

METAPHORS WITH ROBERT FROST


THE ROAD NOT TAKEN
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.




IN THE POEM "THE ROAD NOT TAKEN"
I USE A WALK IN THE WOODS AS
A METAPHOR.



TAKEN LITERALLY, THE POEM
IS ABOUT CHOOSING BETWEEN
TWO PATHS IN A YELLOW WOOD.



BUT AS A METAPHOR,
IT MEANS MUCH, MUCH MORE.



IN LITERATURE WALKING OFTEN
SYMBOLIZES AN INNER JOURNEY, AND
WHERE YOU END UP IS NOT AS IMPORTANT
AS WHAT YOU LEARN AS YOU GO.

THE TWO ROADS REPRESENT OUR CHOICES IN LIFE. EITHER CHOICE WILL HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON OUR FUTURE.



"CHOICES LIKE WHERE TO GO TO COLLEGE, OR WHERE TO LIVE, OR WHOM TO MARRY. WE ARE ALL FACED WITH THESE MAJOR LIFE DECISIONS."

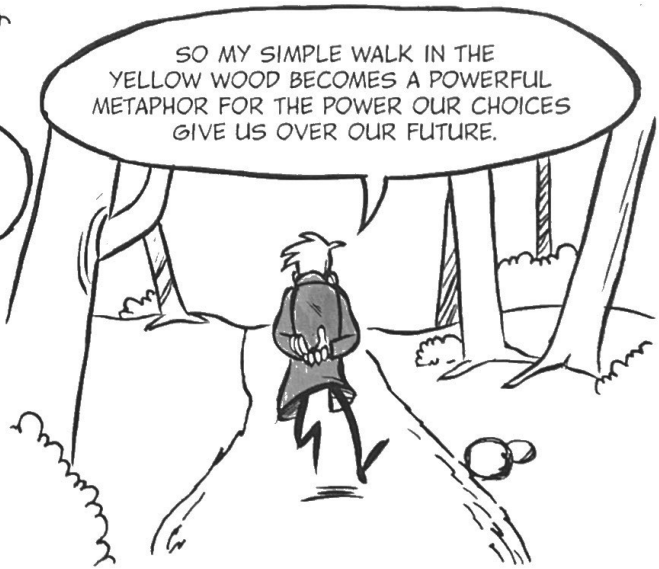


EACH WILL IMPACT OUR LIVES ...

BUT WE CAN NEVER GO BACK AND SEE HOW IT COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.



SO MY SIMPLE WALK IN THE YELLOW WOOD BECOMES A POWERFUL METAPHOR FOR THE POWER OUR CHOICES GIVE US OVER OUR FUTURE.



Questions:

What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

Many readers see the two roads as a choice between a good path and a bad path. However, you can make the claim that both roads are equal in value. What parts of the text support this idea?

Think about the different reasons the speaker might "sigh" while thinking back on his journey. How does each reason offer a different perspective on the speaker's attitude toward his choice?