



Prufrock Analysis Worksheet

Student Name _____ Date _____

Read the work by T.S. Eliot, then answer the questions about the pertinent lines listed below:

<u>“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”: Lines for Close Analysis</u>	<u>Guiding Questions for Students</u>
1) Lines 1-13	1) Who is the speaker of the poem and to whom is the poem addressed?
2) Lines 1-15	2) Where is the speaker? Describe the time of day, place, etc. What parts of the poem support your answer?
3) Lines 1-15	3) Identify two SIMILES in the opening stanza. What do these similes suggest about what is being compared to something else?
4) Lines 14-15	4) What room is the speaker describing?
5) Lines 15-23	5) Identify the primary METAPHOR in this stanza. In other words, to what does the poet indirectly liken the yellow fog? Note specific elements/words from the poem to support your answer.

6) Lines 23-33	6) What is the primary argument of this stanza? Sum up the argument in one sentence.
7) Lines 32-33	7) What does the speaker mean in lines 32-33? What does this argument have to do with what is “happening” in the poem?
8) Lines 37-48	8) What is the speaker’s emotional state at this point in the poem? What are his primary concerns?
9) Lines 46-48	9) Why do you think the speaker is stalling when it comes to socializing? Is this a speaker with whom you’d like to sit down and chat? Why or why not?
10) Line 51	10) What does the speaker mean in line 51?
11) Lines 49-69	11) Identify the poem’s use of <u>REPETITION</u>? What effect does repetition have on the poem’s meaning?
12) Lines 49-69	12) What is the speaker’s <u>TONE</u> at this point in the poem?

13) Lines 62-66	13) Whom is the speaker describing?
14) Line 66	14) Re-read line 66. What stands out about the act of digressing?
15) Lines 75-86	15) Do you think the speaker himself is digressing? Identify parts of the poem to support your answer.
16) Lines 75-86	16) What is the primary argument of this stanza?
17) Line 85	17) Who/What is “the eternal Footman”?
18) Lines 86-98	18) How does this setting relate to the setting of the poem’s opening stanzas?
19) Lines 90-98	19) Describe the speaker’s relationship to speaking itself? Is he effective at expressing himself and/or telling a story? Why or why not?
20) Line 104	20) What is your analysis of line 104?

21) Lines 111-119	21) What is the primary argument of this stanza?
22) Line 117	22) Define “obtuse.”
23) Lines 120-125	23) Has the speaker finally admitted his primary concern? What effect does “growing old” have on the speaker’s socializing?
24) Line 125	24) Re-read line 125. Why does the speaker think this?
25) Lines 129-131	25) What is the speaker’s final tone?
	<u>Notes/Comments for Class Discussion</u>