

Ch.1-8 *The Human Comedy* Response

I. Introduction – The Theme of Innocence and Experience

One of the important themes in *The Human Comedy* is the *loss of innocence* and the *gain of experience and knowledge*. As we follow both Homer and his little brother, Ulysses, on their adventures, we witness different interactions and conversations in which both boys **learn more about the realities of their world and of the other people in it.**

II. Instructions for Your Response

- 1) Choose one of the prompts below, and discuss it in a fully-developed paragraph.
Begin your paragraph with a *clear claim or topic sentence*.
Support your claim with *textual evidence* and *clearly-explained reasoning*.
- 2) Incorporate two meaningful quotations from the text into your paragraph to illustrate your ideas.

Writing Prompt 1: Homer

So far in the novel, how have we seen Homer Macauley losing innocence or gaining important experience and knowledge about the realities of his world and the other people in it?

Discuss how *one or more specific experiences* of Homer's make him begin to "grow up."

Writing Prompt 2: Mrs. Macauley

In multiple chapters so far, we have witnessed as Mrs. Macauley listens and answers questions for both of her curious sons, Homer and Ulysses.

In what ways can we tell that Mrs. Macauley is a wise and kind woman? What sort of wisdom does she share with either (or both) of her sons, and why are her words valuable or helpful to them?

Review: Tips for Using Quotations

- Before you give each quotation, clearly introduce the context (situation and speaker) of the passage.
- After each quotation, correctly cite the page number, and then explain what the evidence *reveals* or what we can *infer* from the passage.
- Don't use the word "quote" anywhere in your paragraph.