

THE LEARNIFY ACADEMY

THE ROAD NOT TAKING NOTES

A. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

“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.”

Q1. What will the narrator say “with a sigh”?

- A) The narrator will tell people about his decision to take the road and how it proved to be wrong.
- B) The narrator will tell the people about the fork he had come to in the woods and the choice he had to make, which made all the difference to his life.
- C) The narrator will tell you that choosing the path that he did make no difference to his life.

D) He will tell you that he took the things that most people liked to take.

Ans. B) The narrator will tell the people about the fork he had come to in the woods and the choice he had to make, which made all the difference to his life.

Q2. What is the theme of the poem?

- A) The theme of the poem is that we have to make choices in life, which prove to be final.
- B) The theme of the poem is that the choices we have to make in life can be undone later in life.
- C) The theme of the poem is that we can avoid making choices in life.
- D) The theme of the poem is that the choices we make in life make no difference to us in later life.

Ans. A) The theme of the poem is that we have to make choices in life, which prove to be final.

Q3. Which poetic device has been used in the poem to express the dilemma of making a choice?

- A) The metaphor of diverging roads
 - B) A simile of diverging roads
 - C) A hyperbole of diverging roads
 - D) An alliteration of diverging roads
- Ans. A) The metaphor of diverging roads

Q4. What is the tone of the poet in the stanza?

- A) A reflective tone
 - B) A tone of sadness
 - C) A tone of regret
 - D) A tone of cheerfulness
- Ans. A) A reflective tone

B. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

“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.”

Q1. Why did the poet leave the first road?

- A) He left the first road as others too had done so.
- B) The first road did not seem attractive to the poet.
- C) He was in a hurry.
- D) He left the first road in the hope that he would travel on it on another day.

Ans. D) He left the first road in the hope that he would travel on it on another day.

Q2. What does ‘both’ refer to?

- A) The word ‘both’ refers to the grass and the leaves on the roads.
- B) ‘Both’ refers to the two roads that lay in front of the poet.
- C) ‘Both’ refers to the morning and the evening.
- D) ‘Both’ refers to no particular things.

Ans. B) ‘Both’ refers to the two roads that lay in front of the poet.

Q3. Why would the poet like to come back?

- A) He would like to come back to tell his friends about his experiences.
- B) He would like to correct his mistake in choosing the wrong road.
- C) He would like to come back to take a rest.
- D) He would like to travel by the first road and, so would like to come back.

Ans. D) He would like to travel by the first road and, so would like to come back.

Q4. The expression 'leaves no step had trodden black' means :

- A) That the leaves had not turned black though many people had walked on them.
- B) Being yellow, the leaves had not been turned black by the steps of the people walking on them.
- C) No traveler had walked on either of the two roads. The fallen leaves were, therefore, in their usual color.
- D) No steps of travelers could turn them black.

Ans. C) No traveler had walked on either of the two roads. The fallen leaves were, therefore, in their usual color.

C. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"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;"

Q1. Why does the poet feel sorry?

- A) The two roads had diverged.
- B) He could not travel on both the roads.
- C) He felt lonely.
- D) He had to stand there for too long.

Ans. B) He could not travel on both the roads.

Q2. Why could he not travel both the roads?

- A) He was afraid of doing such a thing.
- B) The two roads were diverging and he could choose only one.
- C) Being one traveler, he could not do so.

D) He wanted to enjoy the scene.

Ans. C) Being one traveler, he could not do so.

Q3. What is the mood of the poet in these lines?

A) Happy

B) Serious and pensive

C) Indifferent

D) Angry

Ans. B) Serious and pensive

Q4. What choice does the narrator have to make?

A) The narrator has to choose between the two roads.

B) He has to choose between going farther or going back.

C) He has to choose between standing and getting going.

D) None of the above.

Ans. A) The narrator has to choose between the two roads.

D. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

“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.”

Q1. How was the other road?

A) It was as fair as the first one, but more grassy and less used.

B) It was as grassy as the first one.

C) It was equally used as the first one.

D) It also diverged at one point.

Ans. A) It was as fair as the first one, but more grassy and less used.

Q2. The second road presented a better claim than the first because :

A) It has been used by many travelers.

B) It was still grassy and had not been used by many travelers.

C) It was more beautiful than the first one.

D) It had less bends in it.

Ans. B) It was still grassy and had not been used by many travelers.

Q3. The rhyme scheme of the given lines is :

- A) abaab
- B) aabb
- C) abab
- D) abba

Ans. A) abaab

Q4. In what sense were the two roads similar :

- A) Both the roads were equally grassy and worn out.
- B) Both the roads were appealing to the poet.
- C) Both the roads led to the same destination.
- D) Both the roads were unattractive.

Ans. B) Both the roads were appealing to the poet.

Multiple Choice Questions

Q1. Who is the poet of this poem?

- A) James
- B) William James
- C) William Wordsworth
- D) Robert Frost

Ans. D) Robert Frost

Q2. What does the poem speak about?

- A) about the plight of roads
- B) about the people
- C) about two roads
- D) about the choices made by people

Ans. D) about the choices made by people

Q3. What does the road signify in the poem?

- A) the path or choice that was left or was not chosen to tread
- B) The pathway
- C) pathway on the roadside
- D) a road with two turns

Ans. D) a road with two turns

Q4. Which thing decides a person's future according to this poem?

- A) the path one chooses to walk

- B) the path one leaves behind
- C) the regrets
- D) the success

Ans. A) the path one chooses to walk

Q5. What is the message of this poem?

- A) be wise while choosing and taking decisions
- B) two roads are confusing
- C) road is nothing but a pathway
- D) all

Ans. A) be wise while choosing and taking decisions

Q6. Why is the poet asking to be wise while choosing a pathway?

- A) because there is no Going Back option
- B) Because it is the only one road
- C) because it is one sided road
- D) None of the above

Ans. A) because there is no Going Back option

Q7. What does diverge mean?

- A) to be separated and taking a different turn
- B) to be torn
- C) to break
- D) all of the above

Ans. A) to be separated and taking a different turn

Q8. Why was the poet able to travel one road only?

- A) because he had to walk alone
- B) because he had no vehicle
- C) because he was one person
- D) all of the above

Ans. C) because he was one person

Q9. What does Yellow Woods mean?

- A) falling leaves
- B) forest with yellow leaves in the autumn season
- C) wood yellow in color
- D) none of the above

Ans. B) forest with yellow leaves in the autumn season

Q10. What do yellow woods represent?

- A) people
- B) older people
- C) poets
- D) choice

Ans. B) older people

Q11. Why was the poet looking at the path?

- A) to decide whether it was suitable for him
- B) to see how long it was
- C) to check the road
- D) none of the above

Ans. A) to decide whether it was suitable for him

Q12. What does the Poet's long stare at the path signify?

- A) the time taken by people to decide and making a choice
- B) poet loves nature
- C) idling away of time
- D) relaxation hours

Ans. A) the time taken by people to decide and making a choice

Q13. What does grassy mean in the poem?

- A) the road which is not used by anyone
- B) the comfortable road
- C) the road with all the luxuries
- D) well-built road

Ans. A) the road which is not used by anyone

Q14. Where does the poet find himself?

- A) on the road
- B) on a bus
- C) on a muddy road
- D) on a fork

Ans. D) on a fork

Q15. What shows that the road has not been used by many people?

- A) the green and untrampled grass on it
- B) the mud on it

- C) the broken stones on it
- D) All of the above

Ans. A) the green and untrampled grass on it

Q16. What does the choice of road signify?

- A) too many things
- B) two paths
- C) toughness of a choice and decision in life
- D) none of the above

Ans. C) toughness of a choice and decision in life

Q17. Why did the poet choose the second road?

- A) because it was well built
- B) because it was dirty and muddy
- C) because it was not used by many people and was appealing to the poet
- D) all of the above

Ans. C) because it was not used by many people and was appealing to the poet

Q18. What does the poet's decision of taking a less traveled road signify?

- A) poet's risk taking habit
- B) arrogance of the poet
- C) poet's curiosity
- D) poet's negligence

Ans. A) poet's risk taking habit

Q19. What do the words 'Long I stood' mean in the poem?

- A) poet's dilemma
- B) poet was in relaxing mood
- C) poet was enjoying the nature
- D) poet was thinking

Ans. A) poet's dilemma

Q20. What is the dilemma of the poet?

- A) whether he will be able to come back to the second road or not
- B) whether he will get time for himself
- C) whether he will be successful
- D) whether he will be able to walk

Ans. A) whether he will be able to come back to the second road or not

Question Answers (including questions from Previous Years Question Papers)

Q1. What is wood? What did the narrator see in the wood? Were the paths similar?

Ans. A forest is represented by wood. In the undergrowth, he noticed two paths diverging and disappearing. No, one had more grass and appeared to be less used.

Q2. What did the narrator hope that he would do one day? Was he sure of doing so?

Ans. The narrator hoped to return someday and try the other path. No, he didn't think so because he knew one path led to another and it would be difficult for him to return.

Q3. Does one road seem to be more appealing than the other? Use examples from the poem to support your answer.

Ans. At first, the narrator arrives at a fork in the road and is unsure which path to take. One of the roads appears to be more heavily traveled, while the other appears to be less so. Though tempted to walk on both, he chooses the second path with the intention of returning to the first path later.

Q4. What does the poet mean when he says, 'worn them really about the same'?

Ans. The poet intends to convey to the readers that both roads that diverged in a yellow wood appeared similar and both appeared to have not been used in a long time.

Q5. Why did the poet leave the first road? Did he ever get a chance to walk on the road he had left for 'another day'?

Ans. The poet took the less traveled, grassy, and 'wanted wear' road instead of the first. He abandoned the first road for another day. But he had genuine reservations. He was aware that one path leads to another and that he would not be able to return to the road he was leaving.

Q6. Why has the poet's choice 'made all the difference' in his life?

Ans. The fork in the road is a metaphor for the choices we have and the decisions that we make in life, according to Robert Frost. The two roads represent two alternative routes, two options, and two life directions. One must confront the dilemma. He chooses an unconventional and risky life path. He decides to become a poet. This decision has changed his life forever. Perhaps he would realize later in life that he had chosen a less rewarding alternative than the one he had left.

Q7. 'The Road Not Taken' is a metaphor of life. Justify this statement. Justify the title.

Ans. Frost uses the fork in the road as a metaphor for the choices we make in life in "The Road Not Taken." As a result, the two roads represent two distinct ways of life. They represent the poet's two options and two directions. He has made a decision. He has chosen the "less traveled by" route. He puts the first one aside "for another day." It becomes impossible to return to the path one has left. A person's decision makes "all the difference" in their life. As a result, the title is both appropriate and logical.

Q8. How does the poet resolve the dilemma? Which road does he choose and why?

Ans. The two roads represent two perspectives on life. They represent two paths in life, two attitudes, and even two careers. The dilemma is choosing the right and rewarding option. Two roads diverge in opposite directions. They are both attractive and fair. The poet abandons the first path for another day. He chooses the less traveled and 'wanted wear' route. He chooses a less conventional, popular, and risk-free option.

Q9. What is the main problem or the dilemma of the poet?

Ans. 'The Road Not Taken,' by Robert Frost, is about the dilemma of making the right decision in life. He is under the impression that he can use the option he set aside for the next day. Whatever 'road' or way of life he chooses, it will make or break his life. Sometimes, after a long time, he will have to repent for taking the less traveled path. It did not turn out to be a particularly rewarding option or choice.

Q10. Where does the traveler find himself? What problem does he face?

Ans. The traveler finds himself in the yellow woods at the intersection of two roads.

His problem is that he can't decide which road to take to continue his journey.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. Discuss the anticipation or remorse in 'The Road Not Taken'.

Ans. There is a fair amount of irony in the poem, but it is also infused with the anticipation of remorse. Its title is "The Road Not Taken," not "The Road Less Traveled." Even as he makes a decision (a decision he is forced to make if he does not want to stand forever in the woods, and one for which he has no real guide or definitive basis for decision-making), the speaker knows he will regret it later—or, at the very least, he will wonder what is irrevocably lost: the impossible, unknowable Other Path.

However, the decision's nature is such that there is no Right Path—only the chosen path and the other path. The Road Less Traveled is a fiction that the speaker will later invent in order to polarize his past and give himself more agency than he actually had. What is sighed for ages and ages are not so much the wrong decisions as the moments of decision—moments that, one on top of the other, mark the passing of a life. This is the more primitive form of remorse.

Q2. What appeals to you in the poem ?

Ans. The poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is extremely appealing because it conveys the importance of making wise decisions at critical points in our lives in simple words and style. In life, we must choose our options; sometimes we must do so without full awareness of the circumstances. Even so, we should make a decision only after carefully considering all of the available options. We may regret or be thrilled with our decision, but the decision at the critical moment will determine and transform the course of our lives. As a result, the poem emphasizes the importance of deep and serious consideration of the circumstances before making a life-altering decision.

Q3. Bring out the symbolism in the poem "The Road Not taken".

Ans. The poem is about more than just picking a path through the woods. The narrator's choice of a road can be interpreted as a metaphor for any choice in life between alternatives that appear almost equally appealing. Only after years have passed can we truly evaluate the decisions and choices we make based on the outcomes of these choices. If we find success, we have made the right decision; if we find failure and pain, we have clearly made the wrong decision.

Q4. The road is used as a metaphor for life in this poem. Can you think of another metaphor and explain why that has been used to describe life.

Ans. Another metaphor for life is a puzzle. A puzzle requires one to constantly keep figuring out the answers, and once one decision is made, there are new problems to solve. Similarly, life is full of uncertainties and questions. When we are able to figure out solutions and make appropriate decisions, another problem frequently arises. We are constantly figuring things out. As a result, life can be described as a puzzle.

Q5. Bring out the contrast and similarities between the two roads mentioned in the poem.

Ans. Both roads mentioned in the poem are branches of the same road. These two roads are formed as the mother road running through the 'yellow woods' forks into two. Both are equally appealing and leave the traveler perplexed as to which path to take.

A careful examination reveals that, in contrast to the other road, one of the roads is well-traveled. A majority of people have frequently chosen it. Perhaps it is regarded as a less difficult path. However, it takes a turn and its end cannot be seen, just as the destination of the other road cannot be predicted.

Both roads are well-covered in leaves in the morning because no one has ventured on either of them. Both routes, once chosen, must be followed. Years later, whichever road was not taken would be looked back on with nostalgia, and one would wonder if the right decision had been made.

Q6. Describe the two roads the author finds.

Ans. One day while walking, the poet came across a fork in the road. There were two roads, and he could only take one. He stood there weighing the pros and cons and carefully examining both roads. The poet stared at the first road until it bent in the undergrowth, as far as his eyes could see. He noticed that the other road was more grassy and needed to be walked upon. But after walking for a short distance, he noticed that the other road was also grassy.

Q7. As the poet who took the road not taken by many people, write a letter to your friend stating how "It has made all the difference".

Ans.

Dear Jeff,

As you are aware, I have established myself as a poet, but my journey in life has not been easy. I have to tell you about the time when I had to choose between two roads to walk on, and I chose the less frequented one, leaving the first for another day. I was well aware that I would not be able to return to it. Now I wish

I'd taken the first option. But, dear friend, this is the irony of life: we cannot travel on all available roads, no matter how we wish.

The most important thing is to make the right decision because we can't go back in time. Only time will tell whether our decision was correct or incorrect. It has made all the difference since I took the road less traveled—the outcome is known to you. I'll tell you the rest in the following letter.

Q8. What is the moral presented by the poet in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?

Ans. According to Robert Frost, this is an inspirational poem that is also quite difficult. The poem is an antithesis. The traveler comes to a fork in the road and wishes to take both options, which is impossible. He describes one of the roads as grassy and 'wanted wear,' then claims that both roads look the same. This represents man's eternal quandary when he discovers that the grass is greener on the other side.

The poem's message is that we have many choices in life, and those decisions affect how we will turn out. Every choice we make has repercussions, and once we've made a decision, we can't go back and reverse it. The poem serves as a reminder that even if our choices are not the most common or straightforward, we should not be scared to take chances and try new things.

The poem demonstrates that the traveler had a decision to make and had to choose which path to follow. He had the option of taking the well-traveled route, which would have been the safer and more well-liked option, but he made the decision to go the other way. This choice led him to a new and unknown experience that he would not have had if he had taken the other path.

The poem's lesson is that we shouldn't be frightened to explore new things and take risks. Sometimes choosing the less-travelled path can result in incredible opportunities and experiences that we would not have had if we had chosen the safer or simpler route. The poem also serves as a reminder that once we make a decision, we cannot change it. Making the most of our decisions means accepting the results of our actions.

Q9. Why does the poet doubt he should ever come back?

Ans. This poem is about choices, decisions, and the consequences of those choices. It is true that once a decision is made, there is no turning back. When both paths or choices appear to be equally promising, the traveler on the road of life is faced with a quandary. Once a route is chosen, the traveler must proceed. There is

no going back in time. There would never be a suitable time or opportunity to return and exercise the option again. Time has passed, and so has the traveler's psychology. Nothing will ever be the same. So one stays on the path one has chosen and directs it to the desired destination. Therefore, the poet doubts he should or would ever come back.

Q10. Does the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', symbolize or reveal a meaning or aspect of freedom or responsibility?

Ans. The poem reveals the complexities of what appears to be a simple decision. The narrator is conflicted as he considers which path to take. Even after some thought and the fact that usage "Had worn them really about the same," he can't help but wonder, but then doubt, "if I should ever come back." He is even attempting to persuade himself that he has made the best decision because, "Somewhere ages and ages hence," he is confident that he will be able to say that he made the best decision and that it "has made all the difference."

This poem emphasizes the fact that freedom (in this case, of choice) comes with its own set of responsibilities.

His poem also, perhaps, indicates the futility of over-thinking some situations. How can anyone make life-changing decisions if even minor decisions require so much thought? This appears to be a life-changing experience for the narrator. At the very least, he has a choice.