

# TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

July 17, 2013

## T.S. Eliot



*"Poetry is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality. But, of course, only those who have personality and emotions know what it means to want to escape from these things."*

Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in 1888 in the US and became a naturalized British subject in 1927.

Eliot was heavily influenced by his friend Ezra Pound, who assisted him in publication of many of his poems, notably "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" in 1915 which was included in his first published collection, *Prufrock and Other Observations*, in 1917. Eliot is also known for the *Four Quartets* and *The Waste Land*, which was arguably one of the most influential works of the last century. He also wrote short stories and plays, including *Murder in the Cathedral*.

In his early years in London he worked as a teacher and later as a banker at Lloyd's. Eventually Eliot worked for publisher Faber and Faber, where he published poets such as W.H. Auden and Ted Hughes. A prominent writer and literary critic, Eliot is regarded as a preeminent English-language poet of the 20th century.

Bonus fun fact: T. S. Eliot published *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* in 1939, a whimsical collection of poems about cats which was later adapted by Andrew Lloyd Weber in the musical *Cats*.

### Want to take your favorite poet to work for Take Your Poet to Work Day?

Here's how:

1. Color your poet
2. Cut out your poet along dotted lines
3. Attach a popsicle stick to the back of your poet with tape or glue
4. Take your poet to work as shown



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