

The Road Not Taken

Robert Frost

What tension exists between the choice as it happened and the story the speaker expects to tell about it later?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Poem - complete poem

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
END	And that has made all the difference.
PASSAGE ID	sec-road-01

THE MOVE

Compare immediate evidence with a later self-narrative

WHY THIS PASSAGE

At the moment of choice, the speaker repeatedly admits that the roads are essentially equal. In the imagined future, however, he expects to describe one as less traveled and decisive. That gap makes the poem less about obvious alternatives than about how people create meaning from irreversible choices.

MARK

Underline details showing the roads are similar. Circle details that initially make one seem different. Box the future-tense stanza. Draw an arrow from the earlier evidence to the later claim.

NOTICE

- How many times does the speaker reduce the difference between the roads?
- Why does he doubt he will return?
- What changes between the actual choice and the story he imagines telling later?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What tension exists between the choice as it happened and the story the speaker expects to tell about it later? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The choice itself is made between roads the speaker admits are nearly equal, but his future story turns the decision into a defining contrast. The poem therefore exposes the difference between what evidence showed at the time and the meaning later memory may assign.

EVIDENCE

Use one detail showing equality between the roads and the final claim about the road less traveled.

WATCH FOR

Do not summarize the poem as advice to choose the unconventional path. The text complicates that reading by saying the roads were worn about the same.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 8 · LESSON 283

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WORK	The Road Not Taken
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TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Poem - complete poem
PASSAGE ID	sec-road-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

END

And that has made all the difference.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline details showing the roads are similar. Circle details that initially make one seem different. Box the future-tense stanza. Draw an arrow from the earlier evidence to the later claim.
2. NOTICE How many times does the speaker reduce the difference between the roads? Why does he doubt he will return? What changes between the actual choice and the story he imagines telling later?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: What tension exists between the choice as it happened and the story the speaker expects to tell about it later?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.