

Grade 6 English Language Arts

Week of January 18 – January 22

Lesson 4: Road Not Taken

Have you ever found yourself "between a rock and a hard place" trying to make a difficult decision? Maybe you've had to choose between two equally good choices like playing soccer with one group of friends or going to a movie with your cousins. Sometimes, decisions are "bigger" and the outcomes last longer, like choosing guitar or piano lessons, community soccer or football. We've all had to face decisions where the "best choice" was not clear. The famous poet, Robert Frost, once wrote a poem that describes this feeling exactly.

The Road Not Taken, written in 1916, is one of his most famous poems. The poet tries to hook readers by presenting a difficult choice. By presenting a dilemma, he makes us want to read more.

The Road Not Taken

By Robert Lee Frost

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

*Then took the other, as 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 traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*



Listen to the poem read by the author here, if you like, as you complete the "First Read":

<https://bit.ly/3aqvTgT>

The Road Not Taken

First reading:

1. Does the poem rhyme? (Yes or No)

2. Does the poem have stanzas (verses)? (Point form)

Second Reading:

This is usually a slower read, to try to understand the poem better. Annotating the poem can help readers to collect thoughts, questions, ideas, and to think deeply about the poem.

- Annotating looks like this (next page) - read the blue text beside the poem.
- Continue to annotate the poem. Record your connections, questions, inferences, visuals, and even ideas about the poem.

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I think diverged must mean
separated as there are two
roads to look down.

I wonder why the choice
made the traveler sorry?
Why is he sad he can't travel
both roads?

