



***Warm Greetings!***

Before you go through this e-lesson, please ensure that you have read the poem from your text book 'BEEHIVE' or from the link <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?iebe1=1-11> .

The following lesson is to help you gain a better understanding of the poem.

• **INTRODUCTION**

**About the poet:-**

- Robert Frost (March 26, 1874- January 29, 1963) was an American poet.
- He was born in San Francisco, California, to journalist William Prescott Frost, Jr. and Isabelle Moodie.
- His work was initially published in England. Later on, it was published in America.
- In 1894, he wrote his first poem, 'My Butterfly, An Elegy'.
- 'The Gift Outright, Birches, Mending Walls, etc.', are few of his important poems.
- Frost was honoured frequently during his lifetime. He received four Pulitzer Prizes for poetry.
- He became one of America's rare 'public literary figures, almost an artistic institution'.
- He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960 for his poetic work.
- On July 22, 1961, Frost was named Poet Laureate of Vermont.
- Frost received over 40 honorary degrees, including ones from Princeton, Oxford and Cambridge universities.
- Frost died in Boston on January 29, 1963, of complications from prostate surgery.



## **About the Poem:-**

Robert Frost writes simply, but insightfully, about common, ordinary experiences. 'The Road Not Taken' is a lyric. This poem is not meant to tell a story but it shows to show the emotions and feelings that the poet is experiencing. The poem is definitely about choices and opportunities in life but it also highlights the feeling of regret which is associated with all the roads a person is unable to take.

## **Central Idea of the Poem:-**

The poet, Robert Frost tells us about the dilemma faced by an individual while taking decisions in life. He depicts it figuratively through the two diverging roads in a forest. Whether the roads are literal or the choices which one has to make in life, the decision making process is the same. It conveys that one should not be afraid of accepting challenges in life. Walking on the untrodden path can have far reaching consequences and make a difference in a person's life.

## **SUMMARY:-**

The speaker, walking through a forest whose leaves have turned yellow in autumn, comes to a fork in the road.

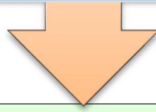
The speaker, regretting that he or she is unable to travel by both the roads (due to human limitations), stands at the fork in the road for a long time and tries to see where one of the paths lead to. However, the speaker can't see very far because the forest is dense and the road is not straight.

The speaker takes the other path, judging it to be just as good a choice as the first one and supposing that it may even be the better option of the two, since it is grassy and looks less worn out than the other path.

Though, now that the speaker has actually walked on the second road, he or she thinks that in reality the two roads must have been more or less equally worn-in.

Then the speaker recalls that both the roads were covered in leaves, which had not yet been turned black by human beings.

The speaker exclaims that he or she is in fact just saving the first road, and will travel by it sometime later in life, but then immediately realises that, in life, one road tends to lead on to another.



Therefore it is unlikely that he or she will ever get a chance to return to that first road.

The speaker imagines himself /herself in the distant future, recounting, with a sigh, the story of making the choice of which road to take.



Speaking as though looking back on his /her life from the future, the speaker states that he / she had to choose between the two roads and he/she chose the road that was less travelled by, and the consequences of that decision have made all the difference in his / her life.

## **POETIC DEVICES**

1. **Metaphor**: There are many metaphors in the poem like road, fork in the road and yellowwoods. The road in the poem is the metaphor of life, while the fork on the road metaphorically represents the choices we make to determine the course of our lives. Similarly, yellow woods are the metaphor of making decisions during the hard times of a person's life. These metaphors used in this poem emphasize the importance of different decisions we make in different situations and their impacts on our lives.
2. **Imagery**: Imagery is used to make the readers feel things through their five senses. The poet has used images of the sense of sights such as leaves and yellow woods. These images help readers to actually perceive things they are reading. The image of the road helps readers to visualize the road providing a navigation route to the traveler.
3. **Repetition**: The word 'ages' has been repeated "Somewhere ages and ages hence."
4. **Personification**: Robert Frost has personified road in the third line of the second stanza. Here, it is stated "Because it was grassy and wanted wear" as if the road has desires just like human beings.

## **ASSIGNMENT**

**Q1. Read the following lines and attempt the questions that follow:**

Then took the other, just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,  
Though as for the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same.

- a) Why did the poet decide to take the other road?
- b) What was the condition of the road?
- a) The poet was \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.
- b) Find the antonym of the word 'inevitably' in the given stanza.

**Q2. Read the following lines and attempt the questions that follow:**

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

- a) What did the two roads diverge in?
- b) Where did the poet look for the road?
- c) Identify the rhyme scheme used in the given stanza.
- d) Find the synonym of the word 'vegetation' from the given stanza.

**Q3. Explain the predicament faced by the poet in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.**

**Q4. Comment on the title 'The Road Not Taken'.**

**Q5. Match the words with their meanings:**

- |            |       |                                       |
|------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Diverge | ----- | Stomp heavily or roughly              |
| 2. Sigh    | ----- | An informal right to something        |
| 3. Hence   | ----- | Extend in a different direction       |
| 4. Claim   | ----- | An utterance made by exhaling audibly |
| 5. Tread   | ----- | From this time                        |

## **FURTHER REFERENCE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AxRMLoBMPc>