

Grammar and Style

CHOOSE EFFECTIVE WORDS

Eliot chooses words carefully to create portraits of modern desolation. In “Preludes,” he selects precise **adjectives**: “the burnt-out ends of smoky days,” “faint stale smells of beer,” “dingy shades,” and “soiled hands.” In “The Hollow Men,” he carefully selects adjectives that suggest dry emptiness: “hollow men,” “stuffed men,” “dried voices,” “broken glass,” “dry cellar,” “cactus land,” and “broken stone.”

Directions: Review the following stanza. Then, mimicking Eliot’s poetic style, rewrite the stanza, replacing the adjectives with more vivid ones that better convey an atmosphere of decay and destitution.

Soft morning light
Reveals a small woman
Looking at dirty rubbish from the roadside.
Her large fingers grasp a new find

- 5 And bring it to her old eyes.

What was it once? What is it now?

And what is that bad smell?

She throws it to the ground

And continues down the long road,

- ## 10 Picking through the remaining evidence

Of other people's sad lives.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.