



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
12 In leaves no step had trodden black.
13 Oh, I kept the first for another day!
14 Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
15 I doubted if I should ever come back.
- 16 I shall be telling this with a sigh
17 Somewhere ages and ages hence:
18 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
19 I took the one less traveled by,
20 And that has made all the difference.

4 stanzas
5 lines each
Stanza

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 thoughts (sentences may be inverted) and look up unfamiliar words.

First stanza: He's walking down a path and
4 lines Comes to a fork in the road.
He knows he can't walk both
He looks at both paths.

CONNOTATION: Examine the poem for meaning beyond the literal. Look for figurative ery, and sound elements.

Imagery: "yellow wood" "grassy and wanted wear"
"trodden black"

Rhyme Scheme: ABAAB

Alliteration "wanted wear"

Anaphora: "way leads
on to way"

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

He is reflective and reminiscent

Remembering an important part of his life.

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

None.

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

It's about the narrator taking a path in the woods but also about the choices he's made in life.

Theme: Regardless of the path or choices you make; you'll end up where you need to be