



HOLY FAITH PRESENTATION SCHOOL

RAWALPORA SRINAGAR KASHMIR

(CLASS 9th - ENGLISH)

Poem - 4 "The Road Not Taken"

Q1: Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?

Ans. He finds himself at a point where the road diverged in two different directions. His problem is to make the decision that which road he should walk.

Q2: What is the difference between the two roads as described by the poet in stanzas two and three?

Ans. The difference between the two roads is that one of the roads was much travelled by while the other was grassy and had not been used.

Q3: Which road does the poet choose? Does he regret his decision?

Ans. The poet decided to take the other road which was less frequented and travelled by the people.

No, the poet has no regrets. In the last stanza when he tells 'with a sigh'. It's a sigh of relief. The phrase 'make all the difference' always has a positive connotation. It simply means the poet is glad and sighs that the decision which he took has made all the difference in his life.

Q4: Find the rhyme- scheme of the poem?

Ans. The rhyme scheme and each stanza of the poem is –abaab.

Q5: Explain the meaning of following phrases:

A yellow wood
Bent in the undergrowth
Trodden black
Grassy and wanted wear
Leaves no step had trodden black
The passing there

Ans.(a) a yellow wood: It means a forest in the autumn season.

(b) Bent in the undergrowth: It means a point where the road bent behind the bushes.

(c) Trodden black: it means turned black by being used very much.

(d) Grassy and wanted wear: it means the road was grassy because it was less travelled. It wanted people to move on it.

(e) Leaves no step had trodden black: it means the leaves had not been crushed under the feet of travellers.

(f) The passing there: it implies walking on the road.

Q6: Which word does Frost use as a metaphor for the choices we make in life?

Ans. Frost uses the 'roads' as a metaphor for the 'choice' we make in life.



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Q7: What is the theme or the message of the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?

Ans. This poem deals with the complexities of life. Life and its ways are never woven in a straight line. Life provides many options. The web of life consists of many paths and sub-ways. Naturally, these complexities of life confuse a person. Out of many options he has to opt an alternative. Only a judicious choice make us reach our destination. There are very few people who take risk to take the bold decisions in their life. Everyone's success or failure depends on his/her decision. The poet chose a different path. Popular fame and fortune are sacrificed in favour of art, literature and poetry. Nobody knows what he would have gained had he followed the least risky and safe path of life.

"Summary of the poem"

The poem "the road not taken" is written by Robert Frost. It was the autumn season. The poet was going through a forest. He reached a point from where the road diverged in two directions. Being the only traveller, he could not travel by both the roads at the same time. He had to choose one of the two. The poet stood there and thought for a long time. He looked down one of the roads as far as he could see it up to the point where the road bent behind the bushes.

The poet decided to take the other road. It was as beautiful as the first, one. Grass grew on this road. It showed that the road had not been used much. He kept the first one for another day. However, the poet knew that there was little chance of his coming back, since every road leads to a new road.

The poet imagines a time many ages hence, how he had chosen one of the two roads. He will then see that his choice had made all the difference. It affected not only the future course of the poet's life on this earth but also the course of his spirit after his death.

"Central idea of poem"

The poet brings out the importance of making a right choice. The correct choice can make one's future. The wrong one can mar it. A choice once made can hardly be reversed later. Once the poet had chosen between two roads. He chose the one that was less travelled by. And that, he says, has made all the difference.

LITERARY DEVICES

Metaphor: road; yellow wood; divergence of roads (fork)

Imagery: leaves; yellowwood

Simile: 'as just as fair'

Assonance: repetition of vowel sounds; 'a' and 'o' in quick succession

Consonance: repetition of consonant sounds such /d/ and /t/ within the same lines.

Personification: wanted wear