

Midas Touch – Nothing Gold Can Stay Comparison

Midas Touch, by Kepano Green, is a song chronicling the progression of trees' leaves from the onset of fall to the beginning of winter, likening them to the mythical King Midas, who wished for all he touched to turn into gold, but did not realise the ramifications of his decision until too late. In contrast, *Nothing Gold Can Stay*, by Robert Frost, is about how nothing “golden,” that is, positive or beneficial, can last forever. Both stories have a similar central theme, but differ in their allusions and messages.

One of the main themes of *Midas Touch* is in the main chorus: “And the leaves are searching for the gold/When they find it they will fall/Just like everything else.” With this, Green is remarking on the human tendency to align one's goals with their wants, as opposed to what is most beneficial for them. He uses the metaphor of trees' leaves wanting to turn gold, simultaneously beautifying them and marking the beginning of their death. However, in Frost's poem, he states “Nature's first green is gold/Her hardest hue to hold... Nothing gold can stay.” Here, he states a much simpler point; good things cannot last forever. A much more fatalistic view compared to that of Green's philosophy that searching for “gold” without thought leads to downfall, but a valid one nonetheless.

Overall, the two pieces are alike in theme and underlying message – even using the same metaphor of browning leaves – that it seems like anything positive is temporary at best. However, they have different messages on how the declination can happen, with Green stating that purely self-interest will lead to a downfall, and Frost saying that it is simply the result of time.