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Image of Frank Abagnale: This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

MOVIE STUDIES:

- The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler
- The Emperor's New Groove
- The Giver
- The Greatest Showman
- Holes
- Life is Beautiful
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- Meet the Robinsons
- Mulan
- Newsies
- The Pursuit of Happyness
- The Sound of Music
- Wreck it Ralph
- And more!

Created by Samantha Shank

E-mail: sam@learnincolor.com

Website: learnincolor.com

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Name: _____

Movie Quiz

- Where does Carl meet Frank at the very beginning of the movie?
A. A hotel in Atlanta
B. Prison
C. At his parent's house
D. The New York Bank
- What did Frank Abagnale Sr. give his son for his 16th birthday?
A. A new car
B. A pair of shoes
C. A checking account
D. A credit card
- Why does Frank run away?
A. He is meeting his girlfriend
B. He wanted an adventure
C. He had an argument with his dad
D. His parent's divorce
- What profession does Frank choose first?
A. Doctor
B. Lawyer
C. Pilot
D. Casino owner
- What name does Frank give Carl?
A. Barry Allen
B. James Bond
C. Peter Parker
D. Clark Kent
- How does Carl figure out Frank is a kid?
A. His driver's license
B. His fictitious comic book name
C. Frank's mother tells him
D. He reads it in a newspaper
- Where is Frank's mom from?
A. France
B. Belgium
C. Norway
D. Germany
- Who does Frank get engaged to?
A. Sarah
B. Amy
C. Donna
D. Brenda
- Who finally catches Frank?
A. His father
B. Carl
C. Special Agent Witkins
D. Roger
- After escaping from the plane, where does Frank go?
A. His mother's house
B. His father's house
C. A motel
D. The bank
- How does Frank get a reduced prison sentence?
A. Good behavior in prison
B. Volunteering
C. Helping the FBI
D. All of these
- What were some ways that Frank committed fraud?

Name: _____

Discussion Questions

1. Think back before Frank leaves home. What skills does he possess that help him later in life?

2. How was Frank able to pretend to be a teacher? Think of his attitude and body language.

3. How does Frank use flattery to get what he wants?

4. In the hotel room, Carl had the opportunity to arrest Frank but did not. Why didn't Carl look in Frank's wallet?

5. In the hotel room, we see labels peeled off. Why do you think Frank peels the labels off of things?

6. Why does Frank call Carl on Christmas Eve?

7. During the phone call, Frank tells Carl the truth of his location. Why?

8. What attracts Frank to Brenda?

9. After getting engaged to Brenda, Frank and his father meet. Describe the way Frank speaks to his father. How does he keep trying to please his father? (This may hint why he became a fraud.)

10. This movie was based on Frank's memoir. Why do you think his memoir is somewhat unreliable?

Name: _____

Frank Abagnale

Many kids often try to convince their parents to give them money. Few will develop elaborate schemes to con their own father out of thousands of dollars like Frank Abagnale, Jr. did!

Frank was born in 1948. At the age of fifteen, Frank's father entrusted him with a Mobil credit card to cover expenses as he commuted to his part-time job. Having always acted responsibly, Frank's father never guessed he would use the credit card to gain access to thousands of dollars to take girls out on dates. Frank would charge various car parts only to return them, convincing store employees to give him cash refunds. His father remained clueless until an investigator showed up to collect the money owed on the card.

Although Frank's father forgave him and paid the bill, he ultimately lost his business and ended up divorcing Frank's mother. Frank felt responsible and at sixteen ran away from home, diving deeper into a life of crime. Over the next six years, Frank forged checks and opened multiple bank accounts under fictitious names. He created fake deposit slips causing unwitting bank customers to deposit money directly into his accounts. He cashed more than \$2.5 million dollars in counterfeit checks.

Frank developed an elaborate scheme to pose as a Pan Am airline pilot flying over one million miles and visiting more than 26 countries. He forged a Harvard Law degree and even impersonated a physician for eleven months. Eventually, Frank's crimes caught up with him and with the FBI hot on his trail, he quietly made his exit to France. Frank's glory days were over, and French authorities captured him. Extradited to the United States, Frank managed to slip away but was captured by Canadian Mounties.

In 1971, he escaped prison once again. It wasn't long until he was captured again, but this time he was given the deal of a lifetime. The FBI agreed to release Frank if he would come and work for them. Frank turned his life of crime into a lucrative forty-year career helping the FBI to protect against fraud and embezzlement.

Today, he lives in Charleston, South Carolina with his wife and three children.

In 1977, he appeared on the television show *To Tell The Truth*. This game show was shown at the beginning of the movie.



Name: _____

Frank Abagnale Quiz

1. What did Frank do with the credit card that his father gave him at the age of 15?

2. How did he get caught?

3. Why did Frank run away from home?

4. Describe some of Frank's bank frauds.

5. What three careers did Frank impersonate?

6. Where was Frank finally caught?

7. Why was Frank released from prison?

8. Where does Frank live today?

9. What game show did Frank appear on, which was featured in the movie?

Name: _____

Life of a Fraud

1. Describe the way Frank was able to counterfeit checks.

2. When does Frank commit forgery?

3. Describe the way Frank was able to glean information about becoming a pilot.

4. How did being a pilot make it easier to commit forgery and fraud?

5. Why did Frank have to visit multiple different banks to cash his checks?

6. When Frank doesn't know something, how does he "get out" of that situation?

7. What problems did Frank face as a doctor?

8. What things was Frank able to get away with that he would not be able to get away with now?

Name: _____

Family & Relationships

1. Describe Frank's parents before the divorce. Can you find any tension?

2. Who do you think Frank is closer to, his mother or his father?

3. What traits or schemes of his father shaped Frank's schemes and forgery later on?

4. What is Frank's initial response to his parent's divorce?

5. Describe Frank's relationship with Brenda. Why is he attracted to her?

6. How does Frank react to the news of his father's death?

7. After being arrested in France, why does Frank go back to his mother's house?

8. Compare and contrast Frank's relationship with his parents to Carl's relationship with his family.

Name: _____

Traits of Frank

Below are some traits of Frank. When does he display them? Use examples from the movie.

Confident

Intelligent

Observant

Charming

Creative

Persistent

Name: _____

Traits of Carl

Below are some traits of Carl. When does he display them? Use examples from the movie.

Witty

Serious

Dedicated

Persistent

Simple

Caring

Name: _____

Pilot, Doctor, and Lawyer

List some traits a person would need to be a successful pilot, doctor, or lawyer. Then, list the traits Frank-

Traits of a Pilot

Traits of Frank

Traits of a doctor

Traits of Frank

Traits of a Lawyer

Traits of Frank

Name: _____

Brenda vs. Frank

Compare and contrast Frank and Brenda.

Frank

similarities

Brenda

Name: _____

Themes

Give at least three examples of the following themes from *Catch Me If You Can!*

Divorce

Loneliness

Overcoming Fears

Name: _____

Wanted: Frank Abagnale

Created a wanted poster for Frank Abagnale. Give a description of him and his crimes and draw a picture of him.

Name: _____

Writing Prompts

1. How did Frank's background and upbringing shape his life? (think of his parent's divorce and his dad's schemes)
2. Which of his three "professions" - pilot, doctor, or lawyer, do you think would have been hardest? Why?
3. Frank is highly intelligent. When can he be a little naive?
4. How did the divorce of Frank's parents hurt him? In what ways does this show the brokenness that divorce can cause?
5. The movie is set in the 1960s, a quiet and innocent time. How do Frank's schemes compare with the innocence of the people, especially the young ladies, around him?
6. What can *Catch Me If You Can* teach us about human behavior?
7. Imagine if Frank's exploits happened in today's world. What schemes do you think he would concoct? What would he not be able to get away with in today's world?
8. Describe Frank's charm and charisma. How was he able to get away with so much?
9. Why do you think Frank committed his schemes and forgery? What did he get out of it, if anything? Is he materialistic or does he love money?
10. Being highly intelligent, why do you think Frank didn't choose a "normal" successful profession that he undoubtedly would have succeeded in?
11. Is Frank a good or bad person?
12. After being arrested, Frank received a significantly shorter prison sentence in exchange for helping the FBI. Is this surprising? Why or why not?

Name: _____

To Tell The Truth

[Watch the real-life Frank Abagnale on the show To Tell The Truth.](#)

To Tell The Truth is a game show. Four celebrity panelists are introduced to a person and out of the three, they must guess the “real” person. It lasted from 1956 to 1978, and was later re-created in 2016.

Can you guess which one is the real Frank Abagnale? Why or why not? Use the spaces below as notes to write down comments about each person.

PERSON 1

PERSON 2

PERSON 3

Name: _____

Answer Key

Quiz

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. D
9. B
10. A
11. C
12. Answers may vary

Frank Abagnale

1. Used the money to take girls on dates
2. An investigator
3. His parent's divorce
4. Forged checks, creating fake deposit slips
5. Pilot, doctor, and lawyer
6. France
7. He agreed to work for the FBI.
8. Charleston, South Carolina
9. To Tell The Truth