

Chapter 7
The Road Not Taken

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7. On the basis of your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions by ticking the correct choice.

(a) In the poem, a traveler comes to a fork in the road and needs to decide which way to go to continue his journey. Figuratively the choice of the road denotes _____.

- (i) the tough choices people make the road of life
- (ii) the time wasted on deciding what to do
- (iii) life is like a forest
- (iv) one must travel a lot to realize his dreams

Answer

(i) the tough choices people make the road of life

(b) The poet writes, '*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood.*' The word diverged means

_____.

- (i) appeared
- (ii) curved
- (iii) branched off
- (iv) continued on

Answer

(iii) branched off

(c) The tone of the speaker in the first stanza is that of

_____.

(i) excitement

(ii) anger

(iii) hesitation and thoughtfulness

(iv) sorrow

Answer

(iii) hesitation and thoughtfulness

8. Answer the following questions briefly.

(i) Describe the two roads that the author finds.

Answer

One road was a beaten track. Many people had walked on it. It was lost in the small shrubs. The other road was grassy and unspoiled.

(ii) Which road does the speaker choose?

Answer

The poet chose the road that was less travelled because it had the better claim. It was grassy and not many people had used it.

(iii) Which road would you choose? Why?

Answer

I will chose the less travelled road because I want to judge myself test myself and check my capability. I like adventure and would want to explore new facets. I am always enthusiastic for venturing into something absolutely new, uncommon and unknown to the rest of the world.

(iv) Does the speaker seem happy about his decision?

Answer

There is a certain ambiguity here. The speaker seems happy and satisfied when he says - "And that has made all the difference." However, the sigh just before this makes us question his happiness.

(v) The poet says "I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference." What is 'the difference' that the poet mentions?

Answer

When the poet came to the cross roads, he had a choice. He could take the road travelled by many or he could take the road less travelled. He decided to take the road less travelled knowing fully well that once the choice was made, it was permanent and there was no turning back. That 'choice' he had made, according to him, has changed his life. It may have brought him success,

happiness and fulfillment. The choice that he made at that time affected his future. That choice made all the difference to his life.

9. Find the rhyme scheme of the poem.

Answer

The rhyme scheme of Poem is a b a a b

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10. Fill in the blanks to complete the following paragraph that deals with the theme of the poem. Use the words given in the box below:

decision	sorry	foresee	choices
pleasant	direction	fork	trail
rewarding	chance	wonder	both

The poem “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost is about the _____ that one makes in life. It tells about a man who comes to a _____ in the road he is travelling upon. He feels _____ that he cannot travel _____ paths as he must choose one. Frost uses this fork in the road to represent a

point in the man's life where he has to choose the _____ he wishes to take in life. As he thinks about his _____ he looks down one path as far as he can see trying to _____ what life will be like if he walks that path. He then gazes at the other _____ and decides the outcome of going down that path would be just as _____. At this point he concludes that the trail that has been less travelled on would be more _____ when he reaches the end of it. The man then decides that he will save the other path for another day, even though he knows that one path leads to another and that he won't get a _____ to go back. The man then says that he will be telling this story with a "sigh" someday in the future suggesting that he will _____ what life would have been like if he had chosen the more walked path even though the path he chose has made all the difference.

Answer

The poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is about the **choices** that one makes in life. It tells about a man who comes to a **fork** in the road he is travelling upon. He feels **sorry** that he cannot travel **both** paths as he must choose one. Frost uses this fork in the road to represent a point in the man's life where he has to choose the **direction** he wishes to take in life. As he thinks about his **decision** he looks down one path as far as he can see trying to **foresee** what life will be like if he walks that path. He then gazes at the other **trail** and decides the outcome of going down that path would be just as **pleasant**. At this point he concludes that the trail that has been less travelled on would be more **rewarding** when he reaches the end of it. The man then decides that he will save the other path for another day, even though he knows that one path leads to another and that he won't get a **chance** to go back. The man then says that he will

be telling this story with a “sigh” someday in the future suggesting that he will **wonder** what life would have been like if he had chosen the more walked path even though the path he chose has made all the difference.

11. Roads are fascinating as metaphors for life, change, journeys, partings, adventure, etc. or simply as roads. This is probably why they, and all their attendant images, have permeated art, literature and song. In the poem, Frost uses the fork in the road as a metaphor for the choices we make in life. Thus the roads are, in fact, two alternative ways of life. What other nouns could be used to represent life?

- **River**
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Answer

Stage
Flowers
Colours
Dream
Journey