



# INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic : The Road Not Taken      Date of Worksheet : May 2017

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I      **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:-**

1.      *Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,* 4

*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;'*

(a) What is the poet's state of mind?

*The poet is in a dilemma. He found it difficult to decide which road he should take.*

(b) Why was it a difficult decision?

*It was a difficult decision for him because both the roads were equally fair and promising.*

(c) Why did the poet feel sorry?

*He felt sorry as he could not travel on both the roads.*

(d) Explain : long I stood....

*The poet took a long time to make up his mind as to which road he should take.*

2.      *Then took the other, as just as fair,*

*And having perhaps the better claim*

*Because it was grassy and wanted wear;*

*Though as far that the passing there*

*Had worn them really about the same.*

(a) "took the other", What does the 'the other' refer to?

*It refers to the road that the poet chose to travel.*

(b) Why did the other road have a better claim?

*The other road was grassy and less worn out.*

(c) What is the rhyming scheme of the poem?      abaab

(d) What do the roads being talked about in the stanza symbolize?

*The roads symbolize the decisions we have to make in life when we are in a state of dilemma.*

3.      *And both that morning equally lay* 4

*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.*

(a) What does 'both' stand for?

'Both' stands for the two roads.

(b) What did the poet decide?

He decided that he would take the second road and leave the first one for some other day.

(c) What does 'leaves no step had trodden black' imply?

It implies that the road was not taken by anyone.

(d) What does 'I kept the first for another day' convey?

The poet had taken the second road and wished to take the first road some other day.

II. **Short Answers to Questions (30-40 words):-**

1. Does the title of the poem "The Road Not Taken" seem antagonistic to its content?

Support your answer.

Ans: Yes, the title of the poem is indeed antagonistic to its content. According to the poem, the poet took the second road and was able to reach his destination. But he pens the title "The Road Not Taken" which is totally opposite to his journey experience.

2. Describe the two roads that the author comes across.

Ans: One road was totally worn out as it was travelled by many people but the second road was less travelled and grassy. However, both the roads on that day were equally worn out.

3. Which road does the speaker choose? Why?

Ans: The poet decides to use the road less travelled by. He chooses this road to beat the tradition of being a follower. He wants to lead and take a challenging career. But he was in a confused state of mind. He was unable to take a decision. He takes the road used less but he was not satisfied with his decision.

4. Why does the poet regret when he reached a fork in the road where it divided into two?

Ans: The poet regretted when he reached a fork in the road where it divided into two because being a long traveller he could not take both the roads. He had to make a choice between the two roads.

5. "I doubted if I should ever come back." Why does the poet doubt he should ever come back?

Ans: Once a decision is taken, it is difficult to change, especially career chosen can't be changed easily as one career involves many years and after the passage of time, choosing another career is difficult.

6. What images does the poet use to compare the two roads?

Ans: The poet has used two roads to symbolize the options, the opportunities one faces

in one's life. He further differentiates the two roads to bring his point home. One road is less travelled by. Though both are equally fair and tempting yet one has to take only one. He uses expressions like wear, trodden black, grassy etc to compare both roads.

7. What does 'road' symbolize in the poem? How important is it to take right decision in life?

Ans: The two roads symbolize options or opportunities in life. There are many options from where we have to make a choice. This choice becomes difficult when all the options are equally tempting. Right choices make a lot of difference in one's life.

### III. **Answers to Long Answer Questions (Value Based)**

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1. Only if the destination is known, the journey appears to be enchanting and worth taking. Do you think that the youth today is confused about their destination? Does an unrealistic aim lead to frustration?

Ans: It is true that if destination is known, even a long and tough journey appears easy, enchanting and worth taking. The poet, Robert Frost, faces two roads. He does not know the destination and is in a dilemma to choose the right one. It was a difficult task for him. The two roads symbolize multiple opportunities we have in our life. We have so many career options but we are not clear about the goal of our life. We are confused and this confusion and hasty decisions make the journey of life difficult for us. We make unrealistic targets and expectations from life and ultimately become the victims of frustration and depression. We have to cherish the value of acceptance and forbearance to make the journey of life pleasant.

2. Do you think the poet would have ultimately found his destination, even by taking the first one? Would he have cherished the time spent while travelling the first one as well? Discuss.

Ans: In the poem 'The Road Not Taken', the poet Robert Frost, has revealed that the world being round, one road leads to another. Hence, the poet would have ultimately reached his destination. He might have taken a little more time by taking the first one. The poet might not have cherished the time spent to an equal degree while travelling the first road as his enthusiasm for the second road was much more than for the first one. The second road was less taken by the travelers so it generated more enthusiasm in the poet's mind. Therefore he cherished those moments for a long time.

## Practice Questions

1. The poet kept the other road for another day. Was he able to travel back on that road? 2  
Explain.
2. Based on your understanding of the poem 'The Road Not Taken', write a diary 8  
entry of the poet about the day he had to make a choice.(150 words)

## Assignment Questions

1. *' 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;'* 4
  - (a) What does the poet mean by yellow wood?
  - (b) Explain : be one traveller.
  - (c) What does the road bent in the undergrowth imply?
  - (d) What does the word diverged mean?
2. *'I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and  
I took the one less travelled by  
And that has made all the difference.* 4
  - (a) What does the stanza convey?
  - (b) What does 'And that has made all the difference' imply?
  - (c) The poet took the less travelled road because -----
  - (d) ages and ages had been repeated as -----
3. *'Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as far that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same.*
  - (a) Which figure of speech is used in 'wanted wear'?
  - (b) Which road did the poet take and why?
  - (c) Name the poem and the poet
  - (d) As a symbol what does the road signify?

