

Comparing / weighing options

Key

paths lead to new paths → each decision leads you to a new decision

The Road Not Taken
By Robert Frost

Trail is metaphor/symbol for life making life decisions

Literally in the woods path splits has to choose a path

literal one path was taken but a lot more were used

research → split → mood - slight disappointment
Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, A
And sorry I could not travel both B
And be one traveler, long I stood A
And looked down one as far as I could A
To where it bent in the undergrowth. B

Rhyme Scheme of poem → A B A A B goes against the norm

probably will never return

"sigh" might be written or negative → he does not know yet

Then took the other, as just as fair, A
And having perhaps the better claim, B
Because it was grassy and wanted wear, A
Though as for that the passing there, A
Had worn them really about the same. B
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.

Figuratively → wants to be his own person - see things that others do not. "Leader"

→ about the same, more grass - used less (lit.) (fig) this choice, again.
Each path represents a life choice → every decision leads to a different decision

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 traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Ages → In the future, he will know if he made the right choice, but right now he does not know.

↳ we do not know if this difference is positive or negative.

Symbolism

Extended metaphor

When he looks back in many years, he can reflect.

Connection to The Pearl → Kino has a major life decision that leads to several other decisions keeps pearl → lost son, lost canoe, lost home.

"The Road Not Taken"- Robert Frost

1. What happens in the first stanza of the poem? Where is the speaker? What does he see? What does he do?

In the woods during autumn - the speaker sees two different ways he can take (two decisions), He weighs his options.

2. How did he feel about the fact that he could not travel down both paths?

Uneasy - He hopes that he will make the right choice. He knows he only has one chance.

3. To many, the assumption of this poem is that one road represents an alternative way of life. Is this true? What else can be represented by the two paths?

These two paths can symbolize two important decisions/ choices someone must make in life. (extended metaphor)

4. Discuss the lines in the poem that suggest that the two roads are actually almost the same. Use direct text evidence.

Stanza 2 line 5

"Had worn them really about the same."

5. The last stanza describes the way the speaker will tell his story in the future. How will he tell his story?

He will tell his story many years (ages) from now with a sigh. This can be a good sigh or a bad sigh -> he will now know whether he made the right choice.