
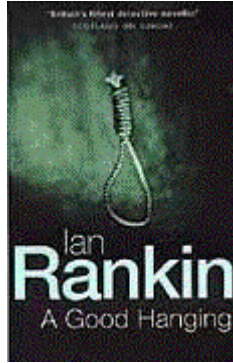


Being Frank

A short-story by Ian Rankin

Worksheet

 = use a dictionary



From the collection: *A Good Hanging and Other Stories*

Orion Paperback (1998)

Twelve terrific stories starring Detective Inspector John Rebus: His home city of Edinburgh is not just the tartan tea-rooms and cobbled streets of the tourist brochures, but a modern urban conurbation with the full range of criminals and their victims - blackmailers, Peeping Toms, and more than one kind of murderer. It is a city that gives birth to crimes of passion, accident and long-hidden jealousy.

'Britain's finest detective novelist' *Scotland on Sunday*
'An outstanding creation' *Daily Telegraph*

1. A portrait : beginning → l. 26

 Who is Frank? (find as many synonyms as possible)


- What is a hostel ?
- Frank's ID.

CONCISE COLUMBIA ENCYCLOPEDIA on CD-ROM

Rossetti, Dante Gabriel, 1828–82, English poet and artist. In 1848, with the painters W. Holman Hunt and John Everett MILLAIS, he founded the brotherhood of PRE-RAPHAELITES. John RUSKIN championed the group and bought many of Rossetti's paintings. Rossetti's poetry, like his paintings, is noted for its pictorial effects and atmosphere of luxurious beauty. His early poem "The Blessed Damozel" and the sonnet sequence "The House of Life" are his finest works. The first edition of his collected poems appeared in 1870. His sister, **Christina (Georgina) Rossetti**, 1830–94, was also a poet. Deeply religious, she lived a reclusive life. Much of her poetry is melancholy or religious; "Uphill" and "When I Am Dead, My Dearest" concern death. Her best work is in *Goblin Market and Other Poems* (1862).


- Explain the phrase : "not quite in disbelief"
- Frank's way of life compared to a "normal" person

Climbing higher	So low
He preferred to live out of doors	
weatherbeaten	dirty
Plastic bags are a convenient place to keep one's possessions	

 shuffle = _____, trademark = _____

- Explain how Frank organises his year?

Spring	autumn	summer	winter

 bother = _____, seldom = _____, loch = _____, hill = _____

2. Lunchtime on a bright day : l.28 → l. 58

- Where does the scene take place?
- In the second paragraph explain why the two men "squeezed themselves onto the furthest edge of the bench"?

 find a word to describe what Frank is doing when he listens to the conversation of the two men.

- Say the phrase "council of war" out loud.

 ominous = _____, find the name corresponding _____

- What would you say about Frank's conspiracy theories? Would you believe him? Can you give an example of a famous conspiracy theory?

3. The regular : l. 60 → p. 2, l. 26

- Describe the regular and say what opinion this regular seem to have about Frank.
- What do you think of Frank stories?
- Pronounce the word "Rhodes" out Loud, check the pronunciation

4. Sunday morning : p. 2, l. 28 → p. 3, l. 35

- Who is this other regular? What is he doing here? What is his state of mind?
- Explain what Rebus means when he says : "Talking to Frank was like reading the Sunday rags"
- What is Frank trying to explain to Rebus?
- What is the 1£ question?
- Can you now complete Frank's year?

5. Rebus at home : p. 3, l.37 → p. 3, l. 58

- Re-reading the 4th part and the 5th underline all the elements that provide hints about Rebus →Try to identify the kind of character Rebus could be.
- Give an example that shows that Rebus is a cop.

6. The visit : p. 3, l. 60 → p. 4, l. 7

- The visitors : who are they? what do they want?
- Explain the meaning of "cowboy builders and tinkers" (bottom of page 56/top of page 57)
- How does Rebus get rid of them?
- Explain the Rebus's little joke.
- What does Rebus do immediately after having managed to get rid of them? and why?

7. Eavesdropping : p. 4, l. 9 → p. 4, l. 40

- Say the name and title "Councillor Waugh" out loud.
- What are Councillors?

8. Action: p. 4, l. 42 → p. 5, l. 36

- Everything is now clear. The swindle : explain it.

9. Epilogue: p. 5, l. 38 → the end.

- Identify and explain the tone of the sentence p61 "What? Didn't Rebus even want to ask him the question?"
- What about Frank's philosophy ?