

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Robert Frost

What breaks the spell of stopping, and why does the poem repeat the reason for leaving?

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	Whose woods these are I think I know.
END	And miles to go before I sleep.
PASSAGE ID	sec-woods-01

THE MOVE

Trace how sound and obligation interrupt a suspended moment

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The first three stanzas slow time through quiet observation, isolation, and soft sound. The horse's bells introduce a small disturbance, but the decisive turn comes when the speaker names promises. Repeating the final line gives obligation enough weight to overcome the attraction of the woods.

MARK

Underline details that make the stop private or isolated. Circle sounds. Box the turn beginning with the woods are lovely. Star both repetitions of the final line.

NOTICE

- Why might the horse think the stop is strange?
- What sounds are present before the final stanza?
- What does repeating miles to go do that saying it once would not?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What breaks the spell of stopping, and why does the poem repeat the reason for leaving? 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 spell is broken by remembered obligation. The woods remain attractive, but “promises” restore the speaker’s connection to duties beyond the scene, and the repeated final line makes departure sound like a deliberate act of self-reminder.

EVIDENCE

Use one detail establishing the quiet isolation and the final contrast between the woods and the speaker’s promises.

WATCH FOR

Do not force a single symbolic meaning onto sleep. The passage clearly supports a tension between rest/attraction and obligations that require movement.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 9 · LESSON 290

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WORK	Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
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TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Poem - complete poem
PASSAGE ID	sec-woods-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

Whose woods these are I think I know.

END

And miles to go before I sleep.

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 that make the stop private or isolated. Circle sounds. Box the turn beginning with the woods are lovely. Star both repetitions of the final line.
2. NOTICE Why might the horse think the stop is strange? What sounds are present before the final stanza? What does repeating miles to go do that saying it once would not?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: What breaks the spell of stopping, and why does the poem repeat the reason for leaving?
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.