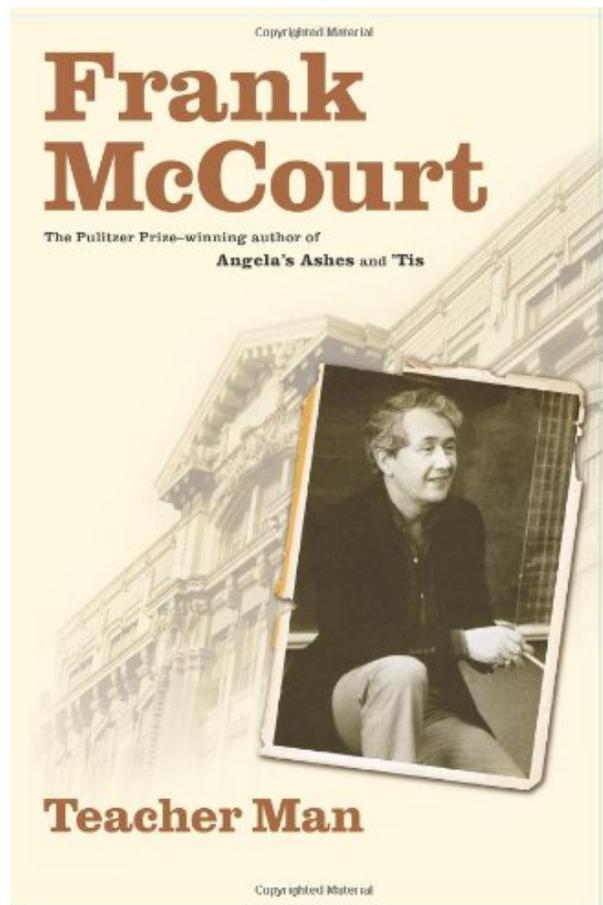


# TEACHER MAN: A MEMOIR (THE FRANK MCCOURT MEMOIRS) BY FRANK MCCOURT



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# Frank McCourt

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of  
**Angela's Ashes** and **'Tis**



## Teacher Man

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Nearly a decade ago Frank McCourt became an unlikely star when, at the age of sixty-six, he burst onto the literary scene with *Angela's Ashes*, the Pulitzer Prize -- winning memoir of his childhood in Limerick, Ireland. Then came *'Tis*, his glorious account of his early years in New York.

Now, here at last, is McCourt's long-awaited book about how his thirty-year teaching career shaped his second act as a writer. *Teacher Man* is also an urgent tribute to teachers everywhere. In bold and spirited prose featuring his irreverent wit and heartbreaking honesty, McCourt records the trials, triumphs and surprises he faces in public high schools around New York City. His methods anything but conventional, McCourt creates a lasting impact on his students through imaginative assignments (he instructs one class to write "An Excuse Note from Adam or Eve to God"), singalongs (featuring recipe ingredients as lyrics), and field trips (imagine taking twenty-nine rowdy girls to a movie in Times Square!).

McCourt struggles to find his way in the classroom and spends his evenings drinking with writers and dreaming of one day putting his own story to paper. *Teacher Man* shows McCourt developing his unparalleled ability to tell a great story as, five days a week, five periods per day, he works to gain the attention and respect of unruly, hormonally charged or indifferent adolescents. McCourt's rocky marriage, his failed attempt to get a Ph.D. at Trinity College, Dublin, and his repeated firings due to his propensity to talk back to his superiors ironically lead him to New York's most prestigious school, Stuyvesant High School, where he finally finds a place and a voice. "Doggedness," he says, is "not as glamorous as ambition or talent or intellect or charm, but still the one thing that got me through the days and nights."

For McCourt, storytelling itself is the source of salvation, and in *Teacher Man* the journey to redemption -- and literary fame -- is an exhilarating adventure.

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## Features

- Great product!

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Five Stars required reading

By Tom

Best book on teaching ever written Should be written by would be teachers a nd all teachers.Because of his background Frank has cut through the hype that both he and I had to suffer through, on our way at teacher training.I am a retired teacher[after 43 years.Franks point about getting the students is the main thrust of the book.All the texts and discussions on teaching is useless unless you have their attention.Its very interesting that through the use of discarded students excuses, he was able to get them interested in writing.A must read for all teachers.I was born and went to school in Ireland, and I have somewhat stories that Frank wrote and discussed.I used stories ov er and over as I discussed certain topics. This book is a classic.In the first line. Best book on teaching should be read instead of written I also agree with Frank that through teaching, a teacher really understands himself better and he becomesbetter able to help students

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Felt Incomplete

By Robert J. Plumer

This is the third of Frank McCourt's memoir trilogy which followed up his Pulitzer Prize winning debut "Angela's Ashes" and "Tis. This deals with Frank McCourt's teaching career in New York City. I did enjoy witty and self depreciating style of writing. I was a little disappointed that even though he dives deep into his teaching career we learn little of his personal life. I would have been interested in his relationships with his wives/children and his brother (and author also Malachy McCourt). I think this would have painted a broader picture of his life and how it influenced his teaching style. I'd only read it if you've read his first two books and wish finish the trilogy plus I think it would more sense to have the back story of the other two. Too bad he hadn't written more as I think his style is entertaining and insightful.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A teacher and writer born to be both.

By eileen dight

Frank McCourt had writing in his veins lacing his blood. Coming late to education, it's obvious this skill was innate. Certainly his powers of observation as a child were astonishing. I loved his book Angela's Ashes telling about his deprived but vibrant childhood. Frank McCourt had many difficulties to surmount but he never lost his sense of humor.

In Teacher Man he tells of his years in a New York City school teaching English to kids who can't have known how privileged they were, but couldn't fail to love him. They were challenging. He reached them on their level in a way few adults, certainly very few in authority, could emulate. His modesty and humor were his attraction. He subtly urged, inspired, provoked his pupils to explore the world of ideas - that's education. His understanding of young people made his career as a teacher a gift to a generation, although we cannot help wishing he had started writing sooner. On retirement one of his pupils (a discerning wise man in the making) called out a fond goodbye and added, 'Hey, Mr. McCourt, you should write a book.' I wept at some passages and laughed aloud at others. I gave it to My Son the Teacher for Christmas. Anyone would enjoy it.

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