

# Poetry Analysis

## "The Road Not Taken" by Robert 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.

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## Part 1: Exploring Themes and Meaning

### "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

This worksheet will guide you through an analysis of Robert Frost's famous poem, "The Road Not Taken." Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. **Metaphor:** The two roads in the poem are not just physical paths. What do you think the two roads represent in life?

**Sentence Starter:** The two roads represent...



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2. **Theme:** What is the main message or **theme** of this poem? Think about the difficult decision the speaker faces and the final line.

**Sentence Starter:** The main theme of this poem is...

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3. **Imagery:** What is one image from the poem that you can clearly picture in your mind? Write it down and explain what senses it appeals to (sight, sound, etc.).

**Sentence Starter:** I can picture the image of... and it appeals to my sense of...

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# Poetry Analysis

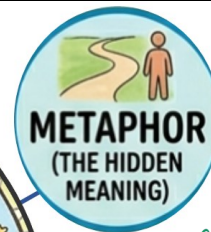
## Part 2: Visual Organizer

### "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

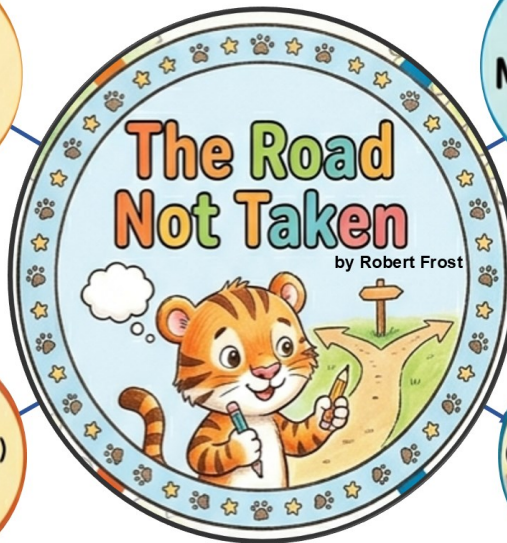
Use the mind map below to organize your thoughts about the poem's main ideas. In the center circle, write "The Road Not Taken." In the circles connected to the center, write the following: **Main Conflict** (the big problem); **Metaphor** (the hidden meaning); **Imagery** (what you see); **Theme** (the main message). In the smaller boxes, write notes or examples from the poem for each category.

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## Part 3: Identifying Literary Devices



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### "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

**Directions:** Read the definitions below and then find an example of each device in the poem.

1. **Symbolism:** A **symbol** is an object or a person that represents a deeper, more significant idea.

**Example from the poem:** The "yellow wood" is a **symbol** of...

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2. **Alliteration:** The repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of a series of words.

**Find an example in the poem:** \_\_\_\_\_

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3. **Repetition:** The use of a word or phrase multiple times to emphasize an idea.

**Find an example in the poem:** \_\_\_\_\_

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4. **Figurative Language:** This is language that uses words in a non-literal way to create a powerful image. "The Road Not Taken" uses a lot of **figurative language**.

**Challenge:** The speaker mentions taking the road "less traveled by." What does this phrase literally mean, and what does it figuratively mean in the context of the poem?

**Sentence Starter:** Literally, "less traveled by" means... but figuratively it means...

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