

4- Poem Comprehension

Grade 4

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 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.

Comprehension Questions

1. What does the poet find in the yellow wood? What is his dilemma?

2. Why is the poet feeling sorry? Explain with reference to the first stanza.

3. What does "yellow wood" symbolize in the poem?

4. The poem is not just about two roads. What deeper meaning does it convey?

5. Explain the significance of these lines:

"Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same"

6. Why does the poet say he will be telling this story "with a sigh" in the future?

7. What do you think the poet means by "And that has made all the difference"?

8. Identify the rhyme scheme of the first stanza.

9. Find an example of each from the poem:

a) Alliteration- _____

b) Repetition- _____

c) Metaphor- _____

10. What is the mood of the poem? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

11. Explain how the poet creates imagery in the first stanza. List the specific words that help create a picture.

12. What does the phrase "wanted wear" mean? Is this standard English? Explain.

13. Find words from the poem that mean the following:

- a) split into two directions _____
- b) plants growing close to the ground _____
- c) walked upon _____

14. Explain the meaning of these phrases in your own words:

- a) "way leads on to way" _____
- b) "ages and ages hence" _____
- c) "the one less traveled by" _____

15. Use these words in sentences of your own to show their meanings:

- a) diverged- _____
- b) fair- _____
- c) doubt- _____

16. Identify the tense used in:

- a) "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood" _____
- b) "I shall be telling this with a sigh" _____

17. Find and write:

a) Two examples of present participles from the poem

b) Two examples of past participles

c) Two pronouns used in the poem

18. Change the following lines to present tense:

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

And sorry I could not travel both"

19. In the line "And be one traveler, long I stood," what kind of word is 'long'? How is it used here?

Creative Writing

20. Write a paragraph about a time when you had to make a difficult choice between two options. What did you choose and why?

21. If you were in the poet's place, which road would you choose and why? Support your answer with reasons.

Answer Key

Comprehension:

1. The poet finds two diverging roads; his dilemma is choosing between them.
2. He feels sorry because he cannot explore both paths while being one person.
3. "Yellow wood" symbolizes autumn/fall season, suggesting a time of change and decision-making.
4. The poem represents life's choices and decisions, and how our choices shape our future.
5. Despite initially thinking one path was less worn, they were actually similar; this suggests how we often try to make our choices seem more significant.
6. The sigh could represent either satisfaction or regret about his choice - it's deliberately ambiguous.
7. The choice he made has significantly impacted his life journey, though whether positively or negatively is left open to interpretation.
8. ABAAB

9. a) "wanted wear" b) "and" repeated throughout, "I-I" in last stanza c) The entire poem is a metaphor for life choices
10. Contemplative, thoughtful mood created through careful observation and consideration of choices
11. "yellow wood," "bent in the undergrowth," "looked down one as far as I could"
12. "Wanted wear" means needed to be walked on; it's poetic language rather than standard English
13. diverged, undergrowth, trodden

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