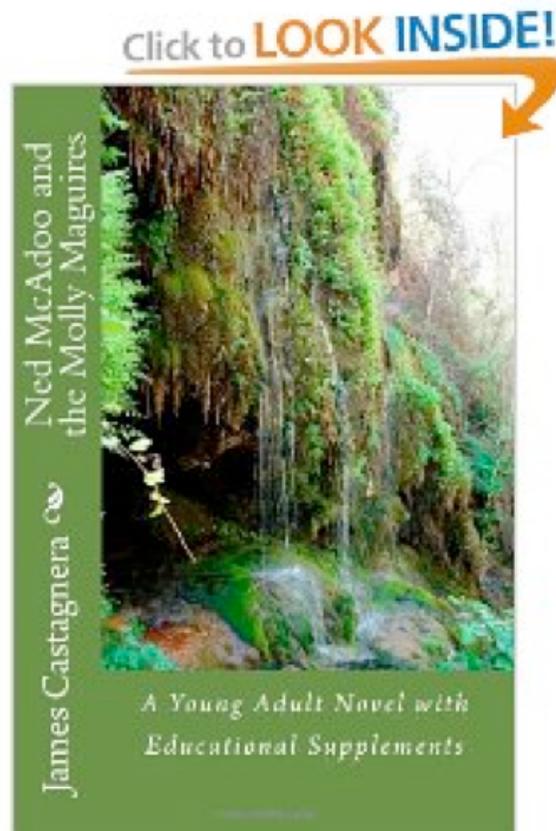


Teacher's Packet:©

Ned McAdoo and the Molly Maguires
By Jim Castagnera

Available from www.amazon.com:



http://www.amazon.com/Ned-McAdoo-Molly-Maguires-Educational/dp/1466248564/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1325177436&sr=1-1

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1. Background Materials

Ned McAdoo and the Molly Maguires is suitable, we believe, for a course or a unit at the Middle or High School level on domestic terrorism in the United States. In this sequel to "Why My Dad Hates Ice Cream," (a young-adult novel dealing with AIDS discrimination) Archie and Ned McAdoo take the case of an animal-rights activist accused of planting a bomb in the Philadelphia Zoo to free its elephants. The paths of 19th and 21st century terrorism cross in this novel's plot, which is as fresh as this morning's headlines.

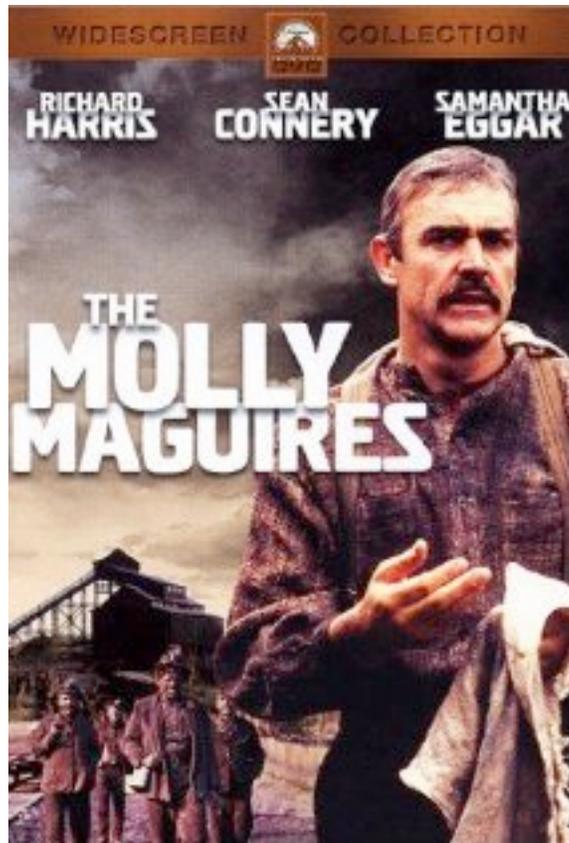
Part One of this young-adult novel alternates among three time periods:

(1) The 1870s, when approximately 20 Irish coal miners and political/labor leaders were arrested and tried for crimes they

allegedly committed as members of a secret society known as the Molly Maguires.

Background materials on the Molly Maguires in Ireland and America in the 19th century include:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molly_Maguires
- Kevin Kenny, *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires*, available at <http://www.amazon.com/Making-Sense-Molly-Maguires-Kevin/dp/0195116313>
- “The Molly Maguires,” a major motion picture (1970):
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0066090/>



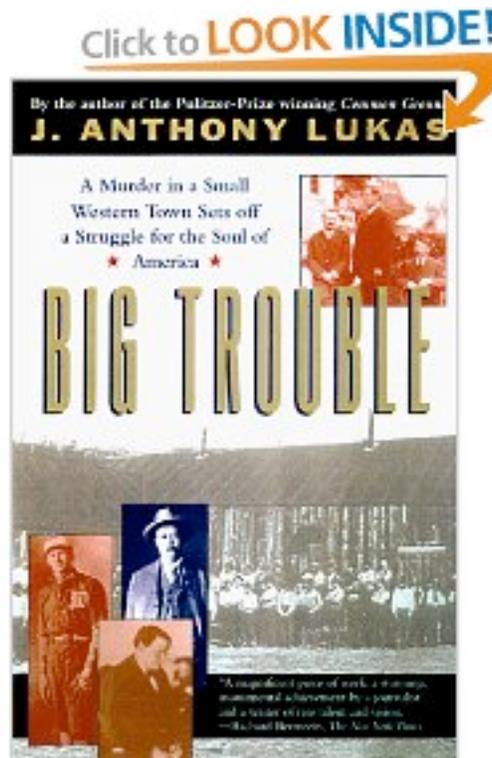
Available at http://www.amazon.com/Molly-Maguire-Sean-Connery/dp/B0001FGBLG/ref=sr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1325177378&sr=1-1

(2) The 1987 quest by Attorney Archie McAdoo and his 17-year-old son Ned to find evidence out West that might win John “Black Jack” Kehoe, alleged “King of the Molly Maguires,” a posthumous pardon. Key to this quest is a 1906-07 murder trial, during which famous attorney Clarence Darrow won the acquittal of labor leader William “Big Bill” Haywood, accused of blowing up former Idaho Governor Frank Steunenberg.

Background materials on the Steunenberg murder trial:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Steunenberg

- J. Anthony Lukas, *Big Trouble: A Murder in a Small Western Town Sets Off a Struggle for the Soul of America*, available at http://www.amazon.com/Big-Trouble-Western-Struggle-America/dp/0684846179/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1310225395&sr=8-1



(3) The year 2007, when Archie and Ned, now grown up and his father's law partner, defend a client accused of attempting to blow a hole in the wall of the Philadelphia Zoo's pachyderm compound in a failed attempt to free the elephants.

Background material on the animal rights movement:

An article on this issue by co-author Jim Castagnera is available for free downloading on his website, adjacent to this Teacher's Packet.

2. Discussion Questions

- Assume for this question that Black Jack Kehoe and the other Irishmen accused of being “Molly Maguires” really were members of a secret society. What might their motives have been for forming such a society? What would their goals have been? Might they have been justified?
- Is it possible that Maggie Mulhearn was right about Black Jack having been framed by the railroad and mine owners and the Pinkertons? What motive would these business people and their hired detectives have for creating such a “frame-up”?
- What was the connection that Clarence Darrow drew between the Molly Maguire trials and the Steunenberg murder trial? What evidence did he have to support

his comparison? If he was right, why was this relevant to the guilt or innocence of Big Bill Haywood?

- Do today's animal rights activists, such as John Larkin and Flying Dove, have a point? If they do, what is it?
- Assume for this question that you said, "yes," Larkin and Flying Dove do have a point. How far are they entitled to go to make that point? Would they have been justified to set the elephants in the Philadelphia Zoo free? What are some of the pros and cons of such an act?
- As between the Molly Maguires (assuming they really existed) and the animal rights activists, which group has a stronger case for self-defense? Should the law recognize the justice of their causes... If so, how?... By excusing their conduct? By reducing the punishment?
- Based on what you've read and discussed so far, how would you define a terrorist? Is one person's terrorist another person's patriot? Base upon your answers to these questions, were the founders of the United States "terrorists"?
- In light of your answers to the last set of questions --- and recognizing that the letter found

by Ned in the novel is fictitious --- would you pardon Black Jack Kehoe?

3. Activities

- Have groups of students research (1) the Molly Maguires; (2) the Steunenberg murder case; (3) animal rights activists on the Internet and report to the class on what is fiction and what is an accurate depiction in *Ned McAdoo and the Molly Maguires*. This assignment lends itself well to PowerPoint presentations with embedded URLs and video clips.
- Divide the students into teams and have them debate --- or conduct a mock trial --- on the Molly Maguire, Big Bill Haywood, and John Larkin cases.
- Assign individual students or groups to research and report on other instances of domestic terrorism, such as the 1993 Oklahoma City Bombing. Again, PowerPoint presentations work well for this assignment.

- Another fertile field for individual or group research and class presentations is the issue of how the U.S. should work to detect and prevent future acts of domestic terrorism, while avoiding miscarriages of justice.

Good Luck...

Have Fun !