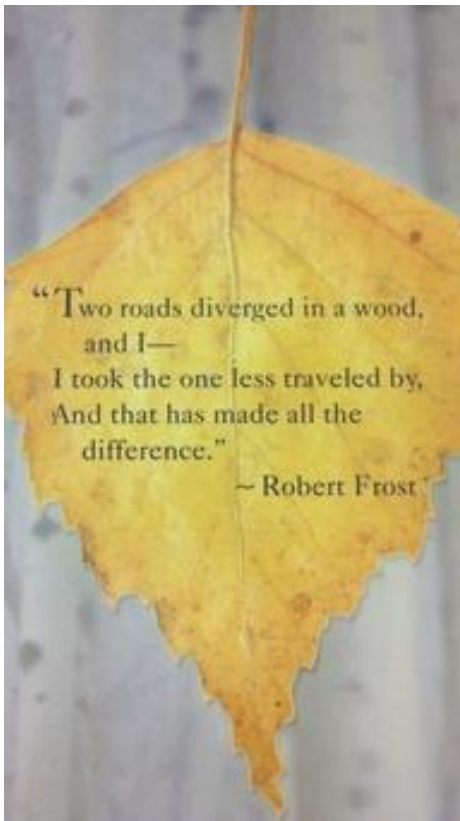


Pause for Poetry: "The Road Not Taken," by Robert Frost

View the "Kid President" video on YouTube & read the poem "The Road Not Taken." Answer the questions that follow.

1. What is the kid's message about life? Summarize his message in your own words.

Directions: Read the poem "The Road Not Taken," by Robert Frost.



"The Road Not Taken," by Robert Frost

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 steps 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.

2. The poet writes, "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both." What does the word *diverged* mean?

- A. appeared
- B. curved

- C. branched off
- D. continued on

3. Now that we've looked at the word "diverged," restate the first line in your own words. What does it mean? How is the speaker feeling?

4. The poet writes, “And both that morning equally lay in leaves no step had trodden black.” What is the meaning of the word *trodden*?

- A. mowed recently
- B. replanted with seed
- C. stepped on or over
- D. watered and made muddy

5. What conclusion can the reader draw about the speaker in the first stanza?

- A. He is lonely and sad.
- B. He is hesitant and thoughtful.
- C. He is hurried and rushed.
- D. He is kind and generous.

6. What words in the first stanza suggest these emotions? Copy the words or phrases here.

7. Which feature of the selection most strongly indicates that it is a poem?

- A. It appeals to the senses.
- B. It is divided into lines & stanzas.
- C. It has a title.
- D. It is told in first person.

8. What could the two roads symbolize?

- A. They could symbolize different ways out of the woods.
- B. They could symbolize different ways to return home.
- C. They could symbolize different ways to get to town.
- D. They could symbolize different choices in life.

9. What kinds of decisions do you have to make (or will you have to make in the future) that decide which “road” you will take? Name three important decisions that will affect your path.

10. We have all made decisions that we later regretted because they took us (perhaps only temporarily) down the wrong path. When has this happened to you? What have you done (or could you do) to get yourself back on the right path?

11. What do you think is Robert Frost’s message about life? Summarize his message in your own words.

Finally, answer the following question on a separate half sheet: How does the Kid President’s message compare with Robert Frost’s message? Write a few sentences explaining how they are similar and how they are different.

Use these as possible sentence starters:

- On one hand, Robert Frost suggests....
- Similarly, the Kid President believes...
- On the other hand, Robert Frost seems...
- Unlike the Kid President, however, Robert Frost states that...