

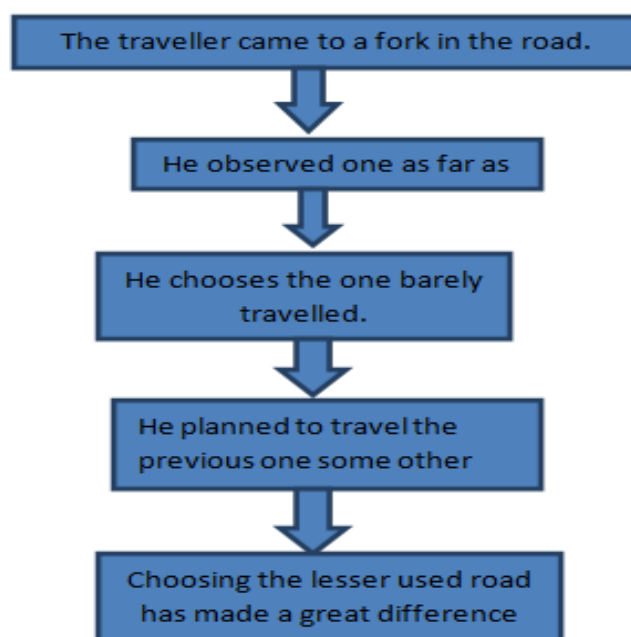


CLASS:9

SUBJECT-ENGLISH

POEM-1 THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

MIND MAP



GLOSSARY:

Numbers	Word	Meanings
1.	Diverged	separated and took a different direction
2.	Scornful	dense growth of plants and bushes
3.	Wanted wear	had not been used
4.	Hence	here, in the future
5.	Trodden	as in walked ,to go on foot
6.	Sigh	as in to gasp, to take in and let out a deep audible breath or to make a similar sound

SYNONYMS:

S.No	Words	Synonyms
1	Diverged	separate, deviate, split, and differ
2	Wear	Tire, Exhaust
3	Doubted	Uncertain , Unsure

ANTONYMS:

S.No	Words	Antonyms
1	Diverged	converge, agree, and concur
2	Wear	Energize, Rejuvenate
3	Doubted	Sure, Certain

ABOUT THE POET:

Robert Lee Frost (March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963) was an American poet. Known for his realistic depictions of rural life and his command of American colloquial speech, Frost frequently wrote about settings from rural life in New England in the early 20th century, using them to examine complex social and philosophical themes.

THEME:

The central theme of Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" revolves around the significance of choices and the impact they have on shaping our lives and destinies.

Choice and Decision-Making:

The poem uses the metaphor of two diverging roads to represent the choices we face in life, highlighting the inevitability of making decisions that can lead to different paths.

Regret and Uncertainty:

The speaker acknowledges the regret of not being able to experience both paths, emphasizing the uncertainty inherent in choices and the potential for missed opportunities.

The Weight of Decisions:

The poem suggests that every decision we make has a lasting impact, shaping our future and who we become.

Individualism and Nonconformity:

The speaker's choice of the "less traveled" road can be interpreted as a symbol of individuality and the courage to forge one's own path, rather than following the conventional route.

The poem also explores the idea that we often remember and emphasize the choices we made, rather than the ones we didn't, which can lead to a sense of self-justification or regret.

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:

Then took the other, 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."

Questions & Answers:

1. Why did the poet take the other road?

Ans. The poet took the other road because he thought that it was more challenging to travel on it as only a few had used (trodden on) it.

2. What did the poet discover while travelling on the other road?

Ans. The poet discovered, while travelling on the other road, that the second was almost equally used as the first one.

3. What do the given lines suggest about the speaker?

Ans. The given lines suggest that the speaker loved challenges and difficulties.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. Does the speaker feel that he has made the wrong choice in taking the road "less travelled by"? If not, why does he "sigh"? What does he regret?

Answer: No, the speaker does not feel that he has made a wrong decision by taking the road less travelled. The poet wanted to explore both the roads. He tells himself that he will explore one and then come back and explore the other, but he knows that he will probably be unable to do so.

2. Was the poet doubtful or clear that he would return to take the other path which he could not do earlier?

Answer: Throughout the poem and the poet's journey he faces an archetypal dilemma. He doubts if he would ever be able to come back to take that other road which might have given him some other more lucrative options in life. The poet believes and we all know that one road leads to another so going back to the original path is not easy.

LONG ANSWER QUESTION:

1: Does the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', symbolize or reveal a meaning or aspect of freedom or responsibility?

Answer:: The poem reveals the complex nature of a seemingly simple decision. The narrator is conflicted as he thinks about which road to take. Even after some deliberation and the fact that usage 'Had worn them really about the same,' he cannot help wondering, but then doubting if he should ever come back. He is even trying to convince himself that he has made the best choice as, when he looks back 'Somewhere ages and ages hence', he is sure that he will be able to say that he made the best choice and that it 'has made all the difference'.

This poem highlights the fact that freedom (of choice in this instance) brings with it its own set of responsibilities. The poem also, perhaps, indicates the futility of over-thinking some situations. If, even trivial decisions require so much thought, how can anyone ever make life-changing decisions. Apparently for the narrator, this is life-changing. At least the choice is his to make.

Question 2: What do the two roads symbolize in the passage 1? What is the significance of choosing a road?

Answer: The two roads that the poet-traveller faces in his walk or journey are symbolic of the choices that we have to encounter in our life. The journey or a simple walk itself is a metaphor for the great journey of life. In the poem the poet, after prolonged thought, decides to take the road less travelled, accepting its challenges and uncertainties. The decision is final and irreversible and it has its own consequences, may be positive or negative. In real life also we confront such critical situations where we face life-altering options. The decision we make is crucial. We should contemplate over the choices before and then decide our priorities. Once we make the decision and proceed accordingly, we can never reverse it. The life takes its own course, and it does not give a second chance to alter our decision and change our course of life. Hence, decide wisely.

HOT:

1.What is the moral presented by the poet in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?

Answer: This is an inspirational poem and quite tricky, according to Robert Frost himself. The poem presents an antithesis. The traveller comes to a fork and wishes to take both, which is impossible. First, one of the roads is described as grassy and 'wanted wear', then he says that both the roads look the same. This represents the eternal dilemma in man when he finds the grass greener on the other side. This poem is a call for the reader to forge his or her way in life and not follow the path that others have taken. This poem encourages self-reliance, reinforces the power of independent thinking and sticking to one's decisions. The poet does not moralize about choice. He simply says that choice is inevitable and you will never know until you have lived the 'difference.' So there is nothing right or wrong about a choice, it is all relative. Whatever direction one takes one must pack it with determination and zest for one can never turn the clock back, or relive that moment.

LITERARY DEVICES:

Rhyme Scheme- ABAABCDCCDEFEEFGHGGH

- **Metaphor:**
- The poem uses the image of two roads diverging in a yellow wood as a central metaphor for life's choices and the decisions we make. The roads represent different paths, and the speaker's choice of one over the other symbolizes a turning point in life.
- **Personification:**
- Frost personifies the roads, giving them human-like qualities. For example, one road is described as "grassy and wanted wear," implying that it was not frequently traveled and yearned to be used.
- **Imagery:**
- Frost uses vivid imagery to create a strong sense of place and atmosphere. The "yellow wood," "grassy" road, and "trodden black" leaves evoke a specific visual and sensory experience.
- **Symbolism:**
- The roads themselves are symbols of life's paths and the choices we make. The yellow wood can symbolize the changing seasons of life, or the difficulties and challenges that life presents.
- **Alliteration:**
- The poem also uses alliteration, such as the repetition of the "w" sound in "wanted" and "wear".
- **Enjambment:**

The poem uses enjambment, where lines flow into the next without punctuation, adding to the natural flow of the poem.