

The Road Not Taken

English

Central Idea:

The poem 'The Road Not Taken' is written by Robert Lee Frost shows making a right and correct choice is of paramount importance. Right and correct choice can make our life happy and prosperous and the wrong one would ruin it. If we decide on something, we cannot step back from it. The poet in the poem had to choose between two roads which he had to take and he chose the one which was less visited and this decision of his (poet) made all the difference.

Paraphrase:

Line (1 – 5): In these lines the poet says that once while travelling through a forest, he reached to a point where the road separated in two directions (two new roads). The poet was the lone traveler, and was not thus able to adopt both the roads at the same time. So, he had to make a decision about the one road that he could take. The poet was hesitant and took a long time to make his decision. He looked down one of the roads, as far as, he could. He was able to see upto a point where it (road) bent / disappeared in dense growth of plants and bushes and began to think whether he should take this road or not.

Line (6 – 10): The poet chose to take the other road. It was as beautiful and attractive as the first one. This road was grassy and it appeared to be less visited by people. So, the poet thought that this road deserved to be travelled by him. But after a deep thought and consideration, it appeared to him and he himself realized the fact that both the roads were roads, seemed to be equally frequented by people.

Line (11 – 15): The poet says that in the morning both the roads were covered with leaves and it seemed no one had walked over them because their color had not turned black. The poet chose to take the second road which was less – frequented by people and kept the first one for another day. Though he was sure he won't be able to come back – it is because when we take a particular road, it spreads out many branches and then it becomes impossible for us to come back and take / try another road.

Line (16 – 20): In these lines the poet forms/ presents a picture of the future. He says that in future he would feel sadness and regret over his choice of how he had chosen the less – visited road between the two roads which separated/diverged in a forest. He would think, it would have been better if he had selected the other road. For his future would lay on that road. But by choosing the less – visited road had made all the difference. It means this decision of poet not only affected the future course of poet's life but also the spiritual life after his death.
