

'THE ROAD NOT 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;

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,

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.

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

(Robert Frost, 1874–1963)

ACTIVITY 1: OPINION CORNER

<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-1</p> <p>We all have choices.</p> 	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-2</p> <p>The right choices keep us safe.</p> 	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-3</p> <p>Our choices are important.</p> 
<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-4</p> <p>We should always respect the choices made by others.</p> 	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-5</p> <p>Choices change our future.</p> 	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-6</p> <p>We should let other people make our choices for us.</p> 
<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-7</p> <p>Choice is freedom.</p> 	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-8</p> <p>Freedom is not having to make choices.</p> 	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-9</p> <p>We always know what the right choice should be.</p> 

<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-10</p> <p>We should always consider other people in our choices.</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-11</p> <p>The right choices take us where we want to be.</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-12</p> <p>Our choices are already pre- determined.</p>
<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-13</p> <p>Choices always carry regret.</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-14</p> <p>We should never regret our choices.</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 1-15</p> <p>We can't change the choices we make.</p>

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ACTIVITY 2: MYSTERY

<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-1</p> <p>'... long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;'</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-2</p> <p>'Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler;'</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-3</p> <p>'I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence:'</p>
<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-4</p> <p>'Oh I kept the first for another day!'</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-5</p> <p>'Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back.'</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-6</p> <p>'Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.'</p>
<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-7</p> <p>'And having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear;'</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-8</p> <p>'And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden black.'</p>	<p>LESSON 16 Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us How to Make the Right Choice? 2-9</p> <p>'Then took the other, as just as fair,'</p>

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-10

'Though as for that
the passing there
Had worn them really
about the same,'

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-11

Robert Frost decides
to title his poem 'The
Road Not Taken'.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-12

The road is a
metaphor for our
journey in life.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-13

'My poems . . . are all
set to trip the reader
head foremost into
the boundless.'

Robert Frost

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-14

According to some sources,
Frost wrote the poem to
'tease' his friend Edward
Thomas. Frost and Thomas
would go on many walks with
the promise of seeing some
rare and beautiful sights but
unfortunately the paths they
chose did not reveal these
sights. Frost was amused
with Thomas' inability to be
satisfied with the choice of
path they took.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-15

Many see 'The Road
Not Taken' as a
moral tale where the
speaker chooses their
own path and takes
responsibility for their
own destiny.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-16

'The Road Not Taken'
is a narrative poem.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-17

The title of the
poem was originally
'Two Roads'.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem 'The Road Not Taken' Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-18

Diverge (verb)
(of a road, route, or
line) separate from
another route and go
in a different direction.

Oxford English Dictionary

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-19

'... the "sigh" was
a mock sigh,
hypocritical for the
fun of the thing.'

Robert Frost to his friend Edward Thomas.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-20

'No matter which road
you take, you'll always
sigh, and wish you'd
taken another.'

Robert Frost to his friend Edward Thomas.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-21

'No wonder you were a
little puzzled over the end
of my *Road Not Taken*. It
was my rather private jest
at the expense of those
who might think I would
yet live to be sorry for the
way I had taken in life.'

Letter from Robert Frost to Crystine
Yates of Dickson, Tennessee.

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-22

'... the poem invites
you to make the serious
mistake of taking pride
in your decisions the
way the speaker does,
without having lived
the alternatives.'

Adam Plunkett, *The Poetry Foundation*

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-23

'May your choices
reflect your hopes not
your fears.'

Nelson Mandela

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-24

'The right choice
is hardly ever the
easy choice.'

Rick Riordan, *The Throne of Fire*

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-25

'It is our choices . . .
that show what we
truly are, far more
than our abilities.'

J.K. Rowling

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-26

'In any moment of
decision, the best thing
you can do is the right
thing, the next best thing
is the wrong thing, and
the worst thing you can
do is nothing.'

Theodore Roosevelt

LESSON 16
Does the Poem "The Road Not Taken" Show Us
How to Make the Right Choice?
2-27

Every choice is
an opportunity.