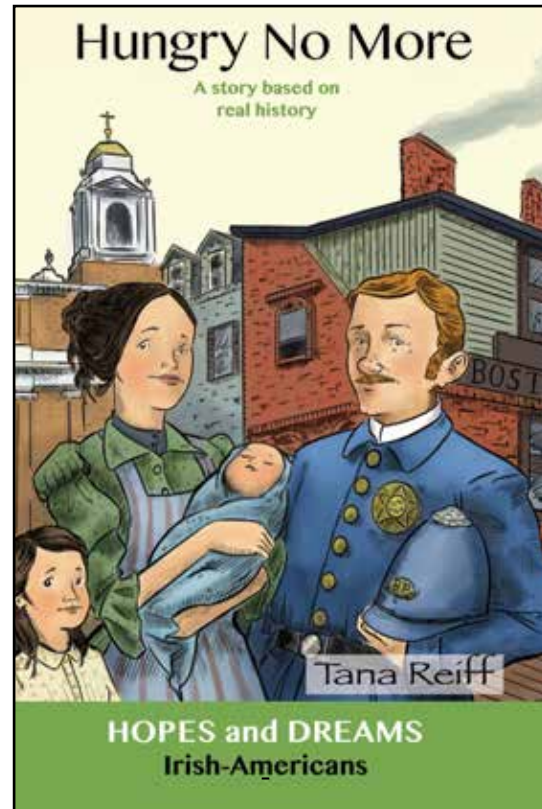


Teacher's supplement to use with



Brief Plot Summary

Discussion Questions

Historical Drawings and Photos for Discussion

Detailed Plot Summary

Historical Background

What Did You Read? – Form

Book Report – Form

Word Play Activity

Fill in the Blanks Review Activity

Brief Plot Summary

Hungry No More tells the story of an Irish-American family, Johnny and Mary McGee. It was 1845. The Irish were starving. When their crops turned black and died, Johnny and Mary McGee with their son Little John fled the Irish Potato Famine for Boston. A recruiter found them a room and Johnny a job building a railroad. It was exhausting work, away from home, and dangerous. Mary worked at a wool mill and paid a woman neighbor to care for Little John. Their work was hard and paid little, but they had enough to eat – life was better here than in Ireland. Johnny was good at working with the other men, so he was promoted to supervisor. Then his best friend was blown up. Johnny returned to Boston, got a job as a policeman, and also worked as a volunteer fireman and political ward heeler. He loved helping other people. He and Mary had seven more children. Then, as the Civil War began, Johnny volunteered to save his country. Mary worked and waited alone.

Think About It

Hungry No More Discussion Questions

Chapter 1 The Old Days

1. Why does the priest know what everyone is doing?
2. Who do you know who always has a story to tell?
3. What does “the good old days” mean to you?
4. Is it a good idea to have “only the potato”?

Chapter 2 Potato Problems

1. Why is hope so important?
2. What does it mean to “keep the faith”?
3. What would you do if you didn’t have enough to eat?

Chapter 3 Leaving Ireland

1. What would you do if you were Johnny and Mary? Why?
2. Does the name Kennedy mean anything to you?
3. Many people have crossed an ocean to find a better life. The trips were very difficult. How strong do immigrants need to be?

Chapter 4 Greenhorns in America

1. What is a “greenhorn”?
2. Without naming names, have you ever known anyone like McNair?
3. What kinds of things do people need to do when they first come to a new country?
4. What does it mean to take care of yourself? Does it mean you should never ask for help?

Chapter 5 Hard Work

1. What do you think happened to Father Patrick?
2. What is your idea of hard work?
3. The railroad boss kept the workers’ pay. Was he stealing? How can stealing take different forms?
4. What are you thankful for?

Chapter 6 Rock Blast

1. Why did singing make the railroad work go better? What are other ways to make work go better?
2. Why didn’t Murphy trust Johnny at first? How do you know when you can trust someone?
3. How is Johnny showing that he is a leader?
4. What does it mean to be “fair”?

Chapter 7
Boston Life

1. What do you do to help other people?
2. How was a ward heeler the same and different as McNair in Chapter 4?
How was it different?
3. What makes a good leader?
4. Can you think of a way to make your community better?

Chapter 8
The Church

1. Why can nicknames hurt?
2. Why do people sometimes try to hurt new immigrant groups?
3. How is this story like today's news?

Chapter 9
Going to War

1. Where you live, how do people work together for everyone's good?
2. Why does Johnny sound like the people who hated Irish immigrants?
3. How can a child teach the parents?
4. How do you feel about war? Is there ever a good reason for war?

Chapter 10
No Irish Need Apply

1. Is it possible to block groups of people from jobs in America today?
2. What is prejudice?
3. What are different ways to find a job?

Chapter 11
Taking Care

1. Do you hope for the best or wait for the worst?
2. What is your idea of being brave?
3. What do you know about the American Civil War?

Chapter 12
News

1. In what ways do you get the news? Newspaper? TV? Internet?
2. Why do you think Mr. Brock is not in the war?
3. Do you think Johnny will come home?

Chapter 13
The War is Over

1. What did these Irish immigrants give to their new country?
2. Why do people run for office?
3. What will you leave behind after you are gone?

Hungry No More

Historical Drawings and Photos for Discussion



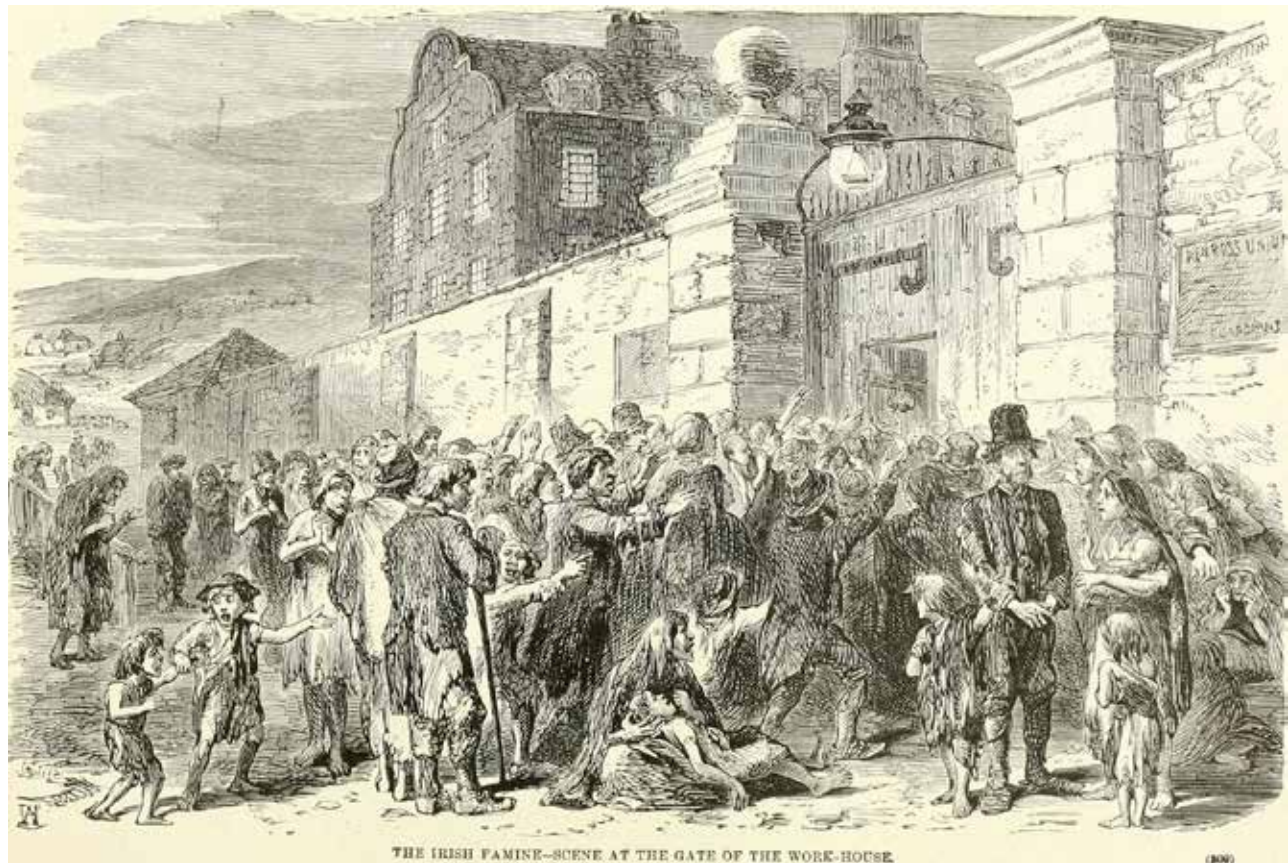
Emigrants leave Ireland and the Great Potato Famine in this 1868 illustration by Henry Edward Doyle (1827-1892) from the First Edition of *An Illustrated History of Ireland from AD 400 to 1800*, by Mary Frances Cusack

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emigrants_Leave_Ireland_by_Henry_Doyle_1868.jpg

Note: These illustrations are in the public domain. Links to their sources have been provided. You may print them for classroom use. Other links to illustrations and information have also been given.

On page 24 is a list of other drawing and photo sites with comments by Tana Reiff.

Some modern photographs on relevant topics are given with captions and with links to the copyrights and helpful data.



Starving Irish poor people seeking food at a workhouse during the Potato Famine
1907 illustration of Redpath's History of the World by John Clark Redpath (1840-1900)
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Redpath%27s_history_of_the_world_-_being_an_account_of_the_principal_events_in_the_career_of_the_human_race_from_the_beginnings_of_civilization_to_the_present_time,_comprising_the_development_of_social_\(14749361956\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Redpath%27s_history_of_the_world_-_being_an_account_of_the_principal_events_in_the_career_of_the_human_race_from_the_beginnings_of_civilization_to_the_present_time,_comprising_the_development_of_social_(14749361956).jpg)



This sketch of a woman and children from the Illustrated London News, December 22, 1849 represents Bridget O'Donnel. Her story is briefly this:— “. . .we were put out last November; we owed some rent. I was at this time lying in fever. . . they commenced knocking down the house, and had half of it knocked down when two neighbours, women, Nell Spellesley and Kate How, carried me out. . . I was carried into a cabin, and lay there for eight days, when I had the creature (the child) born dead. I lay for three weeks after that. The whole of my family got the fever, and one boy thirteen years old died with want and with hunger while we were lying sick.”

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Irish_potato_famine_Bridget_O%27Donnel.jpg



SEARCHING FOR POTATOES IN A STUBBLE FIELD.

Image courtesy of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum



See *Smithsonian Magazine* photo and article on the blight that caused the Potato Famine (5/21/2013). "DNA analysis of 166-year-old potato plant leaves has revealed the disease strain that caused the starvation of millions. With the DNA, scientists grew potatoes with the disease, shown in this photo."

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/scientists-finally-pinpoint-the-pathogen-that-caused-the-irish-potato-famine-71084770/#tUwbZs8CiCFY72Dg.99>



An abandoned farm in County Kerry.

ID 48846860 © David Morrison | Dreamstime.com

Farm cellar holes in rocky Irish mountain soil left by the “Great Hunger” of the Potato Famine.

ID 21144218 © David Morrison | Dreamstime.com

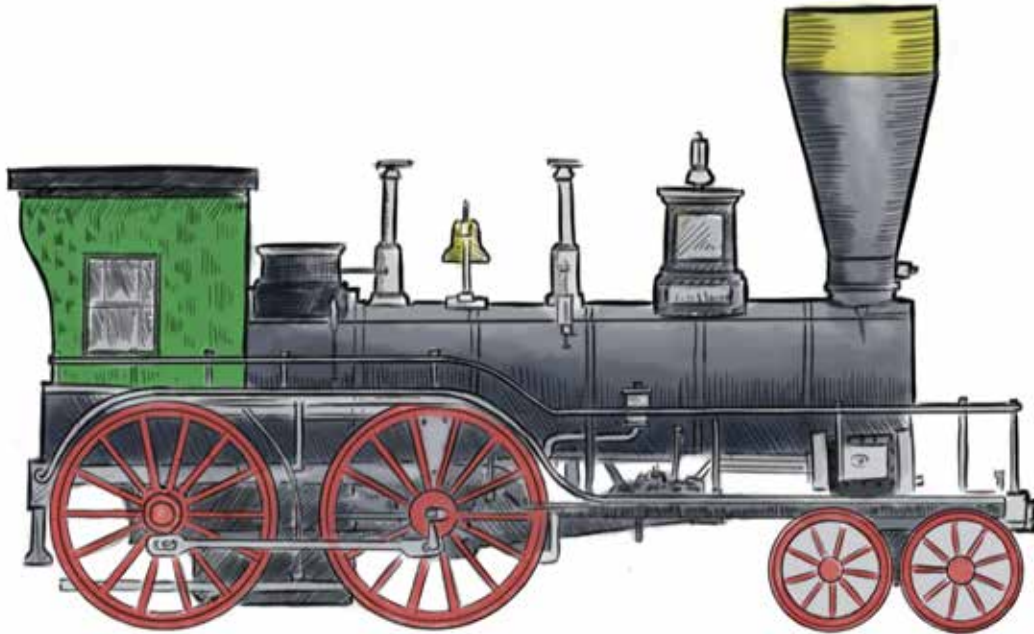


Field on the west coast of Ireland, still showing scars of potato ridges abandoned during the great famine of 1845-46.

ID 3210894 © Jmci | Dreamstime.com



This statue of an Irish family, mother, father, and son, is part of a memorial in Boston remembering the Great Potato Famine of the mid-1840s and the many Irish who fled to the United States and settled in Massachusetts.



Locomotive by Tyler Stiene

Some interesting, relevant photo and text links:

Irish railroad workers building the Central Vermont Railway in 1845-1846:

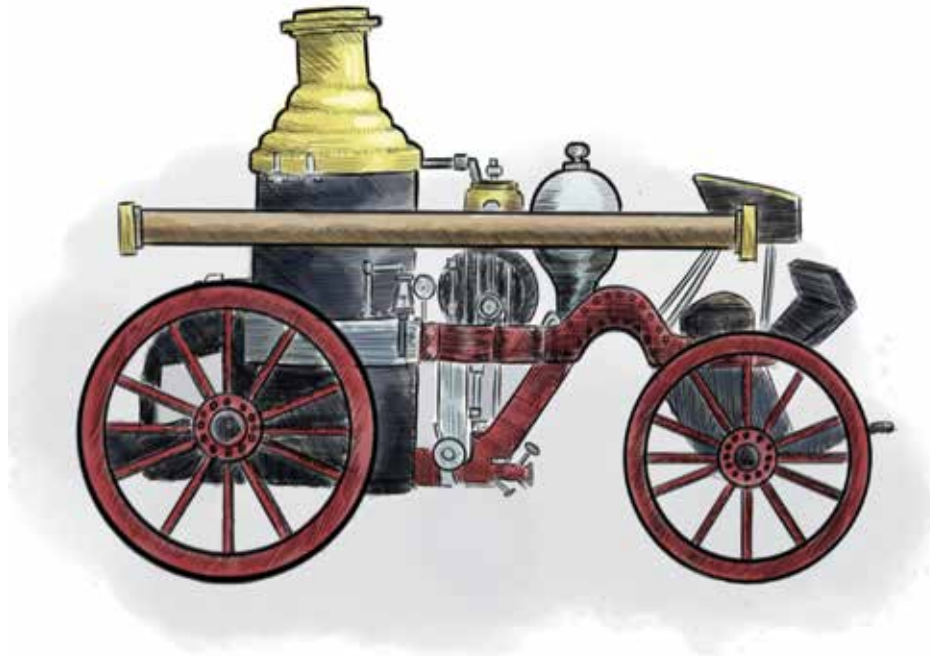
http://www.freedomandunity.org/1800s/rr_riot.html

<http://www.freedomandunity.org/1800s/railroads.html>

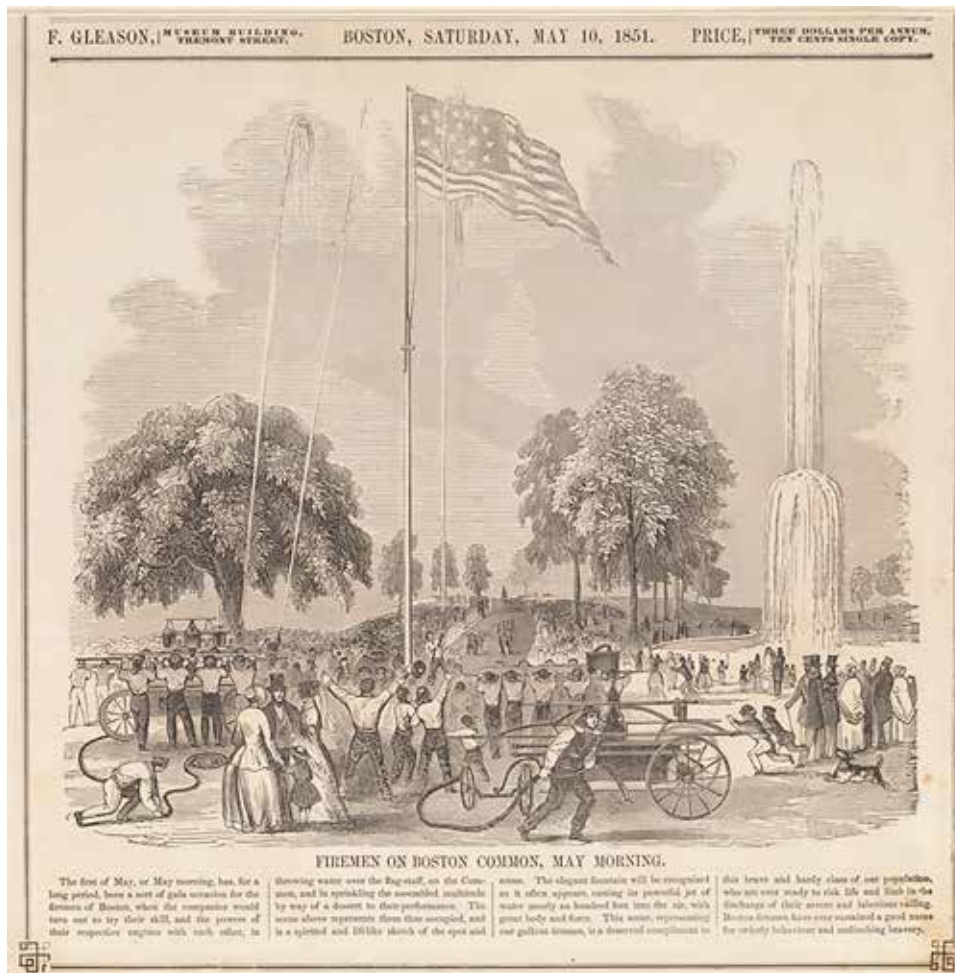


Making wool yarn for weaving in the American Woolen Company in Boston.

From the Library of Congress: Digital ID: (b&w film copy neg.) cph 3b02790 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3b02790> Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-54894 (b&w film copy neg.) Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA



Fire truck by Tyler Stiene



Firemen on Boston Common, the morning of May 10, 1851

<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:2801pn70t>

The Irish Potato



Healthy potato plants growing in a garden.
ID 9586270 © Darkop | Dreamstime.com



A bag of fresh potatoes from the field.
ID 10953794 © Twilightartpictures | Dreamstime.com

**The potato was typical of almost all Irish meals,
both in Ireland before the famine
and wherever the Irish have emigrated to.
These are photographs of typical and
well loved Irish dishes.**



Mashed potatoes
ID 20958080 © Inga Nielsen | Dreamstime.com



**Irish sausage, mashed potato, and
rosemary with onion gravy**
ID 48555516 © Jörg Beuge | Dreamstime.com



Boxty potato pancakes
ID 50024136 © Bhofack2 | Dreamstime.com



Corned beef and cabbage with carrots and potatoes
ID 51087658 © Bhofack2 | Dreamstime.com



Potato Colcannon with Greens and
Pork
ID 50196537 © Bhofack2 | Dreamstime.com



Shepherd's Pie with Lamb and
Potatoes
ID 50531774 © Bhofack2 | Dreamstime.com



Beef Stew with Carrots
and Potatoes
ID 48603634 © Azurita | Dreamstime.com



Lamb Stew with Carrots
and Potatoes
ID 7724749 © Christopher Elwell | Dreamstime.com



Sprouts growing from a healthy
Irish potatoes
ID 71745367 © Dannypugh |
Dreamstime.comcom

Hungry No More

Detailed Plot Summary

When Johnny and Mary McGee's potato crop fails two years in a row, the young Irish couple decide they must leave for America to avoid starvation. They are especially concerned for the welfare of their young son. Against their priest's urging to wait out the potato famine, they leave a devastated Ireland in 1846 for Liverpool, England, where they board a ship for America. The trip across the ocean lasts 40 days. On the McGees' arrival in Boston, a fellow Irishman, known as a "runner," preys upon the two "greenhorns," setting them up with a room and jobs in exchange for money. He also gives them the name of a woman who will watch their child while they work.

Johnny goes to work on a railroad being built through the mountains of Vermont. It is hard labor and takes him away from Mary for months at a time. But the pay is good – \$25 a month. Mary works in a woolen mill in Boston, where she runs a wool-spinning machine. They are just thankful that they both have food to eat every night.

Before long, Johnny demonstrates leadership ability and is promoted to railroad foreman. Unlike his dishonest predecessors, Johnny does not steal the workers' money, but one worker, named Murphy, still distrusts him. In a few months, Johnny earns Murphy's friendship. Shortly thereafter, Murphy is killed in an explosion.

On Johnny's next visit to Boston, Mary informs him that she is pregnant and has left her job. Johnny decides to leave the railroad and gets a job as a city policeman. The baby is named after their friend Patrick Murphy and Father Patrick back in Ireland. Appalled at living conditions in Boston, Johnny becomes more and more involved in the community. First he becomes a volunteer firefighter, another job at which he demonstrates leadership by assigning territories for each fire company. He then becomes a political party leader, a ward heeler, finding jobs for newcomers, bailing fellow Irishmen out of jail, and sending flowers to funerals.

The McGees have a baby every year for six years, during which time they move to a bigger home. Meanwhile, negative feelings against Irish people are growing. Americans are stereotyping Irishmen as lazy and drunk, and they ridicule their Catholicism. As a policeman, Johnny is caught in the middle. Mary is frightened for the childrens' safety, so Johnny advises them to play only in the churchyard. That summer an anti-Irish group storms past the children and vandalizes the inside of the church. The children are upset by this display of prejudice, and Mary speaks to them about never hating or hurting people. She and Johnny and their friends work together to rebuild the church.

Meanwhile the Civil War is in progress. Though not anti-slavery, Johnny joins an Irish militia group bent on saving the Union. The children are confused by the irony of his willingness to fight for the North, in light of what the anti-Irish group had done to their church. Nevertheless, Johnny's group marches off to the war, each man carrying his own gun.

Once again, Mary is home without her husband. She seeks a job as a maid, encountering anti-Irish discrimination. She presents herself to a prospective employer, who, seeing that she is clean and responsible, hires her. The woman is apparently unconcerned that Mary is Irish. Now Mary cooks and cleans for two families, the Brocks and the McGees.

Johnny's letters home arrive months after they are written, so Mary is never quite sure if he is still alive. All she knows is that the Irish soldiers are fighting bravely for the North. Then some good news arrives: the war is over! Mary waits nervously for word of Johnny. Then one day, the Irish army unit, tattered and injured, comes marching back into town. Crowds fill the streets, searching the lines of faces for their loved ones. At last, Mary spots her Johnny, hardly recognizable, but in one piece.

After the war, Johnny McGee runs for city office and becomes an influential name in Boston. Every night, Mary McGee cooks a hot meal for the family. The two of them have given a lot to their adopted country, and they die happy, not hungry.

Hungry No More

Historical Background

The potato blight hit many countries in Europe but worst of all in Ireland where people depended entirely on this one crop. By the second year of the Potato Famine, food reserves were exhausted. Some people simply shut themselves in their cottages and waited to die. Others packed up and left for England, Canada, or America.

Once they arrived, usually either in Boston or New York, many were swindled by fellow Irishmen who had come before and knew their way around. Nevertheless, the Irish immigrants found jobs that kept food on the table. They worked extremely hard, mostly in jobs that Americans found distasteful, such as in railroad building, factories, as domestics, and, further south in Pennsylvania, in coal mines. Before the Civil War, they took advantage of the jobs in the growing industrial cities of the Midwest—Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, and St. Louis. After the Civil War, some moved farther west with the Central Pacific Railroad, laying tracks across the Great Plains and mountains until it met the Union Pacific in Utah. Others went so far as California and the Pacific Northwest in search of gold. Wherever they went, many of the Irish settled down and stayed. However, for a long time the majority remained in the Northeast.

About 210,000 Irish soldiers fought in the Civil War. Most fought for the North, to preserve jobs (not to free slaves, whom they generally considered competition for their jobs).

The Irish in America typically pursued empowerment through politics. They organized themselves into strong support systems. Over the years a great many Irish immigrants arrived. Indeed, between 1820 and 1920, more than 4 million Irish people emigrated to the United States. Eventually, Irish-Americans formed a strong voting bloc.

This was the first group to experience widespread and deep prejudice. The “American” or “Know-Nothing” party in the 1850s persecuted the Irish by attacking Catholic churches, trying to restrict immigration and job opportunities, and spreading vicious anti-Irish sentiment. But by overcoming illiteracy, founding parochial schools, forming their own labor and political groups, and never shying away from hard work, the Irish worked their way up the ladder and attained a powerful presence in American society. Between 1871, when the Great Chicago Fire, which burned down much of the city, was blamed in legend on Mary O’Leary’s cow and 1960 when John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a Catholic of Irish descent, was elected President, the Irish had become accepted as a valued part of the American people.

Name _____

What Did You Read?

Write the answers to these questions about *Hungry No More*.

1. What country did Johnny and Mary McGee come from? _____
2. Why did the McGees leave their home? _____

3. In what American city did Johnny and Mary find a home? _____
4. What is a greenhorn? _____
5. Where was Mary's first job? _____
6. Where was Johnny's first job? _____
7. How was Johnny different from the old boss? _____

8. Why did Johnny become a policeman, firefighter, and ward heeler?

9. Why did the men break up the inside of the church?

10. What job did Mary work at while Johnny was away in the war?

11. On which side did Johnny fight in the war and why?

12. Mary and Johnny's life was hard, but why was Mary glad to be in America?

Name _____

Book Review

Book Title _____

Student's Name _____

The people in this book came from _____

I read this book because _____

Is this book interesting? Why or why not? _____

The best part of the story is _____

The worst part of the story is _____

My favorite person in the story is _____

because _____

The main thing I learned from this book is that _____

Too many hard words? yes / no Examples: _____

Too many long sentences? yes / no Examples: _____

The length of the books is: too long / too short / about right

Tell a friend to read this book? yes / no Why? _____

Name _____

Word Play: More than one way?

Some words can look the same but be used in different ways. Find a word on the right that fits into each sentence on the left. Fill in the blank with that word.

1. The children dress up and put on a _____.
2. Johnny used a gun to _____.
3. Mary and Johnny did _____ in America.
4. She bought food in a litte _____.
5. Johnny looked at each green potato _____.
6. A _____ is a small clock.
7. The church held a big _____ every fall.
8. Some people get water from a _____.
9. _____ me how to do that, please.
10. The McGees had decided to _____ last year's potatoes.
11. Johnny got _____ pay for a day's work.
12. They must _____ for signs of potato rot.

store

shoot

watch

show

fair

well

Name _____

Fill in the Blanks Review Activity

Hungry No More tells the story of Johnny and Mary McGee, an _____-American couple. It is 1845. All around Ireland, the Irish are _____. When their crops turn _____ and die, Johnny and Mary McGee flee the Irish _____ for Boston with their son Little John. They are met in Boston by a friendly Irishman named McNair. He finds them a _____ to live in and _____. Johnny's job is building a _____. It is exhausting work, away from home, and dangerous. Mary gets a job at a _____ mill. McNair gives them the name of a _____ neighbor to _____ for Little John. He has helped them, but then he takes their _____ and leaves them. Their work is _____ and their life is hard, but they have enough to _____ – life was better here than in _____. Johnny is good at _____ with the other men, so he is promoted to _____. Then his best friend is _____ up. Johnny returns to Boston, gets a job as a _____. He also _____ as a volunteer fireman and political ward heeler. He loves _____ other people, without cheating them. He and Mary have _____ more _____. Then, as the _____ War begins, Johnny volunteers to save his _____. While he is away, Mary works as a maid, cooking and taking _____ of children, and she waits alone. When the war ends, Johnny comes _____ home to his family and Boston.

Full text of the fill in the blanks review activity

Hungry No More tells the story of Johnny and Mary McGee, an Irish-American couple. It is 1845. All around Ireland, the Irish are starving. When their crops turn black and die, Johnny and Mary McGee flee the Irish Potato Famine for Boston with their son Little John. They are met in Boston by a friendly Irishman named McNair. He finds them a room to live in and jobs. Johnny's job is building a railroad. It is exhausting work, away from home, and dangerous. Mary gets a job at a wool mill. McNair gives them the name of a woman neighbor to care for Little John. He has helped them, but then he takes their money and leaves them. Their work is hard and their life is hard, but they have enough to eat – life was better here than in Ireland. Johnny is good at working with the other men, so he is promoted to supervisor. Then his best friend is blown up. Johnny returns to Boston, gets a job as a policeman. He also volunteers as a volunteer fireman and political ward heeler. He loves helping other people, without cheating them. He and Mary have seven more children. Then, as the Civil War begins, Johnny volunteers to save his country. While he is away, Mary works as a maid, cooking and taking care of children, and she waits alone. When the war ends, Johnny comes marching home to his family and Boston.

Answer Key

The “What Did You Read?” questions may sometimes be answered in more than one way. The answers given below should serve as guidelines for accepting the students’ answers. The answers to the “Word Play” exercise should be exactly as given in this answer key, except where specifically noted.

What Did You Read?

1. Ireland
2. potatoes famine
3. Boston
4. someone who is new to a country or place
5. wool mill
6. railroad
7. He did not take the workers’ money.
8. because he wanted to help people
9. because they did not like Irish people
10. She was a maid.
11. the North
12. because there was food

Word Play: More than one way

1. show
2. shoot
3. well
4. store
5. shoot
6. watch
7. fair
8. well
9. Show
10. store
11. fair
12. watch

Links to photographs to download

Hungry No More – Irish-Americans

Recommendations by the Tana Reiff

There are a lot of photos in the public domain. Here are links – you can choose what you want and download free images.

12 drawings of 19th-century Ireland here:

<http://history1800s.about.com/od/irelandinthe1800s/ig/19th-Century-Ireland/>

Some high-quality illustrations. Also a history.

Standout illustration: Miss Kennedy distributing clothing at Kilrush

<http://www.maggielblanck.com/Mayopages/Famine.html>

A number of great photos on this page.

<http://s1.zetaboards.com/anthroscape/topic/5841254/1/>

Wikimedia Commons. Some of the best I found:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_How_and_Why_Library_010.jpg

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Famine.jpg>

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Irishman_looks_at_poster_of_voyages_to_New_York,_19th_C_Wellcome_L0036002.jpg

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Family_evicted_by_their_landlord_during_the_Irish_Land_War_c1879.jpg

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Famine_national_monument_at_Murrisk_-_geograph.org.uk_-_965072.jpg

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:EarlyIrishImmigrants.gif>

old textile mills:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Fulling_Mill,_High_Brewster,_Mass_\(76210\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Fulling_Mill,_High_Brewster,_Mass_(76210).jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cyclopedia_of_textile_work_-_a_general_reference_library_on_cotton,_woolen_and_worsted_yarn_manufacture,_weaving,_designing,_chemistry_and_dyeing,_finishing,_knitting,_and_allied_subjects_\(1911\)__\(14779507411\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cyclopedia_of_textile_work_-_a_general_reference_library_on_cotton,_woolen_and_worsted_yarn_manufacture,_weaving,_designing,_chemistry_and_dyeing,_finishing,_knitting,_and_allied_subjects_(1911)__(14779507411).jpg)