

Unit 21

Robert Frost

The Road Not Taken

By the end of the unit, the students will be able to:

- use critical thinking to respond orally and in writing to the text (post-reading) to:
 - give a personal opinion and justify stance related to viewpoints/ ideas and issues in the text read.
 - relate what is read to his or her own feelings and experiences.
 - scan to answer short questions.
- read a given poem and give orally and in writing:
 - theme and its development.
 - personal response with justification.
- recognize literary techniques such as personification and alliteration. analyze how a writer/ poet uses language to:
 - appeal to the senses through use of figurative language including similes, metaphors and imagery
 - set tone.
- recognize and use varying intonation patterns as aids in spoken and written to highlight focus in meaning.
- use various reference sources to refine vocabulary for interpersonal academic workplace situation including figurative, idiomatic and technical vocabulary.
- apply rules of capitalization wherever applicable.
- illustrate use of all punctuation marks wherever applicable.
- use the pronunciation key to pronounce words with developing accuracy.

The Road Not Taken

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

Then took the other, as 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,

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.

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 traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost



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 twentieth century, using them to examine complex social and philosophical themes. Robert Frost's most famous poems included 'The Gift Outright,' 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,' 'Birches,' 'Mending Wall,' 'The Road Not Taken,' and 'Nothing Gold Can Stay.'

Glossary

Word	Meaning
diverge	(of a road, route, or line) separate from another route and going in a different direction.
trodden	walked
undergrowth	a dense growth of shrubs and other plants, especially under trees in woodland.
wear	damage, erode, or destroy by friction or use.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. Why is the poem titled as 'The Road Not Taken', why not 'The Road Taken' since it was the road taken that made all the difference?
2. What difference is the poet talking about? Can you make an informed guess?
3. At some critical moment of life each person has to make decisions. The poet faces making a decision at the turning point of life and he does, and this decision makes all the difference. Why does the poet succeed in making right decision?
4. The imagery 'ages and ages hence' puts value on some essential traits of character that brings difference in people life. What in your views are these traits? Explain.