The Road Not Taken

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Where does the speaker first come to a choice in Frost’s poem?
   - A. In a wood with yellow foliage
   - B. At a seaside dock
   - C. Inside an unfamiliar house
   - D. At a bridge over a river

   Correct answer: A. In a wood with yellow foliage
   The poem opens at a fork in a yellow wood.

2. Why must the speaker choose between the two roads?
   - A. A storm has washed away one road.
   - B. A companion has already closed a road.
   - C. One traveler cannot take both on this outing.
   - D. Both roads are blocked by signs.

   Correct answer: C. One traveler cannot take both on this outing.
   The speaker regrets being unable to follow both routes as a single traveler.

3. What limits how far the speaker can see down the first road?
   - A. A gate stands across the road.
   - B. The road bends into undergrowth.
   - C. Night has already fallen.
   - D. A hill is covered with snow.

   Correct answer: B. The road bends into undergrowth.
   The traveler looks down the road until it bends into the vegetation.

4. What detail first makes the second road look as if it may deserve to be taken?
   - A. It leads to a visible village.
   - B. It is noticeably shorter.
   - C. It has a sign giving directions.
   - D. It is grassy and looks as if it could use more wear.

   Correct answer: D. It is grassy and looks as if it could use more wear.
   The speaker initially points to the grass as an apparent difference.

5. When does the speaker make the choice described in the first three stanzas?
   A. At midnight
   B. In the morning
   C. Just before dusk
   D. At exactly noon
   Correct answer: B. In the morning
   The third stanza explicitly places the scene in the morning.

6. How worn does the speaker say the two roads actually are?
   A. About equally worn
   B. One is freshly paved.
   C. Only one has ever been used.
   D. The chosen road is clearly the more worn.
   Correct answer: A. About equally worn
   The speaker qualifies the first impression and says the two ways are about equally worn.

7. What does the speaker notice on both roads that morning?
   A. A single set of prints on each road
   B. Piles of leaves cleared from both paths
   C. Fresh wheel tracks through mud
   D. Leaves that footsteps have not darkened
   Correct answer: D. Leaves that footsteps have not darkened
   The leaves on both paths are described as undarkened by steps.

8. What does the speaker initially intend to do with the first road?
   A. Block the entrance to it.
   B. Return that evening with a companion.
   C. Leave it for another day.
   D. Follow it back before going home.
   Correct answer: C. Leave it for another day.
   The speaker imagines keeping the first road for a later visit.

9. Why does the speaker doubt returning to take the first road?
   A. One route tends to lead on to other routes.
   B. The road will soon be closed by law.
   C. The first road leads straight back to the fork.
   D. Another traveler warns against returning.
   Correct answer: A. One route tends to lead on to other routes.
   The speaker expects later choices to carry the journey farther from this point.

10. How is the poem’s 20-line text arranged?

A. Three stanzas of six lines and a couplet
B. Five stanzas of four lines
C. Two stanzas of ten lines
D. Four stanzas of five lines

Correct answer: D. Four stanzas of five lines
Each of the four stanzas contains five lines.

11. Which letter pattern matches the end rhymes of the first stanza?

A. AABBA
B. ABABA
C. ABAAB
D. ABCBA

Correct answer: C. ABAAB
The first, third, and fourth line endings rhyme together. The second and fifth form the other rhyme.

12. What changes when the fourth stanza begins?

A. A second traveler begins telling the story.
B. The speaker imagines recounting the choice far in the future.
C. The poem returns to the previous winter.
D. The speaker is already back at the same fork.

Correct answer: B. The speaker imagines recounting the choice far in the future.
The last stanza moves from the morning decision to how the speaker expects to describe it later.

13. What can a reader most safely conclude about the future sigh?

A. It belongs to another traveler.
B. It proves that the speaker regrets taking the second road.
C. It proves the speaker is overjoyed.
D. Its exact emotion is left open.

Correct answer: D. Its exact emotion is left open.
The poem gives the sigh without explaining its emotion. It can carry more than one plausible meaning.

14. Which contrast is strongest between the morning account and the future account?

A. The roads look nearly equal at first, but the later story calls one less traveled.
B. The road disappears in the morning, but the later story provides a map.
C. The speaker changes from walking to riding a horse.
D. The speaker claims to take both roads at once in the later account.

Correct answer: A. The roads look nearly equal at first, but the later story calls one less traveled.
The poem puts the earlier observation of equal wear beside the later claim of a less traveled route.

15. Which interpretation draws on both the unused road and the future retelling?

A. The poem proves that the chosen road caused a particular later event.

B. Every choice has a single right answer visible at the time.

C. Choices can close off alternatives, and memory can give choices a clearer shape.

D. Taking a winding road always brings the traveler back to the start.

Correct answer: C. Choices can close off alternatives, and memory can give choices a clearer shape.

The speaker doubts returning and imagines giving the decision a sharper distinction in hindsight.