

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

By Robert Frost

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;

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

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

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1920

Directions: (1) Number each stanza (2) Label the rhyme scheme of the poem (3) Answer the questions in the right-hand margin.

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
5 To where it bent in the **undergrowth**;

diverged: (v) branched off; moved in a different direction
undergrowth: (n) small trees and plants growing beneath larger trees

1. Draw a picture of two roads diverging.
2. What do the diverging woods symbolize?
3. Why is the speaker sorry?
4. What is the speaker doing?

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

fair: (adj) promising; favorable
claim: (n) demand or right

5. Which road does the speaker take?
6. Why does he choose this road?
7. Which road is more popular?

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trodden: (v) walked on

8. Does the speaker consider one road better than the other? How do you know?

9. Is the road well traveled? How do you know?

10. What does the speaker do with the first road?

11. Why does the speaker think he will not ever come back to the first road?

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had **trodden** black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
15 I doubted if I should ever come back.

hence: (adv) from this time

12. When will the speaker tell the story of his choice?

13. Why do you think choosing the road "less traveled by" has made all the difference?

14. What is the road a metaphor for?

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages **hence**:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
20 And that has made all the difference.

Name _____

Date _____

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Directions: Explain the symbolism throughout the poem below.

15.(line 1) The road represents:

16.(line 1) The divergent road represents:

17.(line 1) The yellow wood represents:

18.(line 5) The undergrowth represents:

19.(line 8) The grassy road represents:

20.(line 16) The sigh represents:

21.Explain what the title of the poem, "The Road Not Taken," means. Support your opinion with evidence from the poem.

"THE ROAD NOT TAKEN" QUIZ

1. "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood" means
 - a) the speaker stood at a dead end road.
 - b) the speaker stood at a fork in the road.
 - c) the speaker stood by three roads.
 - d) the speaker stood by a path leading into the woods.
2. The speaker felt sorry because
 - a) he could not see the road well.
 - b) he did not know which direction to go.
 - c) he could not travel down both roads.
 - d) he was tired of traveling.
3. The speaker chose the road
 - a) to the right.
 - b) that was well worn.
 - c) to the left.
 - d) that was less traveled on.
4. The diverging road metaphorically represents
 - a) conflicts in life.
 - b) life itself.
 - c) death.
 - d) choices we make in life.
5. The rhyme scheme of the poem is
 - a) ABBAA
 - b) AABBA
 - c) ABABA
 - d) ABAAB
6. The poem was written by
 - a) Walt Whitman.
 - b) Robert Frost.
 - c) Robert W. Service.
 - d) Edgar A. Poe.
7. How was one road different from the other?
 - a) One was greener.
 - b) One was more inviting.
 - c) One seemed less used.
 - d) All of the above.
8. In the line, "Oh, I kept the first for another day!" "the first" refers to
 - a) the narrator's choice.
 - b) the road.
 - c) fate.
 - d) death.
9. According to the speaker, the other road has "the better claim" because it
 - a) was more fair.
 - b) had never been used.
 - c) seemed mysterious.
 - d) seemed safe.
10. This poem might have special relevance to you if
 - a) you are deciding on a college to attend.
 - b) you are concerned about the environment.
 - c) you plan to move to the country.
 - d) you prefer to walk rather than drive.