

## Unit 1

## POEM

STOPPING BY WOODS ON  
A SNOWY EVENING

ROBERT FROST



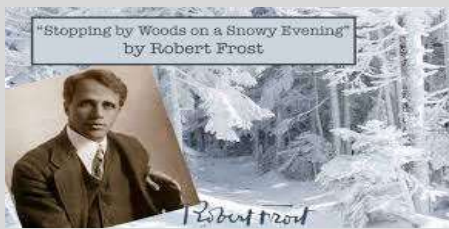
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## About the author

**Robert Frost** (1874-1968) was an American poet noted for his realistic descriptions of rural life. Born on 26 March 1874, he spent his first 40 years as an unknown entity. He received four Pulitzer prizes for poetry and was a special guest at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration. Frost became a poetic force and the unofficial Poet Laureate of the United States. Some of his famous works are The Road Not Taken, West Running Brook, Mending Wall, After Apple Picking etc.



## Pictures related to the lesson



Robert frost



The poet on Horse



Woods



Poet on the Horse

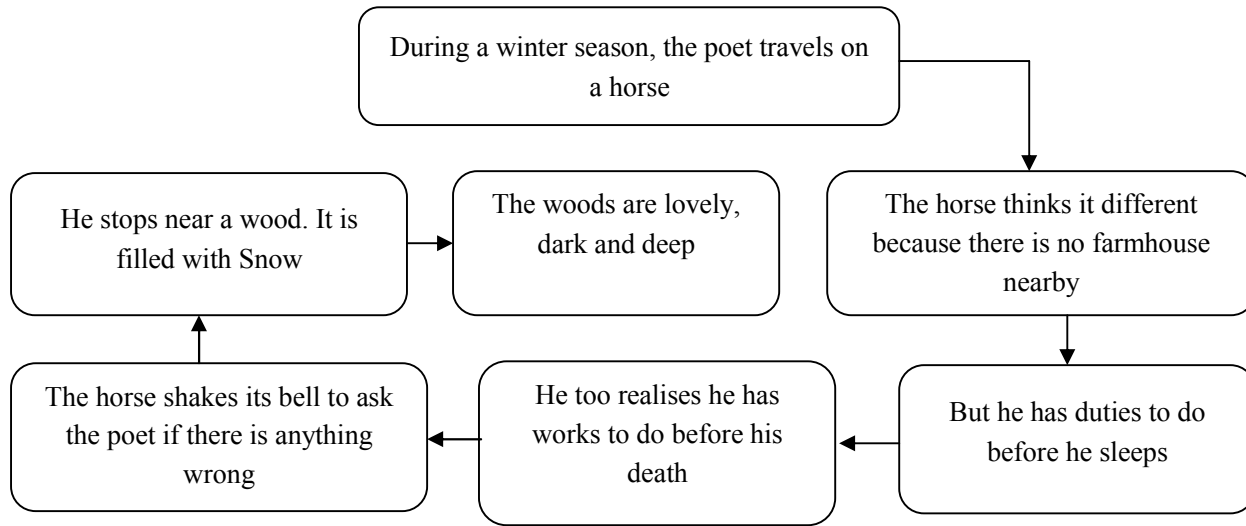


Dark woods



Snow covered woods

## MIND MAP



## Pictorial Description





### SUMMARY

During a winter season, the poet travels in a horse. He stops near a wood. It is filled with snow. The owner of the wood may not see him. The horse thinks it different because there is no farmhouse nearby. It is a dark evening. The horse shakes its bell to ask the poet if there is anything wrong. The other sound is the moving of the wind. The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But he has duties to do before he sleeps. The other meaning is he has much works to do before he dies. One must not be carried away by the temporary pleasures in life.



### TEXT TRANSLATION

POEM ENGLISH EXPLANATION	பாடல் தமிழ் விரிவாக்கம்
Whose woods these are I think I know His house is in the village though, He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow.	யாருடைய காடுகள் இவை, எனக்குத் தெரியும் என நான் நினைக்கிறேன். அவருடைய வீடு கிராமத்தில் இருக்கும். நான் இங்கு நிறுத்தியதை அவர் பார்த்திருக்க மாட்டார். அதற்கு காரணம் பனி படர்ந்த அவரது காடு ஆகும்.
My little horse must think it queer To stop without a farmhouse lake Between the woods and frozen lake The darkest evening of the year.	எனது சிறியகுதிரை இதை வித்தியாசமாக உணர்ந்தது. அருகில் ஒரு பண்ணை வீடும் இல்லை. காடுகளுக்கும், பனி படர்ந்த ஏரிகளுக்கும் நடுவே அந்த வருடத்தின் இருள் சூழ்ந்த மாலை ஆகும்.
He gives his harness bells a shake To ask if there is some mistake. The only other sound's the sweep Of easy wind and downy flake.	குதிரை தனது மணியை அசைத்தது. அங்கே எதுவும் தப்பு நடந்ததா என்று குறிப்பாக கேட்டது. அங்கிருந்த மற்ற ஒரு சத்தம் மண் துகள்களுடன் பறக்கும் காற்று ஆகும்.
The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.	காடுகள் அழகாகவும், இரண்டும், ஆழமாகவும் உள்ளது. ஆனால் நான் நிறைவேற்ற வேண்டிய வாக்குறுதிகள் உள்ளன. நான் தூங்குவதற்கு முன் நிறைய வேலைகள் செய்ய வேண்டி உள்ளன. நான் வாழ்க்கையில் கண் மூடுவதற்கு முன் நிறைய வேலைகள் செய்ய வேண்டி உள்ளன.



### GLOSSARY

Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
queer (adj.)	- strange, odd	woods (n.)	- forest
frozen(adj.)	- in ice form	sweep (v.)	- soft, gentle sound
downy(adj.)	- feather – like	flake (n.)	- a small piece of something
harness (n.)	- straps and fittings by which a horse is fastened to a cart or carriage		



## APPRECIATION OF THE POEM

Refers		Means	
I, me	the poet (Robert Frost)	queer	- strange, odd
Lines 2,3.4he , his	Villages	woods	- forest
Line-9 he	Horse	harness	- straps for a horse
		frozen	- in ice form
		sweep	- move swiftly
		downy	- soft and fluffy
		flake	- a small piece of snow

Poetic lines		Figures of Speech
S – 1	Whose woods these are I think I know His house is in the village though He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow	1. <b>Imagery</b> – vis...l ....., line 1x2 (woods, house) 2. <b>Alliteration</b> – whose, woods, watch his woods 3. <b>Rhyming words</b> : know, though, snow 4. <b>Rhyme scheme</b> : a,a,b,a
S-2	my little horse must think it queer To stop without a farm house near Between the woods and frozen lake The darkest evening of the year	1. <b>Personification</b> – line 1 2. <b>Imagery</b> - visual – line -2x3 (farmhouse, lake) 3. <b>Rhyming words</b> – queer, near, year 4. <b>Rhyme scheme</b> – aaba
S- 3	He gives his harness bells a shake To ask if there is some –stake The only other sound the sweep of eard wind and downy flake	1. <b>Personification</b> – line 1x2 2. <b>Imagery</b> - Auditory – line 1 (bells) 3. <b>Rhyming words</b> – shake, mistake, flake 4. <b>Rhyme scheme</b> – aaba
S-4	The woods are lovely, dark Miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep And miles to go before I sleep.	1. <b>Personification</b> – lines 3,4 2. <b>Rhyming words</b> – deep. keep, sleep, sleep 3. <b>Rhyme scheme</b> – aaaa

## TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

## A. Answer the following questions in a sentence or two.

1. *He will not see me stopping here**To watch his woods fill up with snow.*

i) who does 'he' refer to?

"He" refers to the **owner of the woods**

ii) Identify the season with these lines

The season is **winter**2) *My Little horse must think it queer**To stop without a farmhouse near*

i) Who is the speaker?

The poet is the speaker.

ii) Why should the horse think it queer?

The horse should think it **queer** because the poet stopped at a strange place.

iii) Pick out the rhyming words

**Queer and near** are the rhyming words.3) *He gives his harness bells a shake**To ask if there is some mistake*

I) Whom does 'he' refer to in these lines"

'He' refers to the **horse**.

ii) Why does 'he' give his harness bells a shake?

'He' gives his harness bells a shake because he asks if there is anything wrong.

iii) How does the horse communicate with the poet?

The horse communicates with the poet through the bell.

4) The woods are lovely dark and deep

*But I have promises to keep*

i) How are the woods?

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.

ii) Who does 'I' refer to?

'I' refers to the poet.

iii) What are the promises the speaker is talking about?

One promise is responsibilities to be completed before he sleeps.

Another promise is the responsibilities to be done before he dies.

5) And miles to go before I sleep

*And miles to go before I sleep*

i) Why has the poet repeated the last line?

The poet has repeated the last line to stress the importance of responsibilities.

ii) Explain 'miles to go before I sleep'

'Miles to go before I sleep' means the poet has many duties to do before he sleeps as well as he dies.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Whose woods these are I think I know.

*His house is in the village though;*

a) Whose house is in the village?

The house of the owner of the wood is in the village.

b) What is the poet thinking?

The poet is thinking about the owner of the house.

2. My little horse must think it queer

*To stop without a farmhouse near*

a) Bring out the rhyming word from these lines.

Queer: near

b) Why is the horse afraid to stop?

There is no farm house nearby so the horse is afraid to stop.

3. Between the woods and frozen lake

a) What does 'frozen lake' refer to?

'Frozen lake' is referred to the winter season.

b) Who are standing between the woods and frozen lake?

The poet and the horse are standing in between the woods and frozen lake.

4. The darkest evening of the year.

a) What time is referred to here?

Evening time is referred to here.

b) What do you mean by 'the darkest evening'?

'The darkest evening' means dusk.

5. The woods are lovely, dark and deep.

a) Why are the woods lovely?

The wood is filled with snow. So it is lovely.

b) Why are the woods dark and deep?

The trees are thickly grown and the poet is standing in the middle of the forest. So the words 'dark and deep' are mentioned.

B. Write down the summary of the poem by filling in the blanks.

After a long travel the poet entered a wood. He wondered to whom the wood belonged. He realized that the owner of the wood lived in a village. He was happy that the owner would not be able to see him stopping in his woods to watch the snow fill the woods. The poet felt that the horse would think it very strange to stop near the woods as he had never stopped there. He was actually standing between the woods and frozen lake. The time was evening. The horse indicated that the poet has made a mistake by shaking its head. The poet felt that the woods are lovely, dark and deep. He suddenly realized that he had worldly responsibilities which would not allow him to stay in the woods for a long time.

**C. Answer the questions in three or four sentences.**

- a) What information does the poet highlight about the season and the time of the day in the poem**

It is a winter season. The woods are filled with snow. It is the darkest evening of the year.

- b) In which way is the reaction of the speaker different from that of the horse? What does it convey?**

The speaker is attracted by the beauty of the wood. So, he stops. The horse thinks that there is no farmhouse nearby. It is strange that he stops in the wood. So, he shakes his bell.

- c) What are the sounds heard by the poet?**

The bell of the horse and the moving of the wind are the sounds heard by the poet.

- d) The poet is aware of two choices. what choice does he make ultimately?**

The two choices are - work to be done before he sleeps  
- work to be done before his death.

His choice is to leave the wood to fulfil his works before his death.

- e) Pick out words from the poem that bring to mind peace and quiet**

**The words that bring to mind peace and quiet** are- snow, froze, darkest, sweep, wind, lovely, deep, sleep.

**PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS**

**Writing**

**G. Answer the following questions in a paragraph about 80-100 words**

- a. It is said that, "the choices made by one, shapes one's destiny". The theme of choice is important throughout this poem.**

It is said that "the choices made by one, shapes one's destiny". During a winter season, the poet travels in a horse. He stops near a wood. It is filled with snow. The owner of the wood may not see him. The horse thinks it strange because there is no farmhouse nearby. It is a dark evening. The horse shakes its bell to ask the poet if there is anything wrong. The other sound is the moving of the wind. The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But he has duties to do before he sleeps. The other meaning is he has much work to do before his death. One must not be carried away by the temporary pleasures in life. So, he leaves the wood to fulfil his work.

- H. Work in pairs and discuss the factors that contribute towards making a choice and make a presentation to the class.**

**I. Write down your presentation as an article**

- b.** Though the poet is attracted by the peace and quietness of the woods, the poet decides to go on to the village. It is due to his responsibility. He may be impressed by the beauty. But he is steady minded. So, he makes a correct choice.

**AVERAGE STUDENTS****Poem : Stopping by woods on a snowy evening****Poet : Robert Frost****Theme : Admiring Nature**

"**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**" is a poem written in 1922 by Robert Frost, and published in 1923 in his **New Hampshire** volume. It consists of four quatrains that have the following rhyme scheme: *aaba, bccb, ccdd, dddd*. The poet is travelling at dusk through the snow and pauses with his horse near the woods to watch the snow falling on the trees. His horse shakes his harness bells, questioning the pause; perhaps this place isn't on their usual route, or he is curious that there doesn't appear to be a farmhouse nearby. The speaker continues to stand near the woods, attracted by the deep, dark silence of his surroundings. He feels compelled to move further into the snowy woods. He and his horse have to go miles before they can sleep. But he ultimately decides to continue, concluding with the most famous lines of the poem:

**'But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep.'**

**SLOW LEARNERS****Poem : Stopping by woods on a snowy evening****Poet : Robert Frost****Theme : Admiring Nature**

- "**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**" is a poem written in 1922 by **Robert Frost**.
- Poet **stops his horse** in between **the snowy wood** to enjoy it.
- His horse **shakes his harness bells**, questioning the pause.
- But this **place is not on their usual route**, or there is **no farmhouse**.
- The poet is attracted by the **deep, dark** silence of his **surroundings**.
- He feels compelled to move further into the snowy woods.
- Finally the poet realised that he had to **perform many duties before he sleeps**.

### TEXTUAL EXERCISES

#### D. Identify the rhyme scheme used in each stanza.

One example has been done for you.

stanza	rhyme scheme
1	aaba
2	bbcb
3	aaba
4	aaaa

#### E. Complete the table by identifying lines, against the poetic devices from the poem. One example is done for you.

Poetic device	Lines from the poem
Alliteration	watch his woods
Personification	To ask if there is some mistake
Repetition	And miles to go before I sleep
Imagery	But I have promises to keep.



### LISTENING

#### F. Listen to your teacher read a passage or play on a recorder, on the importance of keeping promises. As you listen, complete the blanks.

- When you make a promise, keep it, even if it costs you more than you expected.
- Do not promise too much but deliver more than you promise.

- A promise seeks people together.
- Some people make promises too easily
- Saying 'yes' is easier than refusal but can lead to disappointment and decrease in trust.
- Before making promises, consider the long-term input on your reputation

#### I. Write your presentation as an article.

- Though attracted to the peace and quietness of the woods, the poet decides to go on to the village. Express your opinion on why the poet does so.

#### J. You can use the following words while expressing your opinion. Write a short speech in not more than 100 – 150 words.

My View...	In my opinion...
My belief...	Speaking personally...
I am certain...	I would say that...
I presume...	I have no doubt...
I guess...	From my point of view...