



T. S. Eliot

(1888-1965)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._S._Eliot

“Tradition and Individual Talent” -- for English Literature

- Poem: an organic thing
- Poet: through cultural memory, a poet unconsciously continues the tradition of his culture

Question

- What is the relationship between tradition and the individual talent?

allusion

- Literary reference

“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (1915) --for American Literature

- Dramatic monologue
- What is our place in the universe?
- How can any one love and communicate with anyone else?
- Hallmark of early 20th-century poetry

Question

- What torments Prufrock? Give examples to support your answer.

Question

- Describe the kind of person Eliot creates in "Prufrock." How does Prufrock fulfill or rebut stereotypes of the modern intellectual?

“The Waste Land” (1922) --for American Literature

- The most important poem of the first half of 20th century
- Deals with the failure of Western civilization

Question

- Why is allusion a key word in the study of Eliot's "The Waste Land"?

Question

- Do you agree that the male “lover” in the first episode of “A Game of Chess” passively suffers the burden of a hysterically demanding woman?

Question

- Is “The Waste Land” a sexist poem?

Question

- Is it legitimate to equate any “voice” within “The Waste Land” with that of the poet?

Question

- Describe the various speakers and characters in Eliot's poems, particularly "Prufrock" and "The Waste Land". Which of these poems, or which sections of these poems, would you call monologues? How does Eliot adapt the dramatic monologue form?

“The Hollow Men” (1925) --for English Literature

- What is the role of the epigraph in “The Hollow Men”? Give examples to support your answer.