### **ENGL 310 Modern Poetry**

February 23, 2007 Section: T.S. Eliot

#### T.S. Eliot: Two Important Early Poems

#### Spleen<sup>1</sup>

Sunday: this satisfied procession Of definite Sunday faces; Bonnets, silk hats, and conscious graces In repetition that displaces Your mental self-possession By this unwarranted digression.

Evening, lights, and tea! Children and cats in the alley; Dejection unable to rally Against this dull conspiracy.

And Life, a little bald and gray, Languid, fastidious, and bland, Waits, hat and gloves in hand, Punctilious of tie and suit (Somewhat impatient of delay) On the doorstep of the Absolute.

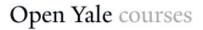
## Silence<sup>2</sup>

Along the city streets It is still high tide, Yet the garrulous waves of life Shrink and divide With a thousand incidents Vexed and debated:-This is the hour for which we waited-

This is the ultimate hour When life is justified. The seas of experience That were so broad and deep, So immediate and steep, Are suddenly still. You may say what you will,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> T.S. Eliot, *Poems Written in Early Youth* (New York: FSG, 1967), 26. Originally published in the Harvard *Advocate* in January 1910.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  T.S. Eliot, *Inventions of the March Hare*, ed. Christopher Ricks (San Diego: Harvest, 1998), 18. This poem, never published by Eliot, was written in his notebook and dated June 1910. Ricks' wonderful edition of that notebook is fascinating in its own right and essential for understanding Eliot's development into the poet of *Prufrock*.