

## 8:3a The Human Comedy Chapters 31-34

### “Mr. Mechano”

- One of the most important chapters in the work.
- The foreshadowing of death comes heavy into this chapter.
- Ulysses loses his innocence and his fearlessness in a shoddy drug store window.
- Finally, and ominously, Marcus has written letters to everyone.
- A careful reader can guess that Marcus wrote them as his “good-byes” before he leaves for war.
- Spangler has his lucky egg, as does Ulysses in the first chapter. An egg may stand for childishness and trust.

### “On the Train”

- Tobey, who is in orphan, has become enthralled with Ithaca and the Macauley’s and wants to come back to Ithaca and marry Bess.
- The chapter concludes with Tobey praying for a safe return to Ithaca and all of the “boys” sing a hymn.

## 8:3b the Human Comedy Chapters 31-34

### “Marcus”

- Homer, sensing the weight of his brother’s letter, does not open it.
- Marcus tells Homer that he is “the man of the house”
- Note Homer’s sense of gathering gloom.

### “At the Church”

- The egg image returns, in the guise of a baldpate.
- Big Chris becomes Christ, walking on water.

