

# Reading Poetry:

## “The Road Not Taken”

### by Robert Frost

Read the poem by Robert Frost, and then answer the questions on the next page. For #5, underlined sections may vary.

### The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, **A**

And sorry I could not travel both **B**

And be one traveler, long I stood **A**

And looked down one as far as I could **A**

**5** To where it bent in the undergrowth; **B**

Then took the other, as just as fair, **C**

And having perhaps the better claim, **D**

Because it was grassy and wanted wear; **C**

Though as for that the passing there **C**

**10** Had worn them really about the same, **D**

And both that morning equally lay **E**

In leaves no step had trodden black. **F**

Oh, I kept the first for another day! **E**

Yet knowing how way leads on to way, **E**

**15** I doubted if I should ever come back. **F**

I shall be telling this with a sigh **G**

Somewhere ages and ages hence: **H**

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— **G**

I took the one less traveled by, **G**

**20** And that has made all the difference. **H**



**Answer the following questions about “The Road Not Taken.”****1. What is happening in this poem?**

- a. The speaker is lost in the woods.
- b. The speaker is choosing a road to travel on.**
- c. The speaker is going back to a favorite place.
- d. The speaker is growing older and less able to travel.

**2. Go back to the poem and label the rhyme scheme.****3. What does “wanted wear” mean in line 8?**

- a. The road is covered in leaves.
- b. The road looks dirty and unsafe.
- c. The road hasn’t been used very much.**
- d. The road is shorter than the other one.

**4. Which word best describes the tone of this poem?**

- a. playful
- b. reflective**
- c. gloomy
- d. angry

**5. Underline or highlight words and phrases in the poem that set the tone by showing the speaker’s feelings.****6. Describe the two roads, using words or phrases from the text.**

One road “bent in the undergrowth.” The second road was “grassy and wanted wear.” Both roads “equally lay in leaves no step had trodden black.”

**7. How does the speaker feel about his choice in the beginning of the poem? How does he feel about it in the end? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.**

In the beginning, the speaker feels “sorry I could not travel both” roads. In the end, the speaker feels that his choice to take the road “less traveled by” has “made all the difference.”

**8. Draw a line to match the vocabulary word to its meaning in the poem.**

undergrowth	walked upon
diverged	from this time
trodden	small plants beneath trees
hence	moved in different directions

**9. This poem is about how choices can change your life. What is a choice you have made that has changed your life? Describe your choice and the outcome below. **Answers will vary.****


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