

Old Money, New Money

Teacher's Guide

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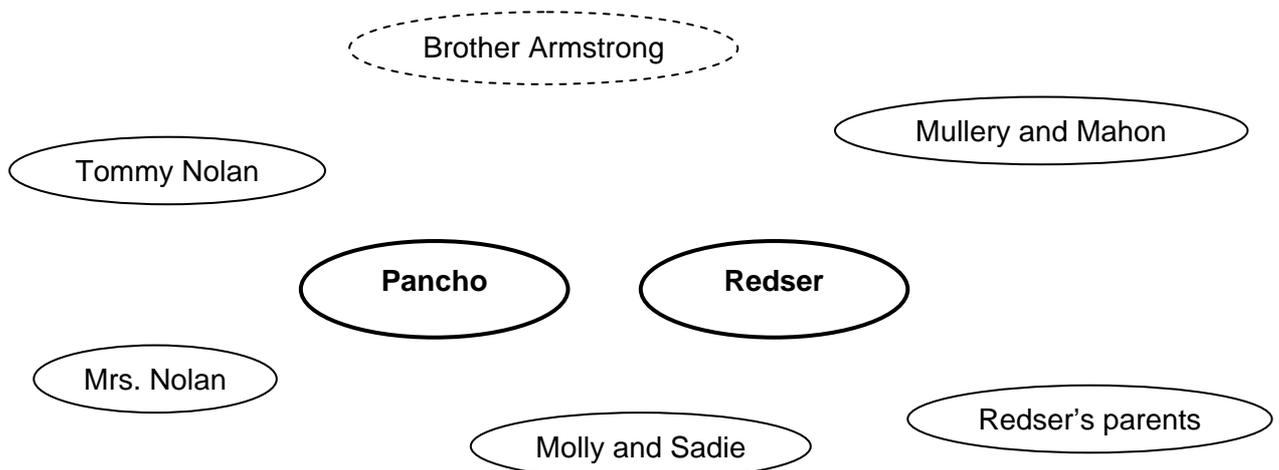
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Preliminary remarks

- The following assignments offer tasks and activities, which the teacher or students can choose from.
- Many tasks are suitable for talks or presentations to the class.
- Some tasks overlap with others.
- Since the material can be edited, the teacher may enlarge the tables, diagrams, and charts, or the students may copy them into their exercise books.

Pre-reading activities

- 1 Look at the picture on the **cover**. What possible story themes might this picture suggest?
- 2 Imagine that your best friend wants to talk you into doing something that goes against your principles. Think of a story and tell the class.

While-reading activities**1 Constellation of figures**

How are the characters connected?

Use lines, arrows, symbols, and/or keywords to indicate the relationships.

2 Reading journal

Chapter	Who?	Where?	When?	What?	Comments

3 Titles

Create titles for each chapter.

4 Summaries

Write a very short summary of each chapter (2 or 3 sentences each).

5 Characterization and relationships

- 1 What is exceptional about the relationship between Redser and Pancho?
- 2 Imagine you know Redser. How would you describe him to a friend?
- 3 Imagine you know Pancho. How would you describe him to a friend?
- 4 What makes Tommy Nolan, Pancho's father, a tyrant?
- 5 In what way does Mrs. Nolan, Pancho's mother, play a traditional gender role?
- 6 In what way can the relationship between Redser and Pancho be called a real friendship based on the principle of "give and take"?

6 Setting

- 1 The story is set in Dublin. What is remarkable about the parish where Redser and Pancho live with their families?
- 2 While reading the book, collect examples that show the differences between the homes of Redser and Pancho:

Redser's home	Pancho's home

7 Narrator and point of view

Write Mullery and Mahon's report of the burglary right after their first investigation.

OR:

Write and act a dialogue between Mullery and Mahon after their first investigation.

8 Themes

While reading the book, make notes about the following themes:

- 1 Why can Pancho's and Redser's ideas about the **Christian faith** be called naïve?
- 2 Find more examples of **naïvety** in the story.
- 3 How does the story show that **family background** is very important for a young person's chances in life?
- 4 What importance do the following **emotions** have in the story: **love, hate, anger**?
- 5 Why is **alcoholism** a central theme in the story?

9 Interpretation by acting

- 1 Chapter 3, p. 25, line 4, through p. 28: Act the scene.
- 2 Chapter 5, p. 41, line 8, through p. 42, line 5: Write and act Mullery and Mahon's interview with Redser.

(These are two examples. There are more opportunities for acting in other passages.)

10 Freeze frame

Make a freeze frame of this scene: Chapter 1, p. 8, lines 5–14: A freeze frame is like a snapshot of a situation.

1st step: Imagine your character's body position in this situation and decide what your character's face looks like. Then find and freeze your pose. Don't talk.

2nd step: Hold your pose while the rest of the class interprets the freeze frame.

3rd step: Rejoin the class and participate as students discuss this interpretation.

(This is just one example. More freeze frames are possible in other passages.)

11 Language and Style

Name and explain the following figures of speech.

- 1 Chapter 1, p. 7, lines 10–11: *Wait until he drank himself sober.*
- 2 Chapter 5, p. 46, lines 16–17: *The flat was littered with broken promises from him.*
- 3 Chapter 7, p. 74, lines 16–17: *"You're only human, . . . sure we're all only human."*

(These are just three examples. More language tasks are possible in other passages.)

Post-reading activities**1 Book review**

Write a critical book review and state your personal opinion.

(If you liked the book, you may encourage other students to read it.)

2 Summary

Write a summary of the story in 90–100 words or 180–200 words or 270–300 words.

(It is more difficult to summarize a story like this in 100 words than in 300 words.)

3 Ending

1 What problems are solved and what problems remain unsolved at the end of the story?

2 What indications do you see that Tommy Nolan, Pancho's father, is serious about changing his life?

3 Write a dialogue between Redser and Pancho, in which Redser tells his friend that he has given back the money. You can begin like this: "*Pancho, there's something I've got to tell you . . .*"

4 Newspaper report

Write a newspaper report about the burglary into the Kennedy's house:

1 . . . in the style of a popular paper like *USA TODAY*. Write a catchy headline.

2 . . . in the style of a quality paper like the *The New York Times*. Write an appealing headline.

5 Comment

Can you imagine a situation in which you might be justified to ignore the principle of honesty? Tell the class and justify your idea.

6 Book cover

Design your own book cover.

(Your teacher may hold a contest for the best entry.)

7 Title

Think of other titles for the story.

(Your teacher may hold a contest for the best suggestion.)