



TOPIC: The Way Through The Woods

SUB TOPICS:

- **Text of the Poem**
- **About the Poet**
- **Introduction**
- **Message**
- **Summary**
- **A short movie with explanation**
- **Assignment Questions**
- **Alternative Academic Calendar Activity**

INSTRUCTIONAL AIDS:

- **Presentation by screen-sharing**
- **Google Jamboard as whiteboard**
- **Oral recitation of the poem**
- **YouTube link of the video- <https://youtu.be/SFkB3ad1QnQ>**

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

- **Show the class a picture of woods (refer to the image given above the text of the poem given in this e-lesson). Ask the students to observe the picture closely and point out interesting features of the scene.**
- **Now tell them to imagine about something dramatic that happened at that location seventy years ago. What could it be and what makes them think so?**

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Each student will be able to –

Infer meanings and consider more than one interpretation of the text.

BLOCK 1

THE WAY THROUGH THE WOODS



Recitation of the poem

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/SFkB3ad1QnQ>

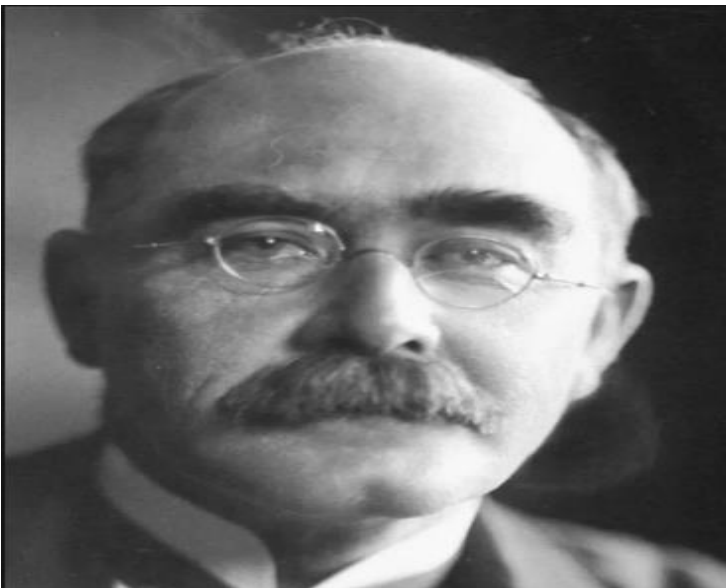
*THEY shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again,
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the woods
Before they planted the trees.*

*It is underneath the coppice and heath,
And the thin anemones.
Only the keeper sees
That, where the ring-dove broods,
And the badgers roll at ease,
There was once a road through the woods.*

*Yet, if you enter the woods
Of a summer evening late,
When the night-air cools on the trout-ringed pools
Where the otter whistles his mate,*

*(They fear not men in the woods,
Because they see so few.)
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,
And the swish of a skirt in the dew,
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes,
As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods.
But there is no road through the woods.*

About the Author



Joseph Rudyard Kipling, (30 December 1865 – 18 January 1936)¹ was an English journalist, short-story writer, poet, and novelist. He was born in India, which inspired much of his work.

Rudyard Kipling's career began to develop when he worked in India for Anglo-Indian newspapers. He was a talented reporter, reviewer, essayist but his first major success came with poetry after his return to England. The publication of *Barrack-Room Ballads* in 1892, which captured the experiences of soldiers across the British Empire, brought him considerable fame. His appeal was further strengthened by his popular writing for children; *The Jungle Book* was published in 1894.

In 1907, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, as the first English-language writer to receive the prize, and at 41, its youngest recipient to date. He was also sounded out for the British Poet Laureateship and several times for a knighthood, but he declined both.

Introduction

This poem is about a path that went through the woods. Several years ago, it was closed, the weather and rain had somewhat undone it.

The way through the woods was hidden underneath many wild flowers and shrubs.

The poet explains the feeling and experience of travelling through the woods on a summer evening.

BLOCK 2

LESSON DEVELOPMENT

Message

Nature has triumphed over what was once man-made by restoring the road back to its former appearance. Nature has the power to regrow.

Summary

The poem begins with the mention of the road that was closed seventy years ago. The road was left undisturbed. The weather and rain destroyed the road. No one can tell whether there existed a road in the past or not. The road has completely disappeared beneath the bushes and trees. It is hidden from the human eye. After the road was closed, trees were planted there and now the trees have grown up. Thus, the road has become a part of the woods itself.

This part of the wood is full of activity and life now. It is occupied with the ring-dove that broods there and the burrowing badger which rolls in it playfully.

If anyone visits the wood in the late summer evening, he or she will come to know that there is much more happening in that area now. The night air cools above the pools that are full of trout fish and the otter calls out to its mate. These creatures are not scared of the presence of human beings as very few enter that area.

In the last stanza, the poet increases the mystical and mysterious element by describing the sound of the horse's hoof and the swish

of the skirt. Nobody can see them. So probably they are the ghosts from the past. From their movement, one can conclude that they perfectly know where the road lay. Though in the present times, nobody knows about the road. Even the poet believes that there is no road.

BLOCK 3

A Short Movie with explanation

YouTube link: https://youtu.be/ZkX_4w4J7QU

Assignment questions

Q1. “There was once a road through the woods...”

- a) What happened to the road that once ran through the woods?
- b) How long ago did it exist?
- c) How has it disappeared?

Q2. Identify and write examples of alliteration, repetition and enjambment.

Q3. “They shut the road through the woods”. Who do you think are “they”?

Q4. What is the message conveyed through the poem? Can you draw a parallel between man’s actions and nature’s reaction to them?

ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC CALENDAR ACTIVITY

Puppet Show from the chapter ***Three Witches and Their Prophecy***

The students will make simple puppets (stick puppets) depicting the different characters from the play. They will present any scene from the play by using these puppets. (Time limit 2-3 min.)
