

Class 9 English: Beehive: Chapter 1 (Poem): The Road Not Taken

Visit this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaxCY94uIOo>) carefully:

1. Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?

Answer: The traveller finds himself in the yellow woods at a point where the road forks into two. The problem that he faces is that he cannot decide which road to take to continue his journey since it is not possible for him to travel both roads at the same time.

2. Discuss what these phrases mean to you.

(i) a yellow wood

(ii) it was grassy and wanted wear

(iii) the passing there

(iv) leaves no step had trodden black

(v) how way leads on to way

Answer: (i) Yellow wood symbolises the autumn season. As autumn corresponds to withering of the old leaves, the poet could be symbolically talking about the later stages of life of a man.

(ii) It conveys that the road was full of grass and less travelled one. The poet personifies the road by saying 'wanted wear'. It could imply the road needed to be explored or travelled as only very few has done so.

(iii) The phrase is used with respect to the path he chose to walk or rather is used as 'while walking the path'.

(iv) The poet uses this phrase to lay emphasis on the fact that he was unable to decide which path to choose. Both the paths seemed same, as the leaves had not changed their colour into black by people walking on them. Figuratively, it could represent a dilemma to choose a one path over the other for the fear of uncertainty.

(v) The phrase is used in continuation to the idea that poet wanted to return and try the first road for another day. But, he soon realizes how one way leads to another until one is very far from where it started. Figuratively, this phrase means how certain decisions one makes in life could pave the way for many other decisions.

3. Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them?

(i) In stanzas two and three?

(ii) In the last two lines of the poem?

Answer: (i) In stanza two, the poet explains that the only difference between the two roads was that the road he took had the right to be chosen (the better claim) because it was covered with grass and looked as if it had not been used too much. Besides this difference, both roads had been equally worn down by passers-by travelling on them. In stanza three, the poet says that both the roads were equally covered with leaves and that no person had stepped on.

(ii) In the last two lines of the poem, the poet says that there is a difference between the two roads because he took the road that was less travelled by other people and that made all the difference to his journey.

4. What do you think the last two lines of the poem mean? (Looking back, does the poet regret his choice or accept it?)

Answer: The last two lines of the poem mean the acceptance of reality. The poet made a choice and accepted the challenging path. He took an unexplored path in his life. He wanted to do something different, so he chooses the less travelled road. He is not disappointed by his decision. For a common man, the phrase reflects the everyday dilemma one must face to make different choices. No matter, how far the choices takes a man in life, one shouldn't regret about not taking the other path and wondering if the life could have been better than what it is.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Read the following extract and answer the questions given below.

1. 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.

(a) What decision does the speaker take of the 'first' road?

Ans. When the poet sees two roads diverging in a forest, he decides to take the second one and leave the first one for some other day.

(b) Explain : "In leaves no step had trodden black."

Ans. It means that the leaves on the other road were intact. There were no marks that anyone had trodden on them.

(c) What doubt crops up in the speaker's mind?

Ans. The poet was in a dilemma as to which road, out of the two, he should follow.

2. Two roads diverged in yellow wood

And sorry I could not travel both

And be one traveller long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could

To where it bent in the undergrowth

(a) Why did the poet feel like travelling both the roads ?

Ans. He wanted to do so because both the roads looked equally fair and promising.

(b) Why did the poet choose the other road ?

Ans. He chose the other road because it was grassy, less travelled and wanted wear.

(c) What was the doubt in poet's mind ?

Ans. The poet doubted if he would ever be able to come back to travel the first road.

Qu1 The poet stood at the intersection of

Ans:two roads



Qu2:The poet felt sorry because

ans.He could not travel on both the roads

Qu3:The poet took the road

Ans.The one less travelled by

Qu4:The poem depicts

Ans.Choices we make in life

Qu5:The entire poem is

Ans.A metaphor

Qu6:The poem is written by

Ans.Robert Frost

Qu7:What is a wood?

Ans:A cluster of trees growing wild, a mini forest.

Qu8:What did the poet see in the yellow wood?

Ans:The poet saw two paths diverging in different directions.

Qu9:How was one path different from the other?

Ans:One was greener; it had more grass and seemed less used

Qu10:Which path had been walked on that morning before the poet travelled on one?

Ans:None of them had been used

Qu11:When the poet chose one of the paths what did he hope to do?

Ans:Come back and fry the other path.

Qu12: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 travelled by, And that has made all the difference.

Stanza 4 relates a simple experience in a wood to real life experiences. Elucidate.

Ans:This stanza compares the path to life itself. In life we have to take decisions that will decide the whole future or the course our life will take.

Qu13:Does the poet regret his decision.

Ans:The poem does not have the mood of regret but mere stating of a fact of life. He uses the word 'sigh' to convey deep thoughts.

Qu14:The poet has compared life to a fork in the path to show the decisions we need to take in life. What would a comparison of life depict?

Ans:Ups and Downs

Qu15 Two roads ————— the undergrowth.

- a) Where did the poet stand? What did he see?
- b) Why did the poet stand there for "long"?
- c) Why does the poet describe the woods as yellow?

Ans:a) The poet stood at a point where two road diverged in a forest. It was Autumn and the leaves of the trees had turned yellow and were falling.

b) The poet stood there for "long" as he was thinking which road he should choose. The poet here is using 'roads' as symbols of choices in life one makes.

c) It is Autumn time and the leaves have turned from green to brown to yellow and the entire forest looks like this so he has described it as yellow.

Qu16 Then took ————— the same.

- a) Which road did the poet take?
- b) Why did the poet take the "other" road?

Ans:a) The poet took the other road; meaning the road that was not taken by most of the travellers.

b) The poet took the road less travelled by - which is the other road, because it looked equally attractive, and it looked grassy and needed people to walk on it so it would look as worn out or travelled on as the one that he did not choose to go on.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Qu.- Discuss the significance of the title 'The Road Not Taken'.

Ans. It depicts the feeling of regret. After making a choice, he was plagued with the idea of not making the other choice. He regrets not adopting the other cause, the other road, the other choice. Even when we do well often making a choice we keep thinking of the games and success which could have been ours if we had taken the other choice.

2. Describe the two roads that the author finds. Which road does he choose ? [CBSE 2010 (Term I)]

Ans: One day the poet comes to a bifurcation in the road and needs to decide which road he should take to continue his journey. One road was a beaten track. Many people had walked on it. It was lost in the small shrubs. The other road was grassy and seemed less trodden. Being adventurous in nature, the poet chooses the second road which was grassy and less walked on and left the first one for some other day.

3. What was the poet's dilemma in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' ? [CBSE 2010 (Term I)]

Ans: The poet faces a dilemma that every man faces in his life, i.e. making a right decision. One day during the walk the poet reached bifurcation in the road. Out of the two roads, he had to take only one. He decides to take the second road which was less frequented. Hence the road is a symbolic of the choice. It is just not possible to make more than one choice, and to take both the roads. So the poet decides to take the road less travelled.