

# The House by the side of the road

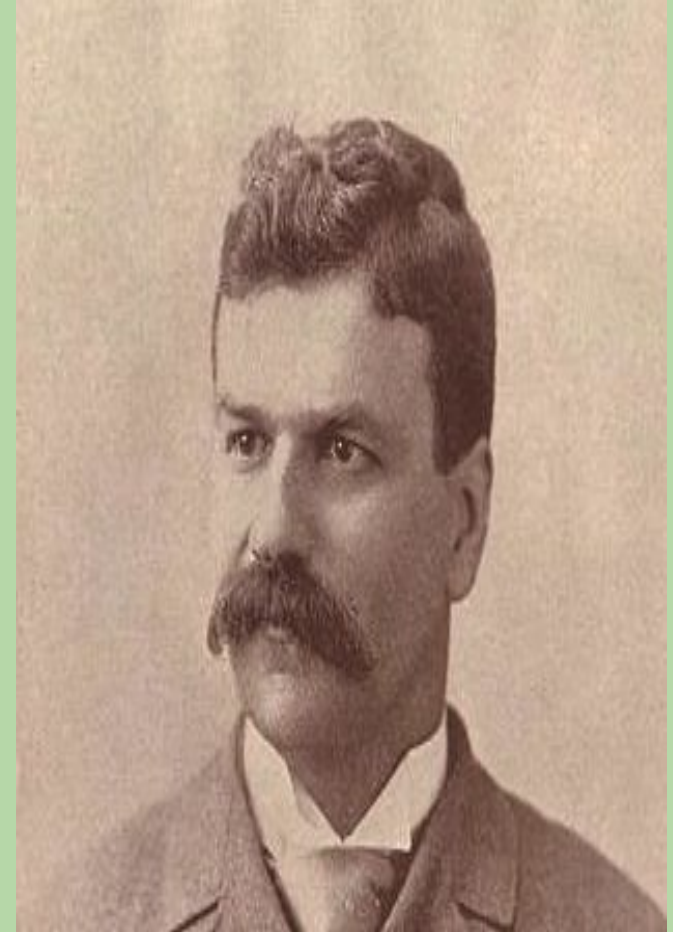
By Sam Walter Foss



# Sam Walter Foss

**(June 19, 1858 - February 26, 1911)**

- Born in rural Candia , New Hampshire . He graduated from Brown University in 1882.
- In the beginning of 1898, he served as librarian at the Somerville Public Library in Massachusetts .
- Foss used to write a poem a day for the newspapers, and his five volumes of collected poetry are of the frank and homely “common man” variety.
- He is buried in the North Burial Ground in Providence, Rhode Island.



# History of the poem(sheesh like devasheesh)

The House by the Side of the Road is a historic house at 61 School Street in Tilton, New Hampshire.

The house is locally notable as the home of poet Sam Walter Foss in 1877–78, when he was attending Tilton Seminary.

It has been known as the "House by the Side of Road" after Foss's poem of the same name, since the 1890s.





# TEXT

## Glossary

Hermit- a person living in solitude as a religious disciple.

Firmament- the heavens or the sky, especially when regarded as a tangible thing.

Pioneer- a person who is among the first to explore or settle in a new country or area.

Blaze- a very large or fiercely burning fire

## **Glossary**

Cynic- a person who believes that people are motivated purely by self-interest rather than acting for honorable or unselfish reasons.

Hurl- throw (an object) with great force.

## **Glossary**

Ardor- enthusiasm or  
passion

## **Glossary**

Wearisome- causing one to feel tired or bored

Rejoice- feel or show great joy or delight



# Analysis of Stanza I

This poem represents the human experience, and in it, the varying cast of characters that share the stage of life with us.

For example, like a hermit who lives alone, like stars who live far away or like someone who explores a new city.

However, the speaker simply wishes to live near the roadside and be a friend to the people around him.

## Analysis of Stanza II

The speaker wishes to live near a place, where there is no discrimination based on the race of a human being.

He says that other people are as good and bad as the speaker itself.

The speaker says that, he will not hurl contempt at people around him or call them selfish.

He simply wishes to live near the roadside and be a friend to the people around him.

## Analysis of Stanza III

The speaker is able to see the highway life of people from his house.

He can see men working very hard, with enthusiasm and passion in their hearts.

However, he never ignores their tears and smiles.

He simply wishes to live near the roadside and be a friend to the people around him.

## Analysis of Stanza IV

The speaker knows that one has to go through both, good and bad moments in their lives and during those times, days might seem really long.

But still, the speaker rejoices when people around him rejoice and he weeps when people around him are sad.

The speaker ends this stanza by saying that, his behaviour is completely opposite to someone who lives alone.

Therefore, he claims that he does not display the behaviour of a man who lives alone, instead he is very sympathetic and kind towards everyone around him.

## Analysis of Stanza V

The speaker wishes to live near a place, where there is no discrimination based on the race of a human being.

They might be good, bad, weak, strong, wise or foolish; but the speaker says, 'so am I.'

The speaker questions that, then why should he hurl contempt at people around him or call them selfish.

He simply wishes to live near the roadside and be a friend to the people around him.



# Poetic devices

- Metaphor :“ brook-gladdened meadows ahead And mountains of wearisome height;”

They are metaphors for the good and bad phases of life.

- Simile :There are souls, like stars, that dwell apart,  
Souls have been compared to stars.
- Alliteration :In a fellowless firmament;

Its the ' f' sound that is being repeated.

## Poetic Devices

- Repetition :Let me live in a house by the side of the road

And be a friend to man

These lines have been repeated .

- Symbolism -The road symbolizes activity and life and the speaker wants to be a part of it.

## Summary

This poem represents the human experience. By being a friend to all characters on the stage of life, whatever part they playing at the time, we are not playing a role that is above or below them, but we are recognizing them, just as we are, fellow travelers crossing the stage of life. With this realization of equality, lies the hope and beauty of a new world.

# ***THEME***

- This poem has as its keynote friendship and sympathy for other people.
- It is a paradox of life that by hoarding love and happiness we lose them, and that only by giving them away can we keep them for ourselves.
- We of course find in other people weaknesses and sins, but our best means of curing these are through a wise and sympathetic understanding.

## Short Answer Questions (Solved)

1. When does the speaker rejoice in “ The House by the side of the Road” ?

1. The speaker rejoices when the travelers rejoice.

2. In the poem “ The House by the Side of the Road”, what does the phrase “brook-gladdened meadows” suggest?

2. The “brook-gladdened meadows” suggests happy moments of life.

3. In the poem “The House by the Side of Road”, what does the phrase - “the mountains of wearisome height” suggest?

3. The mountains of wearisome height” suggests hardships of life.



## Short Answer Questions (Unsolved)

1. What does the speaker want to be in “The House by the side of the Road”?
2. What do the pioneer souls do ?
3. Which place does the speaker choose to live in ?

# Long Answer Questions (Solved)

1. Why does the speaker not want to “sit in the scorner’s seat” or “hurl” the cynic’s ban” in The House by the side of the Road” ? **OR** How does the poet identify himself with the people on the highway of life in “The House by the Side of the Road” ?

1. Speaker – likes to be a friend to man- not want to be like hermit souls or souls like stars or pioneer souls- identifies with common man- shares joys and sorrows both parts of an infinite plan- rejoices with traveler's' joy and weeps when strangers moan- accepts people as they are very humble.

## Long Answer Questions (Solved)

2. How does the speaker of “The House by the side of the Road” want to become a friend to man ?

2. Speaker- The poet stresses on the idea of acceptance as they are.- wants to be a friend to all human beings.- wants to live with men who are either good or bad like himself.- wants to be a friend to all human beings.- wants to live with men who are either good or bad like himself.- doesn't want to be the judge to sit in the scorner seat and hurl the cynic's ban.- does not like to claim superiority over others.- just wants to be a friend to all.

## Long Answer Questions (Unsolved)

1. “The Road stands for activity and life and the speaker wants to be a part of it.” How is this idea presented in the poem “The House by the side of the Road”? **OR** “Humble hearts have humble desires.” Justify your answer with reference to “The House by the side of the Road.”

THANK YOU !!!