

T.S. Eliot  
Preludes  
Prelude 4

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1. "His soul stretched tight across the skies  
That fade behind a city block,  
Or trampled by insistent feet  
At four and five and six o'clock."
  - Whose soul is being referred to here? (4)
  - Why should his soul be "stretched tight across the skies" or "trampled by insistent feet"? (4)
  
2. "And short square fingers stuffing pipes,  
And evening newspapers, and eyes  
Assured of certain certainties,  
The conscience of a blackened street  
Impatient to assume the world."
  - While the "short square fingers" are stuffing pipes, what are the eyes doing? (1)
  - What news would the newspapers have been featuring? (2)
  - Why then does the poet speak of the eyes that are assured of "certain certainties"? (4)
  - What is "the conscience of a blackened street"? (4)
  - Why would this conscience be "impatient to assume the world"? (4)
  
3. "I am moved by fancies that are curled  
Around these images, and cling:  
The notion of some infinitely gentle  
Infinitely suffering thing."
  - The poet has studiously avoided use of the personal pronoun "I". What is the significance of his using it now? (4)
  - What is this "infinitely gentle infinitely suffering thing"? (4)
  
4. "Wipe your hand across your mouth, and laugh;  
The worlds revolve like ancient women  
Gathering fuel in vacant lots."
  - Explain the change in tone in "Wipe your hand across your mouth, and laugh". (4)
  - Comment on the image of the ancient women "gathering fuel in vacant lots". (4)

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