



P.R.Government College (A)

Department Of English

I Semester General English

A photograph of a forest path with two diverging roads covered in autumn leaves. The path is made of dirt and is covered with a thick layer of fallen leaves in shades of orange, red, and brown. The path splits into two directions, leading into a dense forest of tall trees with green foliage. The lighting is soft, suggesting a quiet, early morning or late afternoon scene.

The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

The Road Not Taken By Robert Frost

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 under growth;

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



The Road Not Taken By Robert Frost

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
Some where ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood, and
I took the one less travelled by,
And that had made all the difference.

Robert Frost

- **Robert Lee Frost** (March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963) was an American poet.




Frost was honored frequently during his lifetime and is the only poet to receive four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry.

"The Road Not Taken" is one of Robert Frost's—and the world's—most well-known poems which was written in 1915 in England.



Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

- The speaker, walking through a forest whose leaves have turned yellow in autumn, comes to a fork in the road.
- . As the poet has used the term “yellow wood”, it seems that the leaves have turned lifeless and yellow depicting Autumn.




And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood

- The speaker, regretting that he or she is unable to travel by both roads (since he or she is, after all, just one person), stands at the fork in the road for a long time and tries to see where one of the paths leads.
- The road could symbolise two choices in life and the poet is finding it difficult to make a choice.
- So, being a traveller the poet stood there for a long time determining which way to continue travelling.

And be one traveller, long I stood





And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

- However, the speaker can't see very far because the forest is dense and the road is not straight.
- As he was thinking, the poet noticed that one of the roads bent in the trees and shrubs and finally disappeared.






Then took the other, as just as fair,

- After seeing that one of the roads disappeared into undergrowth The speaker takes the other path, judging it to be just as good a choice as the first.
- As just as fair can have multiple meanings. Perhaps, the poet wants to say that the road is beautiful as well or the poet wants to be fair and choose the correct option.



And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

- The speaker supposing that it may even be the better option of the two, since it is grassy and looks less worn than the other path.
- The poet then describes that may be this road is better because it has fresh grass grown on it and was not used much



Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

- Now the speaker has actually walked on the second road, he or she thinks that in reality the two roads must have been more or less equally worn-in.
- Hence selecting between two roads symbolized as selection between two destinies.





And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.

- The speaker recalls that both roads were covered in leaves, which had not yet been turned black by foot traffic.






Oh, I kept the first for another day!

- The speaker exclaims that he or she is in fact just saving the first road, and will travel it at a later date.





Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.


- But the poet immediately contradicts him or herself with the acknowledgement that, in life, one road tends to lead onward to another, so it's therefore unlikely that he or she will ever actually get a chance to return to that first road.



I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:

Years from now somewhere in the future , the poet feels that he will look back and then decide whether the choice he made was the correct one or not.

The speaker imagines him or herself in the distant future, recounting, with a sigh, the story of making the choice of which road to take.



Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

- Speaking as though looking back on his or her life from the future, the speaker states that he or she was faced with a choice between two roads and chose to take the road that was less traveled, and the consequences of that decision have made all the difference in his or her life.
- This may be indicating that making a choice out of two objectives is responsible for our future and that makes all the difference.



**I took the road less traveled by,
And that has made all the
difference**

Robert Frost

Conclusion

- Through this poem Frost wants to tell us that the choice may bring us right or wrong. He will be telling about choice with a sigh. Sigh is releasing a deep breathe expressing happiness, relief, sadness , etc.,
- So, if the choice proves out to be right, it will be a sigh of happiness or relief.
- If the choice is wrong it will be sigh of disappointment

feeling sad



feeling happy



Meanings

- Diverged – Separated
- Under growth – a dense growth of shrubs and other plants
- Claim – to take as the rightful owner
- Trodden – walked on frequently
- Sigh – relief or tiredness

*Thank
you*

