



**Senior English Literature**  
**College Preparatory**  
**Summer Reading**  
2008  
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**Literature of England's Former Colonies**

“The sun never sets on the British Empire” was an expression in the mid-nineteenth century. While the empire is long gone, the legacy of writing in English continues. Your introduction to British Literature begins this summer with works from England's former colonies.

**Required:**

**Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt (Ireland)**

*“When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood; the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood.”*

So begins this unflinchingly honest memoir which chronicles what it was to be poor and Irish during the Depression.

**You will be writing about this memoir during the first week back to school. I suggest purchasing your own copy so that you can mark passages which**

- ✓ contribute to characterization
- ✓ shape the author's themes
- ✓ pose social, moral or ethical questions that relate to present day

**Here are additional suggestions, for those who truly love to read:**

**Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton (South Africa)**

Paton's impassioned novel is about a black man's country under white man's law; a deeply moving story of a Zulu pastor and his son, set against the background of a land and people riven by racial injustice—a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance.

**The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (Canada)**

Set in a futuristic totalitarian society that oppresses women and turns them into “breeding machines”, this novel exposes some of the darker connections between politics and social injustice.

*Enjoy your summer. See you in August.*