

The Road Not Taken

By Robert Frost

Audio Available (1:39 minutes)

Question for thought: At a crossroad, traveling one path entails not traveling another. This condition forces the traveler to make a choice. While listening to this audio, identify the cost of traveling the road taken.

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; 5

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, 10

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. 15

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. 20

Concluding question: Faced with the same crossroads in life, why do people make different choices? Explain in terms of subjective costs and benefits.

Reference: Frost, R., Untermeyer, L., & Frost, R. (1991). *The road not taken: a selection of Robert Frost's poems*. New York, H. Holt and Co.