

The Road Not Taken

Class: IX

ABOUT THE POET

Robert Lee Frost was born on 26th of March, 1874 and died on 29th of January, 1963. He was an American poet and is better known for his realistic depictions of rural life and his command of American colloquial speech. He frequently wrote about settings from rural life in England in the early 20th century, using them to examine complex social and philosophical themes. Frost was honoured frequently during his lifetime and is the only poet to receive four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry.

The Road Not Taken is a well known poem by Robert Frost, published in 1916 as the first poem in the collection *Mountain Interval*. Its central theme is the divergence of paths, literal yet also clearly figurative, although its interpretation is noted for being complex and potentially divergent.

CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM

The poem presents a dilemma that every human being faces in his life. The poet is about the struggle while making decisions in life. There are two paths that come in front to be followed- one on which everyone walks and the other that is opposite to the motion. What is most important is to decide whether to follow the crowd or to take the other road and make his own path in life. He refuses to be a mere follower and chooses the other road as just as fair. He feels the choice will make all the difference to his future. But he also decides to try the other road some other time, knowing well that he would not get a chance to go back to it. The poet feels that after ages from now he would be looking at the decision with a 'sigh'. He would also tell that since he had taken the road less travelled. It made all the difference.

Thus the poet speaks of the basic problems of making the right choice. Many alternatives are available at the time of choice but man has to select one. It is only the future that will reveal, whether the decision is wrong or not. After taking decisions we cannot undo them, we can only regret for them. Even if we wish, we cannot start all over again.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. Write the detailed summary of the poem in your own words.
2. Which road does the poet choose and why?