**The Road Not Taken** by Robert Frost

**Summary**

"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is a poem about a traveler who comes to a fork in the road and must decide which path to take. Although he would like to try out both roads, he can’t since he was only one person. After considering his decision for a while, he chooses the less traveled road and later imagines that this choice has made an important difference in his life.

**On the figurative (symbolic) level** – each road is a metaphor. The roads represent new ways of life, choices to be made and possibilities, while the wood represents life itself.

The 1st stanza presents us with a person who finds himself in a yellow wood and had difficulty choosing a road because he is one traveler. He thinks about this dilemma for a long time before he makes his decision.

The 2nd stanza repeats this idea: “yet knowing how way leads to way, I doubted if I should ever come back”. The traveler looks at the second road and compares it to the first one. He claims that the second road is “as just as fair”, meaning, nice and pleasant as the first road. However, the speaker thinks that the second road is a bit different: it looks “grassy” (it has green grass on it) and therefore, it gives the road a more lively appearance. Another difference is that it is “wanted wear”. In other words, the second road appears in good condition.

The 3rd stanza is very important. In this stanza the traveler makes up his mind. When he says:”Oh, I kept the **first** for the other day!” he tells us that he decided to take the **second** road, and hopes to travel the first road some other day in the future.

However, he knows that there is a little chance for him to come back and take the first road.

The 4th stanza tells us that the traveler reflects on the effects his decision will have on his future (“somewhere ages and ages hence”). The traveler says that he will talk about his decision with a “sigh”, and therefore it is unclear whether he is happy or sad about his choice.

But one thing is clear – the speaker chose a road that not many people choose: “I took the one less traveled by”, and his decision has made him both different from others.

**VOCABULARY**

|  |  |
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| **Receptive** | **Productive** |
| diverged | road |
| undergrowth | travel |
| trodden | choice |
| sigh | decision making |
| hence | make a decision |
| wear | difference |
| claim | uncertain |
| doubted | beautiful and attractive |
| equally | leaf, leaves |
| ages | path |
| road | diverge - diverged |
| regret | regret |
| grassy | significant |
| wanted wear | confused |
|  | can't make up one’s mind |
|  | compare |
|  | metaphor |
|  |  |

**QUESTIONS** (4 points)

1. Write how you would feel if you were the main character.
2. Explain how a character is acting and why you think the character is acting that way.
3. Who is the speaker in the poem? Is this the best person to tell it? Why?
4. What happened to the speaker just before, or just after he made his choice?
5. What lesson does this poem teach about life? How does it teach it?