



POETRY FOUNDATION

The Road Not Taken

BY ROBERT FROST

- 1 Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, A
 2 And sorry I could not travel both B
 3 And be one traveler, long I stood A
 4 And looked down one as far as I could A
 5 To where it bent in the undergrowth; B
- 6 Then took the other, as just as fair, A
 7 And having perhaps the better claim, B
 8 Because it was grassy and wanted wear; A
 9 Though as for that the passing there A
 10 Had worn them really about the same, B
- 11 And both that morning equally lay A
 12 In leaves no step had trodden black. B
 13 Oh, I kept the first for another day! A
 14 Yet knowing how way leads on to way, A
 15 I doubted if I should ever come back. B
- 16 I shall be telling this with a sigh A
 17 Somewhere ages and ages hence: B
 18 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— A
 19 I took the one less traveled by, A
 20 And that has made all the difference. B

20 lines } Structure
 4 stanzas }
 Rhyme Scheme =
 ABAAB

Line 1 = imagery
 I can see two roads in
 a yellow wood = Fall?

Lines 8, 12, 18 =
 imagery

TP-CASTT Poetry Analysis

TITLE: Consider the title and make a prediction about what the poem is about.

"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

Someone will make a choice not to take a road.

PARAPHRASE: Translate the poem line by line into your own words on a literal level. Look for complete thoughts (sentences may be inverted) and look up unfamiliar words.

Stanza 1 = speaker is hiking/walk in the woods alone. It's fall. He was on one path when it became 2 paths

Stanza 2: He looked down both trails, they both look good.

Stanza 3: If I go this way - I could do the other trail another day but I won't!

CONNOTATION: Examine the poem for meaning beyond the literal. Look for figurative language, imagery, and sound elements. Walk symbolizes inner journey.

Imagery: "yellow wood" "grassy and wanted wear" "trodden black" "two roads diverged in a wood" - line 18
also repetition (line 1)

Rhyme Scheme: ABAA B

Alliteration: "wanted wear" **Anaphora:** "way leads on to way"

ATTITUDE/TONE: Notice the speaker's tone and attitude. Humor? Sarcasm? Awe?

Speaker's tone is reflective and reminiscent. In lines 13-15, the speaker says he'll save one path for another day but doubts he'll ever be back. Lines 16-17 "I shall be telling with

SHIFTS: Note any shifts or changes in speaker or attitude. Look for key words, time change, punctuation.

v. 19-20 After pondering, he makes a decision "I took the path less traveled and it's made all the difference." } a sigh shows he is thinking - choosing between two choices.

TITLE: Examine the title again, this time on an interpretive level.

I see the walk in the woods as a metaphor for our journey in life. That we will have choices and we need to take time to decide the best path. The walk in the woods symbolizes our life's journey. Enjoy the journey of our choices.

THEME: Briefly state in your own words what the poem is about (subject), then what the poet is saying about the subject (theme).

Life is a journey. We will experience crossroads where the path we're on diverges into two. We need to be mindful of our choices and choose the path that our heart leads us to take.