

A Working Outline of Finnegans Wake

CHAPTER 1 (pp. 3-29)

- 3: Statement of themes
4: Battle in Heaven and introduction of Finnegan
5: Finnegan's fall and promise of resurrection
5-6: The City
6-7: The Wake
7-8: Landscape foreshadows H.C.E. and A.L.P.
8-10: Visit to Willingdone Museyroom
10: The Earwicker house
10-12: Biddy the hen finds the letter in the midden heap
12-13: Dublin landscape
13-15: Pre-history of Ireland—the invaders
(including the birth of Shem and Shaun, p. 14)
15-18: Mutt and Jute recount the Battle of Clontarf
18-20: The development of the Alphabet and Numbers
21-23: The Tale of Jarl van Hoother and the Prank-
quean
23-24: The Fall
25: Finnegan's Wake revisited
25-29: Restless Finnegan is told about the present age
29: H.C.E. introduced

CHAPTER 2 (pp. 30-47)

- 30-32: The genesis and naming of Humphrey Chimpden
Earwicker
32-33: Gaiety Theatre production of *A Royal Divorce*
33-35: Rumors about H.C.E.'s indiscretion
35-36: The Encounter with the Cad
36-38: The Cad dines and drinks

- 38-42: The Cad's story is spread
 42-44: The making of the Ballad by Hosty
 44-47: The Ballad of Persse O'Reilly

CHAPTER 3 (pp. 48-74)

- 48-50: The balladeer and all involved come to bad ends
 as Time Passes
 50-52: Earwicker asked to tell the old story
 52-55: Earwicker's "innocent" version is filmed, tele-
 vised, and aired
 55-58: A review of Earwicker's Fall
 58: H.C.E.'s Wake
 58-61: A reporter's interview with the populace con-
 cerning H.C.E.'s crime
 61-62: A report of H.C.E.'s flight
 62-63: A report of H.C.E.'s encounter with a masked
 assailant
 63-64: The Banging on the Gate
 64-65: Movie digression: Peaches and Daddy Browning
 66-67: Inquiry concerning missing letters and stolen
 coffin
 67: Lolly the Constable testifies on the arrest of
 drunken Earwicker
 67-68: The demise of the two temptresses
 69: The locked gate
 69-71: A Midwesterner at the gate of the closed pub
 after hours reviles H.C.E.
 71-72: The list of abusive names
 72: H.C.E. remains silent
 73: The braying ass retreats
 74: Finn's resurrection foreshadowed as H.C.E.
 sleeps

CHAPTER 4 (pp. 75-103)

- 75: The besieged Earwicker dreams

- 76-79: The burial in Lough Neagh (including the battle interlude, pp. 78-79)
- 79-81: Kate Strong recalls old times in the midden heap in Phoenix Park
- 81-85: Encounter between attacker and adversary repeats H.C.E.-Cad meeting
- 85-90: Festy King on trial for Park indiscretion
- 90-92: Pegger Festy denies any act of violence, wins Issy's love
- 92-93: King freed, reveals his deception and is vilified by the girls
- 93-94: The Letter
- 94-96: The Four Old Judges rehash the case and argue over the past
- 96-97: The Fox Hunt—in pursuit of H.C.E.
- 97-100: Rumors rampant regarding H.C.E.'s death or reappearance
- 101-3: The women usher in A.L.P.

CHAPTER 5 (pp. 104-25)

- 104-7: Invocation and list of suggested names for A.L.P.'s untitled mamafesta
- 107-25: A scrutinization of the Document, including:
Cautioning against impatience (108)
Regarding the envelope (109)
Citing the place where it was found (110)
Regarding Bidy the finder (110-11)
Contents of the letter (111)
Condition of the letter (111-12)
Various types of analyses of the letter: historical, textual, Freudian, Marxist, etc. (114-16)
The Book of Kells (119-24)

CHAPTER 6 (pp. 126-68)

- 126: Radio quiz program: Shaun answers Shem's questions

- 126-39: First question identifies the epic hero Finn Mac-Cool
- 139: Second question regards Shaun's mother
- 139-40: Third question seeks a motto for the Earwicker establishment
- 140-41: Fourth question deals with the four capital cities of Ireland
- 141: Fifth question regards the Earwicker handyman
- 141-42: Sixth question regards Kate, the charwoman
- 142: Seventh question identifies the twelve citizens
- 142-43: Eighth question identifies the Maggies
- 143: Ninth question concerns the kaleidoscopic dream
- 143-148: Tenth question is a "pepette" letter of love
- 148-68: Eleventh question asks Shaun if he would aid Shem in saving his soul, includes:
Professor Jones on the dime-cash problem (148-52)
The Mookse and the Gripes (152-59)
Burrus and Caseous (161-68)
- 168: Twelfth question identifies Shem as the accursed brother

CHAPTER 7 (169-95)

- 169-70: A portrait of Shem
- 170: The first riddle of the universe
- 170-75: On Shem's lowness
- 175: Football match song
- 175-76: The Games
- 176-77: Shem's cowardice during war and insurrection
- 177-78: Shem's boasting about his literary ability while drunk
- 178-79: Shem, venturing out after the war, finds himself facing a gun
- 179-80: Shem as a tenor

- 180-82: His career as a forger in various European capitals, booted out as foul
- 182-84: Shem's place of residence
- 184: Shem cooks eggs in his kitchen
- 185-86: Shem makes ink from his excrement in order to write his books
- 186-87: Shem arrested by Constable Sackerson in order to save him from the mob
- 187-93: Justius [Shaun] berates Shem
- 193-95: Mercius [Shem] defends himself

CHAPTER 8 (pp. 196-216)

- 196-201: Two washerwomen on the banks of the Liffey gossip about A.L.P. and H.C.E.
- 201: Anna Livia Plurabelle's message
- 201-4: Gossip about the love life of the young Anna Livia
- 204-5: Washerwomen interrupt their gossip to wash Lily Kinsella's drawers
- 205-12: A.L.P. steals off to distribute presents to all her children
- 212-16: Darkness falls as the washerwomen turn into a tree and a rock

CHAPTER 9 (Book II, chap. 1, pp. 219-59)

- 219: Program for the Mime of Mick, Nick and the Maggies
- 219-21: *Dramatis Personae* of the Mime
- 221-22: Credits for the Mime
- 222-24: The argument of the Mime
- 224-25: Glugg asked the first riddle—about jewels—loses
- 226-27: Seven rainbow girls dance and play, ignoring Glugg
- 227-33: Regarding Glugg's career as an exile and writer

- 233: Glugg asked the second riddle—on insects—
loses again
- 233-39: Rainbow girls sing their paean of praise to their
Sun-God, Chuff
- 239-40: Glugg feels the tortures of Hell
- 240-42: Review of H.C.E.'s resurrection
- 242-43: A.L.P. offers to forgive H.C.E.
- 244: Night falls and the children are called home
- 244-45: The Animals enter Noah's ark
- 245-46: The Earwicker Tavern
- 246-47: Glugg and Chuff fight, Glugg beaten
- 247-50: The rainbow girls laud Chuff with erotic praise
- 250: Glugg asked the third riddle—loses again
- 250-51: Defeated Glugg lusts after the Leap Year Girl
- 252-55: Father appears as if resurrected
- 255-56: Mother also appears and rounds up her children
- 256-57: Children at their lessons but Issy unhappy
- 257: Curtain falls—the Mime is over
- 257-59: Prayers before bed—then to sleep

CHAPTER 10 (Book II, chap. 2, pp. 260-308)

- 260-66: Lessons begin with Shem writing left margin
notes, Shaun right margin, and Issy the foot-
notes
- 266-70: Grammar
- 270-77: History
- 277-81: Letter writing
- 282-87: Mathematics
- 287-92: Interlude recounting political, religious, and
amorous invasions of Ireland
- 293-99: Dolph explains to Kev the geometry of A.L.P.'s
vagina (marginal notes reversed)
- 299-304: Kev finally comprehends the significance of the
triangles during a letter-writing session—
strikes Dolph

- 304-6: Dolph forgives Kev
306-8: Essay assignments on 52 famous men
308: The children's night-letter to the parents

CHAPTER 11 (Book II, chap. 3, pp. 309-82)

- 309-310: The radio in Earwicker's pub
310-11: Earwicker at the beer pull
311-32: The Tale of Kersse the Tailor and the Norwegian Captain
332-34: Kate delivers Anna Livia's message that Earwicker should come to bed
335-37: H.C.E. begins his tale
337-55: Television skit by comics Butt and Taff of "How Buckley Shot the Russian General"
355-58: H.C.E. attempts an apology
358-61: Radio resumes with broadcast of nightingale's song
361-66: H.C.E. accused, speaks in his own defense
366-69: The Four Old Men harass H.C.E.
369-73: Constable Sackerson arrives at closing time while a new ballad is in the making
373-80: Earwicker, alone in the pub, hears the case against him reviewed during funeral games
380-82: Earwicker drinks up the dregs and passes out—as the ship passes out to sea

CHAPTER 12 (Book II, chap. 4, pp. 383-99)

- 383-86: Four Old Men spy on the love ship of Tristram and Iseult
386-88: Johnny MacDougall comments on the sea adventure
388-90: Marcus Lyons comments
390-93: Luke Tarpey comments
393-95: Matt Gregory comments
395-96: The sexual union of the young lovers

- 396-98: The four old men reminisce over the voyage
 398-99: The Hymn of Iseult la Belle

CHAPTER 13 (Book III, chap. 1: pp. 403-28)

- 403: H.C.E. and A.L.P. in bed at midnight
 403-5: The dreamer envisions a glorious sight of Shaun
 the Post
 405-7: Shaun described at his gorgings
 407-14: Shaun being interviewed
 414-19: The Fable of the Ondt and the Gracehoper
 419-21: Shaun denounces the Letter
 421-25: Shaun vilifies Shem and claims equal ability as
 a man of letters
 426-27: Shaun collapses into a barrel and rolls backward
 down the river
 427-28: Issy bids Shaun a nostalgic farewell

CHAPTER 14 (Book III, chap. 2; pp. 429-73)

- 429-31: Jaun rests along the road and meets the 29 girls
 from St. Bride's
 431-32: Jaun's preamble addressed to his sister
 432-39: Jaun delivers his moralizing sermon
 439-41: Jaun singles out Issy for his sermon on sex
 441-44: Jaun berates Shem the seducer
 444-45: Jaun admonishes Issy with sadistic fury
 445-46: Jaun's tirade turns into a sweet declaration of
 affection
 446-48: Jaun campaigns for civic improvement
 448-52: Jaun pays court to Issy with assurances of his
 success in business
 452-54: Jaun ends his sermon
 454-57: Jaun adds a gastronomic postscript
 457-61: Issy replies in an amorous letter
 461-68: The departing Jaun introduces her to his brother
 Dave

- 468-69: Jaun finally takes his leave
469-73: St. Bride's girls bid farewell to Haun, the ghost
 of Jaun

CHAPTER 15 (Book III, chap. 3; pp. 474-554)

- 474-77: The four old men find the exhausted Yawn on
 a midden heap
477-83: They interrogate Yawn
483-85: Yawn angrily reproaches his interrogators
485-91: Inquiry continues as Yawn explains his relation-
 ship to his brother
491-99: The voice of A.L.P. through Yawn discusses
 H.C.E.'s indiscretion
499-506: A ghost voice through Yawn discusses the Fall
506-10: Regarding Toucher "Thom"
510-20: Regarding the Wake
520-23: The interrogation takes a turn for the worse and
 tempers flare
523-26: Treacle Tom gives his version of the encounter
 in the park
526-28: Issy talks to her mirror image
528-30: Matt Gregory takes over the inquiry and recalls
 the constable
530-31: Kate is called upon to testify
532-39: H.C.E. himself is called to the stand and delivers
 his self-defense
539-46: H.C.E. boasts of the great city he has founded
 and rules
546-54: H.C.E. recounts the conquest of A.L.P.

CHAPTER 16 (Book III, chap. 4; pp. 555-90)

- 555-59: Night in the Porter house—parents disturbed by
 Jerry's cry in his sleep
559-63: Matt's view of the parents in bed: First Position
 of Harmony

- 564-82: Mark's view: Second Position of Discordance
 (includes: the court trials, 572-76)
- 582-90: Luke's view: Third Position of Concord: unsuccessful union disturbed by the crowing of cock at dawn
- 590: John's view: Fourth Position of Solution

CHAPTER 17 (Book IV: pp. 593-628)

- 593-601: Dawn of new era awakens the sleeping giant
- 601: 29 Girls celebrate Kevin
- 601-3: Morning newspaper carries the story of H.C.E.'s indiscretion
- 603-6: St. Kevin the hermit meditates in his bathtub-altar
- 606-9: The park scene of H.C.E.'s indiscretion revisited
- 609-13: Muta and Juva watch the encounter of St. Patrick and the Archdruid
- 613-15: Morning brings the cycle to its beginning
- 615-19: The Letter signed by A.L.P. is in the morning mail
- 619-28: Anna Livia's final soliloquy as she goes out to sea