and describe the outcomes or consequences of these choices. Based on hindsight, do you



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think that these choices were wise or unwise? Make sure to thoroughly explain your reasoning. When using material from the book, make sure to cite the page numbers internally in your essay. **(Length: 750 words or slightly more)**

## FOR BOTH ESSAYS:

- Both essays must be typed and submitted via CANVAS only. You will not be able to upload to CANVAS until the beginning of the school year. However, you should complete your essays, save them, and then as soon as CANVAS opens, you may upload.
- Write in the 3rd person point of view- do not use I, you, me, we, etc.
- Include at least three quotes for each essay that supports the commentary and analysis.
- Both essays should be typed and double-spaced
- **DO NOT PLAGARIZE: do your own good work**

**These essays are due by Friday, September 11th, 2026 by 3pm. On Tuesday and Wednesday, September 15th and 16th, you will have multiple choice tests on each of the novels.**

## Questions:

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Spelman:  
[wspelman@kennedycatholic.org](mailto:wspelman@kennedycatholic.org)

**ENJOY THE SUMMER! STAY SAFE AND WELL**