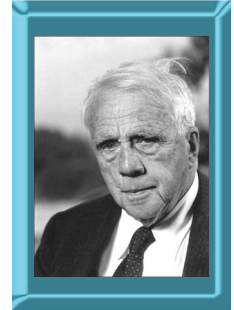


THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Robert Frost



Robert Lee Frost (1874-1963), American poet was born in San Francisco, California. Frost attended high school in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and began writing poetry. Frost continued to write poetry, but he was unsuccessful at publishing his work. Seeking better literary opportunities, the Frosts sold their farm and moved to England in 1912. In England, Frost achieved his first literary success. His book of poems *A Boy's Will* (1913) was printed by the first English publisher that Frost approached. The work established Frost as an eminent poet. His second collection, *North of Boston*, was published in 1914 and also won praise. He won the Pulitzer Prize in poetry four times (1924, 1931, 1937, and 1943). He wrote simply but insightfully, about common, ordinary experiences.



This well known poem is about making choices and the choices that shape us.

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;
 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.

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 travelled by,
 And that has made all the difference.

Glossary

diverged	ˌdaɪˈvɜːdʒd	separated and took a different direction.
undergrowth	ˈʌn.də.grəʊθ	dense growth of plants and bushes.
wanted wear	ˈwɒn.tɪd weə	had not been used.
hence	hens	from here, in the future.

Understanding the Poem

1. Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?
2. What is the difference between the two roads as described by the poet in stanzas two and three ?
3. Which road does the poet choose? Does he regret his decision?
4. Find the rhyme scheme of the poem.
5. Explain the meaning of the following phrases:
 - a) a yellow wood.
 - b) bent in the undergrowth.
 - c) trodden black.

Learning about the literary device

Metaphor is the application of a word or phrase to somebody or something that is not meant

literally but to make a comparison. For example when we say that somebody is a snake we don't mean that, we only mean to describe his deceiving character by comparing him to a snake. If we compare the freshness of something to a dew drop, we don't mean that the thing by itself is dew, but he is as fresh as a dew. 'The mind is an ocean' suggests the vastness of a mind.

1. Which word does Frost use as metaphor for the choices we make in life?

Discussion

1. What do you want to be in life? List three choices in order of preference.
2. Have a discussion in the class on the topic "Career options available to the students of J&K".

Suggested Reading

Mending wall by Rober Frost.

Quote to remember

Nature tells every secret once.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Tongue Twister

The doctoring doctor doctors the doctors the way the
doctoring doctor wants to doctor the doctor.
Not the way the doctored doctor wants to be doctored.