

Text Book : Beehive

Lesson 1 - Poetry “ The Road Not Taken ” by Robert Frost

New Words :

Doubted

Trodden

Choice

Undergrowth

Condition



Words Meaning:

Diverged = Separated

Traveller = A person who travels

Lay - Placed

Trodden = Passed over

Sigh = Long deep breath

Lesson Explanation :



This well-known poem is about making choices, and the choices that shape us. Robert Frost is an American poet who writes simply, but insightfully, about common, ordinary experiences

In the poem - ‘The Road Not Taken’, the road symbolizes our life. The poet says that the path that we don’t choose in our life is ‘the road not taken’. He describes his feelings about that choice that he had left in the past. The path which we have chosen, decides our future, our destination. The important message that the poet wants to give is that the choice that we make has an impact on our future and if we make a wrong choice, we

regret it but cannot go back on it. So, we must be wise while making choices.

Stanza 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;



diverged: separated and took a different direction

yellow wood: a forest with decomposing leaves

undergrowth: dense growth of plants and bushes means the forest)

Once the poet was walking down a road and then there was a diversion, there were two different paths and he had to choose one out them. The poet says that as he was one person, he could travel on one road only. He had to choose one out of these two roads Yellow wood means a forest with leaves which are wearing out and they have turned yellow in colour – the season of autumn. It represents a world which is full of people, where people have been living for many years. They represent people who are older than the poet. The poet kept standing there and looked at the path very carefully as far as he could see it. Before taking the path, he wanted to know how it was. Was it suitable for him or no. He was able to see the path till from where it curved after which it was covered with trees and was hidden. It happens in our life also when we have choices, we have alternatives, but we have to choose only one out of them, we take time to think about the pros and cons, whether it is suitable for us or not and only then, we take a decision on what path we should choose.

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.

fair: As good as the other one,

claim: Better option

grassy: unused

wanted wear: had not been used



The poet kept on looking at one path for a long time to check if it is the right path for him or not and then he decided and started walking on another path because he felt that the both paths were equally good. He says just as fair, so, he felt that both paths were equally good and started walking on one of them. He adds that maybe he felt that the path was better for him so he chooses it as it had grass on it which means that it was unused. Not many people had walked on this path earlier that is why this path was grassy. 'And wanted wear' means that it was not walked over by many people. After he walked on the path for some distance, he realized that both the paths had been worn out the same way. Both the paths were similar and worn out. Even in our life, we take any path or option but all of them have the same benefits, disadvantages, problems, challenges and we must face them. We think that we are choosing a better option, but it is not that way.

Stanza 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.



trodden means walked over.

The poet says that both the paths were similar that morning. Both had leaves on them and no one had stepped on them as they were still green in colour. He decided that that day he would take one path and keep the other path for another day, although he knew that one way leads on to another way. He knew that he could not go back on the choice that he had made. Similarly, even in our life once we choose an option, we must keep on moving ahead with that option and we never get a chance to come back and take the other option that we had left earlier.

Stanza 4

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.

sigh: deep breath

hence: here, in the future

He says that in the future, he will take a deep breath and say that once upon a time, he had reached such a point in life that there were two options for him and he travelled on that road which had been travelled upon by lesser number of people. That decision of his decided his future. Similarly, in future, when you grow up, then you will say that once upon a time, when you were young, you had two options. The choice that you made, made you what you became of it. This is a very strong message for all the students - that you should be wise and be careful while making choices out of the options that you have in your life because your future depends on the choice that you make today.

Rhyme Scheme: abaab

2.Symbolism: two roads which represents two or more choices in our life

3.Anaphora: 'and' repeated at the beginning of lines 2, 3 and 4

4.Alliteration: Wanted Wear 'w' sound is repeating

first for' – 'f' sound is repeating

though, that'- 'th' sound is repeating

5.Repetition: 'Ages' is repeated. 'Two roads diverged in a wood'- this sentence is repeated in stanzas 1 and 4

Q1 A] Read the following lines and answer the questions that follows:

"Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as far that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same..

a) Why did the poet take the other road ?

Ans :The poet took the other road because he thought that it was more challenging to Travel on it as only a few had used it.

b) What did the poet discover while travelling on the other road ?

Ans The poet discovered, while travelling on the other road, that the second was almost equally used as the first one.

c) Find a word from the passage that is opposite to foul ?

Ans : Fair

**B] “ Two road diverged in yellow wood
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And locked down once as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;**

a) At which point had the poet reached?

Ans: The poet is standing at a point where two roads diverged in the yellow wood.

b) Why was traveller feeling sorry ?

Ans: The poet is feeling sorry because he could not travel on both the roads.

c) Give the opposite to ‘met at a point’.

Ans : Diverged

Q 2] Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words:

a) Was the poet doubtful or clear ?

Ans: Throughout the poem and the poet’s journey, he faces an archetypal delimita. He doubts if he would ever be able to come back to take that other road which might have given him some other more lucrative options in life. The poet believes and we all know that one road leads to another. So going back to original path is not easy.

b) Does the speaker feel that he has made the wrong choice in taking the road less travelled by ? If not , why does he ‘sigh’ ? What does he regret?

Ans : No, the speaker does not feel that he has made a wrong decision by taking the road less travelled. The poet wanted to explore both the roads . He tells himself that he will explore one and then come back and explore the other , but he knows that he will probably be unable to do so.

c) And that has made all the difference. What is your opinion of the difference.... Was it for the better or the worse? Substantiate your answer .

Ans: The poem does not clearly state whether the choice made by the poet made him happy or sad. However, if examined the way of the world , we find

hat the individuals who have achieved recognition and fame have always eschewed the beaten track. Hence we can reason that the poet traveller was made happy by choosing the less travelled path, not the beaten path, not the beaten track. The concluding line of the poem- 'and that has made all the difference' connotes the poet's joy.

3 Answer the following question in 100 – 150 words :

a) Difficult situations mark the development of certain qualities in us .

Explain with reference to the story the lost child.

Ans :It is true that difficult situations mark the development of certain qualities in us. What we require is that we must have courage in our heart, trust over ourself and tolerance . It comes to be true in the story the lost child . Before separation, the child was very happy and excited at the fair. He was fascinated with all the things that were displayed at the stalls . H wanted to have all the things like his favourite toys, sweet, flowers etc, but after separation, the boy just wanted to be with his patents. He takes him to every other place which the child had desired earlier but, he denies and only wants to meet his parents. In this way , it is seen that certain qualities develop in difficult situation.

b) Compare the attitude of the child before and after his separation from his parents.

Ans: Before separation the child was very happy and excited at the fair. He was fascinated with all the things that were displayed at the stalls . He wanted to have all the things like his favourite toys, sweets , flowers, etc. He also wanted to go for a ride. But after separation the boy just wanted to be with his parents . He was not interested in any of those things which he kept asking to have from stalls. In the absence of his parents these things did not give him any satisfaction.