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English II

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Love Me Baby

In “Love Story”, Taylor Swift sings “You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess / It’s a love story, baby, just say, ‘Yes.'” She sings about her search for love; rather she finds a broken heart. Similarly, in The Love Song of J.Alfred Prufrock by T.S Eliot, rather than finding love, he finds a meaningless life and lacks love because of procrastination. His inability to break his indecisiveness traps him in a dull life. In The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, T.S Eliot repeats “there will be time” “Do I dare”, and “How should I presume,” to convey the dominant theme of the poem.

To begin, Prufrock repeats the phrase “there will be time” to illustrate the idea of procrastination. Prufrock sees pollution and smog “rubbing its back on the window panes” causing him to contemplate and conclude “there will be time, there will be time” (25-26). Prufrock sees the smog move slowly and reflects on its movements. The smog’s movements inspire Prufrock to take slow steps and procrastinate on his actions. For example, while Prufrock ponders if he should approach the women, he concludes “there will be time to murder and create” (Eliot 28). Rather than approaching his desired goal of interacting with women, he instead wastes time to avoid finding out the consequences of meeting with the women. His fear of the unknown forces him to wait and delay so he can focus on other events in his life. Additionally, while he observes “the women come and go / Talking of Michelangelo,” he concludes that “there will be time” (Eliot 35-37). Prufrock lacks the confidence to see himself as the Michelangelo the women describe. His lack of courage forces him to reconsider his interaction with the women. In the end, Prufrock lacks faith in himself forcing him to procrastinate in his daily activities.

Besides, Prufrock repeats the phrase “Do I dare” to convey the theme of procrastination. As Prufrock reflects if he should approach the women, he wonders, “‘Do I dare?’ . . . Time to turn back and descend the stair” (Elliot 38-39). Prufrock sees himself “descend the stair” because his self-esteem and confidence lower every day. Despite questioning his lowering confidence, he fails to pull himself up forcing him to procrastinate his goals. Next, Prufrock notices the women talking about “ ‘how his arms and legs are thin!’ / Do I dare” (Eliot 44-45). Despite Prufrock's attempts to avoid interaction with the women, he still questions his lack of confidence. However, he fails to back his questioning with conviction because his lack of trust has become a lost cause. Finally, as he observes the women, he asks himself,“Do I dare/Disturb the universe? / In a minute, there is time/For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse” (Eliot 44-48). Prufrock absorbs the belief of predestination. This attitude forces him to take a demeanor of lacking change forcing him to stick with his serial procrastination. All in all, Prufrock habitually procrastinates despite his attempts to challenge the habit.

Also, Prufrock repeats the phrase “How should I presume” to convey a theme of procrastination. As Prufrock begins to reflect back on his life, he sees that he “measured out [his] life with coffee spoons / I know the voices dying with a dying fall / Beneath the music from a farther room So how should I presume?” (Eliot 51-54). Prufrock questions his life which leads him to conclude that he failed to achieve anything in his life because of his uncertainty. However, even though he is aware of his faults, he lacks the conviction to confront it and succumbs to the constant procrastination. Also, as Prufrock dreams about his future, he sees himself being “pinned and wriggling on the wall/ Then how should I begin”(Eliot 58-59). By “wriggling on the wall”, Prufrock attempts to escape his torturous life. However, his perpetual procrastination leaves him with no hope for him. Furthermore, as he continues to reflect, he sees his “Arms that lie along a table or wrap about a shawl. / And then should I then presume? / And how should I begin” (T.S Eliot 67-69). The drab and meaningful life of Prufrock reflects in the shawl that lies on the table. Prufrock lacks the answer to a useful life, and his habitual procrastination stops him from finding the answer causing a drab life. To sum, despite wanting to fix his life, procrastination prevents him from digging himself out of the hole.

All in all, “there will be time”, “Do I dare”, and “How should I presume” prove Prufrock habitual procrastination. Prufrock’s habit of repeating these phrases reflect his chronic procrastination. By always fleeing the truth, Prufrock buries himself in a dark hole. This dark hole becomes deeper the longer he avoids his problems and becomes inescapable. One such example is *senioritis*. Many seniors procrastinate their last semester of high school leading to a sharp academic decline. This downfall causes many colleges to revoke admissions proving serial procrastination rules over destiny and a meaningless life.

Works Cited

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