

ENGLISH LITERATURE (BEEHIVE)
CHAPTER 01: THE ROAD NOT TAKEN
(Textbook Q&A)

1. Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?

The traveller finds himself at a point where two roads diverge. His problem is to decide on which road he should walk as both of them could take him to different destinations in future.

2. Discuss what these phrases mean to you.

- (i) **a yellow wood**
- (ii) **it was grassy and wanted wear**
- (iii) **the passing there**
- (iv) **leaves no step had trodden black**
- (v) **how way leads on to way**

- (i) a yellow wood – it indicates the autumn season because of the yellow coloured leaves in the forest;
- (ii) it was grassy and wanted wear – road was grassy because it was a less travelled and more inviting for the people;
- (iii) the passing there – it means that according to poet, less travelled road, in reality, looks as if about the same number of people have passed or walked on that as the road going the other way;
- (iv) leaves no step had trodden black – it means the leaves had not been crushed under the feet of travellers and road is covered with them indicating it is less travelled as compared to the other road;
- (v) how way leads on to way – it indicates that all the paths or decisions in life are interconnected as one decision could take us to certain actions and this sequence of decision making continues throughout the life

3. Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them?

- (i) **in stanzas two and three?**
- (ii) **in the last two lines of the poem?**

- (i) There is no difference in the two roads as mentioned in the stanza two and three because initially author was able to differentiate between the two roads but immediately after choosing a road, he admits that the two roads were equally worn out as reflected by "worn ... really about the same" and that both roads "equally lay" without any leaves "trodden black" by passersby. So the speaker has tried to choose the road that seemed less traveled, but couldn't tell which road was actually less traveled.
- (ii) In the last two lines, author stated that he chose to take the road that was less travelled, and the consequences of that decision have made all the difference in his life. Here the author is firmly claiming that he has chosen the road that was less travelled and left the one which was more travelled by people. Symbolically, author chose to take a riskier decision in his life before.

4. What do you think the last two lines of the poem mean? (Looking back, does the poet regret his choice or accept it?)

No, the poet does not regret the choice made by him. He wanted to travel on an unexplored path instead of the conventional path to gain invaluable experience in his life. He thought that the challenges that he faced in travelling the unexplored terrains helped him to strengthen his personality. In the end, he was happy with his choice.

Topic: The Road Not Taken
Subject: English (Beehive)
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