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10. Fill in the blanks to complete the following paragraph that deals with the theme of the poem. Use the words given in the box below:

decision	sorry	foresee	choices
pleasant	direction	fork	trail
rewarding	chance	wonder	both

The poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is about the _____ that one makes in life. It tells about a man who comes to a _____ in the road he is travelling upon. He feels _____ that he cannot travel _____ paths as he must choose one. Frost uses this fork in the road to represent a point in the man's life where he has to choose the _____ he wishes to take in life. As he thinks about his _____ he looks down one path as far as he can see trying to _____ what life will be like if he walks that path. He then gazes at the other _____ and decides the outcome of going down that path would be just as _____. At this point he concludes that the trail that has been less travelled on would be more _____ when he reaches the end of it. The man then decides that he will save the other path for another day, even though he knows that one path leads to another and that he won't get a _____ to go back. The man then says that he will be telling this story with a "sigh" someday in the future suggesting that he will _____ what life would have been like if he had chosen the more walked path even though the path he chose has made all the difference.

Answer:

The poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is about the choices that one makes in life. It tells about a man who comes to a fork in the road he is travelling upon. He feels sorry that he cannot travel both paths as he must choose one. Frost uses this fork in the road to represent a point in the man's life where he has to choose the direction he wishes to take in life. As he thinks about his decision he looks down one path as far as he can see trying to foresee what life will be like if he walks that path. He then gazes at the other trail and decides the outcome of going down that path would be just as pleasant. At this point he concludes that the trail that has been less travelled on would be more rewarding when he reaches the end of it. The man then decides that he will save the other path for another day, even though he knows that one path leads to another and that he won't get a chance to go back. The man then says that he will be telling this story with a "sigh" someday in the future suggesting that he will wonder what life would have been like if he had chosen the more walked path even though the path he chose has made all the difference.

11. Roads are fascinating as metaphors for life, change, journeys,

partings, adventure, etc. or simply as roads. This is probably why they, and all their attendant images, have permeated art, literature and song. In the poem, Frost uses the fork in the road as a metaphor for the choices we make in life. Thus the roads are, in fact, two alternative ways of life. What other nouns could be used to represent life?

River

Answer:

Stage
Flowers
Colours
Dream
Journey

13. 'The Road Not Taken' is a biographical poem. Therefore, some personal biographical information is relevant to the deeper understanding of the poem we have read. Go to www.encarta.com and complete the following worksheet about Robert Frost.

- a) What "momentous decision" was made by Frost in 1912?
- b) How old was he when took this decision?
- c) Why was it so difficult to make this decision? Think and give more than one reason.
- d) Was the "road" Frost had taken easy "to travel"?
- e) Do you think he wrote "The Road Not Taken" before sailing from the USA to England or after? Can you quote a line or two from the poem that can support your answer?
- f) Do you think Frost finally became popular in America as a poet?

Answer:

a) In 1912 Frost sailed with his family to Great Britain. This decision is considered as "momentous decision" made by Robert Frost. Before this, Frost was a failing New Hampshire farmer as well as a part-time poet. This was the year when Frost give up farming and started his career as poet. The family moved to Great Britain, where Frost met many other poets and successfully set his career on the path to immortality.

b) Robert Frost was 42 when this poem published. However, we cannot assume that this poem is actually autobiographical. Frost created his speaker for the poem to speak on his behalf. We can guess the age of the speaker based on the evidence given in the poem. The only clue we have to the speaker's age are the words "ages and ages hence." This implies that he will be considering the effects of his decision far down the road years into the future. So we would expect him to be a relatively young man at the time of the decision.

c) He was going to another country where he had no contact. Also, he give up his traditional occupation. If he fails in his poetic career then it is very hard for him to survive. Therefore, the decision was so difficult.

d) The poem didn't make it clear whether the road was difficult or not. We have only knew about the condition of the road is that it "was grassy and wanted wear." That just means that it was not a frequently traveled road; it doesn't tell us how difficult it was.

e) The poem is written after sailing from the USA to England. We can understood through his line "...and that has made all the difference" which means Frost had traveled the road which changed his life.

f) Yes, Frost finally became popular in America as a poet.

***** END *****