

## ENGLISH LITERATURE (BEEHIVE)

### CHAPTER 01: THE ROAD NOT TAKEN (POEM)

(Stanza-wise Summary)

#### AN OVERVIEW

The poet was on the junction from where the two roads diverged into two different directions and it made the poet confused regarding which road to choose. Finally, he chose the road which was less travelled on in order to explore the unexplored things. The poet's decision will make a difference because the road chosen by him will lead him to a different destination as compared to the other road. Challenges that poet will face to reach the destination will also be different from the challenges on the other road which he had not chosen. Also, reverting back to the other road won't be possible at later phase.

So, to conclude, the path chosen will decide the destiny for the poet or anyone else.

#### STANZA-WISE EXPLANATION

##### Stanza-1

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

##### Difficult words and their meanings

<i>diverged:</i>	<i>separated and took a different direction</i>
<i>yellow wood:</i>	<i>a forest with decomposing leaves</i>
<i>undergrowth:</i>	<i>dense growth of plants and bushes means the forest</i>

Once the poet was walking down a road and then there was a diversion, there were two different paths and he had to choose one out them. The poet being one person felt sorry for himself because he could travel only on the one road. He had to choose one out of these two roads. Yellow wood means a forest with leaves which are wearing out and they have turned yellow in colour – the season of autumn. It represents a world which is full of people, where people have been living for many years. The poet kept standing there and looked at the path very carefully as far as he could see it. Before taking the path, he wanted to know how it was. Was it suitable for him or no. He was able to see the path till from where it curved after which it was covered with trees and was hidden.

It happens in our life also when we have choices, we have alternatives, but we have to choose only one out of them, we take time to think about the pros and cons, whether it is suitable for us or not and only then, we take a decision on what path we should choose.

##### Stanza-2

*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.*

##### Difficult words and their meanings

<i>fair:</i>	<i>As good as the other one</i>
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<i>claim:</i>	<i>Better option</i>
<i>grassy:</i>	<i>unused</i>
<i>wanted wear:</i>	<i>had not been used</i>

The poet kept on looking at one path for a long time to check if it is the right path for him or not and then he decided and started walking on another path because he felt that the both paths were equally good. He then started walking on one of them. He adds that maybe he felt that the path was better for him so he chooses it as it had grass on it which means that it was unused. Not many people had walked on this path earlier that is why this path was grassy. After he walked on the path for some distance, he realized that both the paths were similar and worn out.

Even in our life, we take any path or option but all of them have the same benefits, disadvantages, problems, challenges and we must face them. We think that we are choosing a better option, but it is not that way. Whatever we choose will have certain challenges to overcome. Therefore, in the last two lines the poet considers both roads as similar.

### Stanza-3

*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.*

### Difficult words and their meanings

<i>trodden:</i>	<i>Walked over</i>
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The poet says that both the paths were similar that morning. Both had leaves on them and no one had stepped on them as they were still green in colour. He decided that during that day he would take one path and keep the other path for another day, although he knew that one way leads on to another way. He knew that he could not come back to travel through another road which he left for now.

Similarly, even in our life once we choose an option, we must keep on moving ahead with that option and we never get a chance to come back and take the other option that we had left earlier.

### Stanza-4

*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 travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

### Difficult words and their meanings

<i>sigh:</i>	<i>deep breath</i>
<i>hence:</i>	<i>here, in the future</i>

He says that in the future, he will take a deep breath and say that once upon a time, he had reached such a point in life that there were two options for him and he travelled on that road which had been travelled upon by lesser number of people. That decision of his decided his future.

Similarly, in future, when we grow up, we can then analyze that we have gone through the situations in life where we would have to choose from the two options and our selection/ decision would have

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impacted our future. So one must be wise and careful enough while making choices out of the options that we have in our life because our future depends on the choice that we make today.

### MESSAGE

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In the poem 'The Road Not Taken', the road symbolizes our life. The poet says that the path that we don't choose in our life is 'the road not taken'. He describes his feelings about that choice that he had left in the past. The path which we have chosen, decides our future, our destination. The important message that the poet wants to give is that the choice that we make has an impact on our future and if we make a wrong choice, we regret it but cannot go back on it. So, we must be wise while making choices.