

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.

5. What in your views is the dominant theme of the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.
6. Describe the imagery of the poem 'The Road Not Taken'. Is it abstract or concrete? Illustrate it with examples from the poem.

Writing Suggestions

- A. How do you like the poem 'The Road Not Taken'. Write appreciation of the poem in your own words.
- B. Write the explanation of the following lines with reference to the context:

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.

Oral Communication

Divide the class into groups and ask the students of each group to read aloud the poem 'The Road Not Taken'. Each student should read it on his turn. While reading aloud he himself and the group should listen to his voice, to the sounds the words make. Now, through group discussion ask them to find the answers of the following questions with their group members.

- a. Do you notice any special effects?
- b. Do any of the words rhyme?
- c. Is there a cluster of sounds that seem the same or similar?
- d. Is there a section of the poem that seems to have a rhythm that's distinct from the rest of the poem?

Vocabulary and Grammar

Vocabulary

Find the meaning of the following internet related words in a dictionary, identify their part of speech and then fill in the blanks. Check their pronunciation in the dictionary with the help of the pronunciation key.

spam

messages

board

username

virus

fraudulent

antispam

filter

1. I was about to give somebody my account number over the phone when I realized it was a _____ attempt to get my personal information.
2. If you use an _____, your mailbox won't get so full of trash mail.
3. Every morning, I have to empty my mailbox of unwanted _____. I've decided to open a new e-mail account and give the address only to the few friends who usually write to me.
4. I signed up to that baseball website last weekend. I wanted to choose the _____ 'BabeRuth' but someone else had already chosen it. So I chose 'BaseballJoe' instead.
5. I don't know the answer to that question but if you have a little time later, go onto that cookery _____ ask there. Every time I have a question, I receive an answer within twenty minutes: there are so many knowledgeable people on that site.
6. Be careful when you open attachments that come with e-mails because you might put a _____ onto your computer, even if a friend sent you the e-mail.

Grammar

A. Use appropriate punctuation marks in the following sentences.

1. We had a great time in Malaysia the kids really enjoyed it
2. Some people work best in the mornings others do better in the evenings
3. What are you doing next weekend

4. Mother had to go into hospital she had heart problems
5. Did you understand why I was upset
6. It is a fine idea let us hope that it is going to work
7. We will be arriving on Monday morning at least I think so
8. A textbook can be a wall between teacher and class
9. The girls father sat in a corner
10. In the words of Murphys Law Anything that can go wrong will go wrong

B. Put in semicolons, colons, dashes, quotation marks, italics (use an underline), and parentheses where ever they are needed in the following sentences.

1. The men in question Abrar, Nizam, and Iftikhar deserve awards.
2. Several countries participated in the airlift Italy, Belgium, France, and Luxembourg.
3. There's no room for error, said the engineer so we have to double check every calculation.
4. Judge Carswell later to be nominated for the Supreme Court had ruled against civil rights.
5. In last week's New Yorker, one of my favorite magazines, I enjoyed reading Leland's article How Not to Go Camping.
6. Yes, Aayan said, I'll be home by ten.
7. There was only one thing to do study till dawn.
8. Montaigne wrote the following A wise man never loses anything, if he has himself.
9. The following are the primary colors red, blue, and yellow.
10. Arriving on the 8 10 plane were Humera, my old roommate her husband and Mustafa, their son.
11. When the teacher commented that her spelling was poor, Rehan replied all the members of my family are poor spellers. Why not me?
12. He used the phrase you know so often that I finally said No, I don't know.
13. The automobile dealer handled three makes of cars Toyota, Suzuki, and Honda.

14. Though Abbas said he would arrive on the 9 19 flight, he came instead on the 10 36 flight.
15. Whoever thought said Ayesha that Ilyas would be elected class president?
16. In baseball, a show boat is a man who shows off.
17. The minister quoted Isaiah 5 21 in last Sunday's sermon.
18. There was a very interesting article entitled The New Rage for Folk Singing in last Sunday's New York Times newspaper.
19. Whoever is elected secretary of the club Maheen, or Nadia, or Aisha must be prepared to do a great deal of work, said Jumila, the previous secretary.
20. Darwin's On the Origin of Species 1859 caused a great controversy when it appeared.

Teacher's Guideline:

Explain and revise with the students the use of punctuation marks and capitalization learnt earlier.