

## Count That Day Lost

If you sit down at set of sun  
And count the acts that you have done,  
And, counting, find  
One self-denying deed, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard,  
One glance most kind  
That fell like sunshine where it went—  
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,  
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay—  
If, through it all  
You've nothing done that you can trace  
That brought the sunshine to one face—  
No act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing cost—  
Then count that day as worse than lost.

### **Mary Ann Evans (1819-1880)**

*Mary Ann Evans adopted the male pen name "George Eliot" so her fiction would be taken seriously in a literary culture that often-dismissed women writers.*