

STUDY COURSE MATERIAL

ENGLISH

SESSION-2020-21

CLASS- IX

TOPIC: The Road by Robert Frost.

DAY-1

Poem: The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost.

About the Poet.

Robert Lee Frost (March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963) was an American poet. His work was initially published in England before it was published in America. 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.

Frost was honored frequently during his lifetime and is the only poet to receive four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry. He became one of America's rare "public literary figures, almost an artistic institution." He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960 for his poetic works. On July 22, 1961, Frost was named poet laureate of Vermont.

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.*

Word Meanings:-

Diverged – went in different directions

Undergrowth – shrubs

Better claim – preferable

Wanted wear – had not been crushed or worn out under human feet

Trodden – walked on

Sigh – regret

DAY-2

Central Idea.

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.

Summary.

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.

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.

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.

DAY-3

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.

Literary Devices used in the Poem - The Road Not Taken

1. **Rhyme Scheme:** a b a a b
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.

DAY-4-5

Question and Answers:-

1. **Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?**

Answer

The traveller finds himself in the yellow woods at a point where the road forks into two. The problem that he faces is that he cannot decide which road to take to continue his journey since it is not possible for him to travel both roads at the same time.

2. **Discuss what these phrases mean to you.**

- (i) a yellow wood
- (ii) it was grassy and wanted wear
- (iii) the passing there
- (iv) leaves no step had trodden black
- (v) how way leads on to way

Answer

- i) Yellow wood symbolises the autumn season. Autumn corresponds with old age. The poet could be symbolically talking about the later stages of life.
- ii) It conveys that the road was full of grass and nobody has used that road. It was a smooth road which had not worn out.
- iii) The use of the path by passersby.
- iv) The leaves had not changed their colour and turned black because of less people stepping on them. It could represent a path one may have never/seldom taken in life for the fear of uncertainty.
- v) This phrase means how certain decisions one makes in life could pave the way for many other decisions.

3. **Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describe them.**

- (i) in stanzas two and three?
- (ii) in the last two lines of the poem?

Answer

i) In stanza two the poet explains that the only difference between the two roads was that the road he took had the right to be chosen (the better claim) because it was covered with grass and looked as if it had not been used too much. Besides this difference, both roads had been equally worn down by passersby travelling on them. In stanza three the poet says that both the roads were equally covered with leaves and that no person had stepped on.

ii) In the last two lines of the poem the poet says that there is a difference between the two roads because he took the road that was less travelled by other people and that made all the difference to his journey.

4. What do you think the last two lines of the poem mean? (Looking back, does the poet regret his choice or accept it?)

Answer

The last two lines of the poem mean the acceptance of reality. The poet made a choice and accepted the challenging path. He took an unexplored path in his life. He wanted to do something different in his life so he chooses the less travelled road. No, he does not regret his choice.