

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School
9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi 110092
Session 2024-2025 Notes

Class: IX

Topic: The Road Not Taken

Subject: English

Q1. Explain: 'leaves no step had trodden black'.

Ans: No traveller had trodden on either of the two roads. It was evident from the fact that the fallen and sodden leaves lay uncrushed there. No feet had trampled them.

Q2. Why did the poet leave the first path?

Ans: The poet left the first path because it was well-trodden. Many people had walked on that path. He wanted the excitement and adventure of choosing to walk a path that was not frequented by too many people. It would offer him challenges to face.

Q3. What does the divergence in the road signify?

Ans: The divergence in the road signifies that many times in real life we have difficult choices to make. We take a long time thinking about which of the two would be a better option and only time can tell whether we were right in making the choice we made. The forking of one road into two is symbolic of the confusion or dilemma we face in life while confronting a problem and making a decision.

Q4. Why does the last stanza of the poem start with a sigh?

Ans: The last stanza of the poem begins with a sigh of regret. The poem is about the road the poet did not travel on. The poet had left the road more frequented for another day. However, as one path led to another, he was not able to come back and walk on the other road.

Q5. Discuss the title of the poem "The Road Not Taken". Is it appropriate for the poem?

Ans: The poem has an apt title. 'The road' is the symbol of the choices made by us in life. Many times, we regret the choice made by us but what is done once cannot be undone. Or, we may be happy for having taken the decisions we did. Even as the speaker makes a choice of taking the path that is less walked on, and leaves the well-trodden path for another day, the speaker knows that he will never be able to return to take the other path.

He knows that sometime in the future he will regret, or at the very least he will wonder, at the other path that is irrevocably lost. He realises that there is no Right Path—just the chosen path and the other path. Ages hence, he will sigh over the decisions taken and whichever road is not taken would be looked at wistfully and he would wonder whether the right choice had been made.. Hence, the poet has given his poem the title “The Road Not Taken”.