

(i)

## The Road Not Taken

*This well-known poem is about making choices, and the choices that shape us. Robert Frost is an American poet who writes simply, but insightfully, about common, ordinary experiences.*

Two roads diverged in a 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;

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

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.

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.

एक पीले जंगल में कवि ऐसे स्थान पर पहुँचा जहाँ रास्ता दो भागों में विभाजित हो गया था। एक रास्ता वह जिस पर बहुत लोग चले थे, दूसरा वह जो कम चला गया था। कवि दूसरा रास्ता अपनाता है यह सोचकर कि वह पहले रास्ते पर फिर कभी चल लेगा। परन्तु वह ऐसा कभी नहीं कर पाया। आगे वह बताता है कि क्योंकि उसने चुनौतीपूर्ण भरा रास्ता चुना था इसी से उसके भावी जीवन में अन्तर आया।

*Robert Frost*

### Word-Meanings

**Alternative** - विकल्प। **Choices** - चुनाव। **Decide** - निर्णय लेना। **Influences** - प्रभावित करता है। **diverged** - separated and took a different direction, विभाजित हुई। **wood** - जंगल। **Bent** - मुड़ी। **undergrowth** - dense growth of plants and bushes, घनी झाड़ियाँ व पौधे। **Perhaps** - शायद। **Grassy** - घास वाला। **Claim** - अधिकार। **Wanted wear** - had not been used, प्रयोग नहीं किया गया था। **Lay** - पड़ी थी। **Trodden** - पाँव से कुचली गई। **Lead**

## EXERCISES

### THINKING ABOUT THE POEM

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

यात्री अपने आपको कहाँ पाता है? वह किस समस्या का सामना करता है?

The traveller finds himself in a forest where two roads are going in different directions. The poet faces the problem of choosing one of them. He can not decide which road is worth taking.

**2. Discuss what these phrases mean to you.**

व्याख्या करो कि इन वाक्यांशों का आपके लिए क्या अर्थ है?

**i. a yellow wood**

"a yellow wood" means that it is autumn season and the colour of trees has become yellow.

**ii. it was grassy and wanted wear**

"it was grassy and wanted wear" - it means that the grass was grown over the road and it was less travelled.

**iii. the passing there**

"the passing there" means going up and down the road.

**iv. leaves no step had trodden black**

It means that the leaves were not crushed under foot.

**v. how way leads on to way**

It means that one road leads someone to the other and there is no turning back.

**3. Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describe them**

जिस तरह से कवि वर्णन करता है, क्या दोनों रास्तों में कोई अन्तर है-

**i. in stanzas two and three?**

**ii. in the last two lines of the poem?**

(i) The roads stand for the choices in our life. In the second and third stanza both the roads were covered with leaves. But one road is less travelled. It was grassy. The second road was much travelled.

(ii) The poet chose the second road which was less travelled. He left the first for some other day. But it has made all the difference in poet's life.

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

आपके विचार से कविता की अन्तिम पंक्तियों का क्या अर्थ है? (पीछे देखते हुए कवि अपने चुनाव के लिए पछताता है या इसको सही मानता है?)

The poet does not choose the first road. He chooses the second road which was less travelled. But in future he regrets that he could not choose both the roads. Choosing the less travelled road has changed the poet's life. The roads stand for the problem of choice in life. A particular choice changes a person's life.

**B. 1. Have you ever had to make a difficult choice (or do you think you will have difficult choices to make)? How will you make the choice (for what reasons)?**

**2. After you have made a choice do you always think about what might have been, or do you accept the reality?**