

Sample Student

16 November 2009

ENL Paper

Dramatic Monologue and "Prufrock," the Modern Man

Comment [MW1]: MLA 7th calls for this flush left. Page numbers should be added flush right.

Comment [O2]: No extra space should be inserted before or after the title according to MLA 7th edition.

Comment [O3]: Space between initials.

Comment [O4]: This could be more clearly stated. Despair-Feelings-Being. These three need to be in the same agreeing form to maintain parallelism. ie: Despair, Confusion, Sensitivity.

Comment [O5]: I believe this should be italicized to remain consistent with above.

Comment [O6]: Why a switch to first person?

Comment [O7]: A line # is needed.

Comment [O8]: . . .to begin is at the beginning.

Comment [O9]: Repetitive use of this word

Comment [O10]: MLA 7th eliminates "line" & calls for the numeral only.

Comment [O11]: Why switch to first person?

Comment [O12]: spelling

Comment [O13]: spelling

Comment [O14]: I would separate the two points into two separate sentences.

Comment [O15]: Reconsider whether you want to use clichés in an academic paper.

Comment [O16]: Watch syntax.

Comment [O17]: Nice sentence!

T.S. Eliot's use of narration in *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* exhibits Prufrock as the representative modern man filled with despair, feelings of confusion, questioning purpose and tradition, and also being sensitive to his conditions. Eliot, master and commander of modernist literature, wrote "Prufrock" in the early 1900s at the beginning of his career. His early works then contained characters who represented spiritually exhausted people, drowning in the disillusionment of society. In his "Love Song," Eliot takes the reader on a tour, via a middle-aged, insecure man who figuratively walks us along emptied streets of a smoke-filled city. To express the issue of the speaker, Eliot uses first-person narration in the form of a dramatic monologue. "Let us go then," and follow Prufrock's dramatic monologue, the references and allusions to people, places, and things that all depict him as a man searching for meaning; a man of the modern war-wounded world.

Perhaps the most easy place to begin with is the beginning. After the epigraph, Eliot begins the poem with "Let us go then, you and I," (Line 1) as if to invite the reader on a journey. He paints the scene of this trip we take against the dusk evening sky, which he sees as "a patient etherised upon a table"(Line 3). Eliot does two things here through this narration: one, he sets the tone of a sombre evening, and perhaps we can say by the end, of a sombre lifestyle this man is living, and two, in saying the night is like a patient that has been given ether, it too is unconscious and lifeless. Again, right from jump we are painted a picture of a lonely man in a lonely setting. The image of the patient, helpless on the table, is also useful for understanding the kind of man Prufrock is, himself. Like the patient, he is rendered unconscious. . .