

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN (Robert Frost)Summary

'The Road Not Taken' is one of the finest poems by Robert Frost. This poem has a deep meaning. It deals with the problem of making a right choice. Many times in our life we face alternative choices. It is often difficult to decide which one to choose but the decisions we take influence our future. One morning, the poet was standing in a wood. It was autumn. He reached a point where his path split into two roads. Now he had to make a choice between the two. He stood undecided for a long time. Finally, he took the road on which a few people had travelled. He thought that he would travel upon the first path some other day though he knew that it would not be possible.

for him. To come back. We felt that his choice (2) had made all the difference in his life. He knew that he had chosen a more challenging path. He thinks that if he had taken the other road, his life would have been different.

### Assignment

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

### Questions

1. Why is it called 'a yellow wood'?
2. Where did the two roads diverge?
3. Where did the poet look down?

4. Answer these questions.

(a) Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?

(b) Discuss what these phrases mean to you;

(i) a yellow wood

(ii) it was grassy and wanted wear

(iii) the passing there

(iv) leaves no step had trodden black

(v) how way leads on to way

(c) Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them

(i) in stanzas two and three?

(ii) in the last two lines of the poem?

(d) Justify the title of the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.

(e) Which road does the poet take and why?

### Poem

## The Road Not Taken

Robert Frost

1. Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth.
2. I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence;  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less travelled by,  
and that has made all the difference
3. And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.
4. 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.