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**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**1. 'The Road Not Taken' is a metaphor of life. Justify this statement. Justify the title.**

**Ans-** In 'The Road Not Taken', Frost uses the fork in the road as a metaphor for the choices we make in life. Thus, the two roads are, in fact, two alternative ways of life. They represent two directions and two options open to the poet. He has made a choice. He has opted for the road which is 'less travelled by'. He leaves the first 'for another day'. It becomes impossible to come back on the road one has left. One's choice makes 'all the difference' in one's life. Hence, the title is appropriate and logical.

**2. Describe the two roads that the poet finds. Which road does he choose?**

**Ans:** One day the poet comes to a bifurcation in the road and needs to decide which road he should take to continue his journey. One road was a beaten track. Many people had walked on it. It was lost in the small shrubs. The other road was grassy and seemed less trodden. Being adventurous in nature, the poet chooses the second road which was grassy and less walked on and left the first one for some other day.

**3. What was the poet's dilemma in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?**

**Ans:** The poet faces a dilemma that every man faces in his life, i.e. making a right decision. One day during the walk the poet reached a bifurcation in the road. Out of the two roads, he had to take only one. He decides to take the second road which was less frequented. Hence the road is a symbolic of the choice. It is just not possible to make more than one choice, and to take both the roads. So, the poet decides to take the road less travelled by.

**4. Why did the poet keep the first road for another day?**

**Ans:** Once the poet had to make a decision as to which road, he should travel out of two in front of him. He examines both the roads and finds the other road less travelled. He didn't want to follow a beaten track and decides to take the other road and keep the first road for some other day. But somewhere in his mind, he is troubled with the thought that he may not be able to do so.

**5. Did the poet repent for making his choice? Give an example from the poem to prove your point.**

**Ans-** The poet had the freedom to make a choice. The two roads were, in fact, two alternatives in life that lay before him. The poet left the conventional and less risky way of life. He opted for the road that was less travelled by and 'wanted wear'. He left the first road for another day. The choice he made brought all the difference in his life. He seemed to be unhappy about making his choice. 'I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence.' But he cannot do anything. His choice had altered the course of his life.

**6. "I took the one less travelled by." What do we come to know about the poet from this line?**

**Or**

**7. What does the choice made by the poet indicates about his personality in the poem ‘The Road Not Taken’?**

**Ans:** This line reveals the adventurous nature of the poet because when he had to take a decision of making a choice, he did not take the beaten track. He chooses the path which is not frequented. He decides to leave the first road for some other day knowing that he will not get a chance to go back to it.

**8. Write a brief note on the theme of Robert Frost’s poem ‘The Road Not Taken.’**

**Ans:** Robert Frost is known for writing poetry which had philosophical streaks. The poem ‘The Road Not Taken’ is based on the theme of making a difficult choice which has a universal appeal. It concerns making the right choice, the right decision. Road is a symbolic word which stands for a choice. It is just not possible to make more than one choice, and to take both the roads. We have to make one choice; we have to take one road. While making our choice we do consider all the factors still it is not fool proof. So, the element of regret remains which takes away our contentment. This is the great tragedy of life.

**9. Why did the poet doubt his coming back on the same intersection in life?**

**Ans:** This poem is about choices, decisions and their consequences. It is a fact that once the choice has been made, there is no going back. The traveller standing on the road of life, is confronted with a dilemma when both the paths and choices look equally promising. Once a road is chosen, the traveller must move on. There is no rewinding. There would never be a befitting time or opportunity for coming back and exercising the choice again. Time has changed, so has the psychology of the traveller. It will never be the same again. So, one sticks to the road one has taken and makes it lead to the destination already decided.

**10. What does the divergence in the road signify in real life?**

**Ans-** The divergence in the road signifies that many times in real life we have difficult choices to make. We take a long time thinking about which of the two would be a better option and only time can tell whether we were right in making the choice we made. The forking of one road into two is symbolic of the confusion or dilemma we face in life while confronting a problem and making a decision.

### **LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**1. Which road does the poet choose? Why?**

**Ans.** He chose the road not frequented, which had not been trodden so far; reflecting and arguing with himself the poet wishes that maybe someday he would come back, find that road and walk on it. But somewhere in his mind he is troubled with the thought that maybe he would not be able to do so. Life does not deal in rewinding and coming back to end one’s decisions or undo mistakes. We must continue with the decision we once make whatever the outcome.

**2. What is the moral presented by the poet in the poem ‘The Road Not Taken’?**

**Ans.** This is an inspirational poem and quite tricky. The poem presents an antithesis. The traveller comes to a fork and wishes to take both roads to travel, which is impossible. One of the roads is described as grassy and ‘wanting wear’, then he says that both the roads look the same. This represents the eternal dilemma of man: he finds the grass greener always on the other side. This poem is a call for the reader to forge his or her way in life and not follow the path that

others have taken. This poem encourages self-reliance, reinforces the power of independent thinking and sticking to one's decisions. The poet does not moralise about choice, he simply says that choice is inevitable as one will never know till one lived the 'difference'. So, there is nothing right or wrong about a choice, it is all relative. Whatever direction one takes one must pack it with determination and zest because one can never turn the clock back or relive that moment.

**3. Bring out the symbolism in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.**

**Ans-** The poem, 'The Road Not Taken' concerns a choice made between two roads by the poet. The poet decides to explore one road and then come back and explore the other, but this might not be possible. The choice of roads in the poem symbolises the choices that one must make in life. All the choices appear to be equally attractive. They are confining too as one cannot foretell the eventual result of one's choice. Through the years, however, we realize that the choices we make and the paths we choose, will make all the difference in our lives.

**READ THE FOLLOWING EXTRACTS AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW: -**

*"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;"*

**i. Why does the poet feel 'sorry'?**

**Ans-** The poet feels sorry that he can't travel on both the roads diverging in the forest before him.

**ii. Where does the two roads diverge in?**

**Ans-** The two roads diverge in the wood where the leaves have turned yellow in the autumn.

**iii. What is the mood of the poet in these lines?**

**Ans-** The mood of the poet appears to be serious and pensive.

**iv. What does the 'yellow wood' mean?**

**Ans-** 'Yellowwood' means that the leaves have turned yellow because of the autumn season.

**v. Why does the poet stand long?**

**OR**

**What did the speaker do while standing for a long time?**

**Ans-** The poet stands long because he was in a dilemma about which road to take.

**vi. Explain: 'And be one traveller'.**

**Ans-** The expression means that he was an individual who couldn't travel two roads at the same time.

**vii. What is the meaning of the word 'diverged'? What do the roads represent in these lines?**

**Ans -** 'Diverged' means separated. The roads represent the different choices that one must make in his/her life.

*“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,”*

**i. Why did the second road present a better claim than the first?**

Ans– The second road presented a better claim as it was still grassy and had not been used by many travellers.

**ii. What does the poet mean by ‘as just as fair’?**

Ans – ‘As just as fair’ means that the second road was just as beautiful as the first one.

**iii. How do you understand the expression ‘grassy and wanted wear’?**

Ans– The second road was grassy and green with its grass was not crushed and worn by the steps of the travellers.

**iv. In which sense were the two roads similar?**

Ans– Both roads were similar in the sense that they both were appealing to the poet to travel on them.

**v. What does “other” refer to in the above lines?**

Ans – In the above lines, “other” refers to the road that was grassy and less travelled upon.

**vi. Which road did the narrator choose?**

Ans– The narrator chose the one that was grassy and less travelled upon.

**vii. Explain “grassy and wanted wear”?**

Ans– The road was covered with grass as not many people had walked that road, so it was more inviting.

*‘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. Why did the poet leave the first road?**

Ans– The poet left the first road in the hope that he would travel on it on another day.

**ii. Why did the poet suffer from a doubt?**

Ans – The poet doubted if he would ever come back to the same place to walk on the road that he had left for another day.

**iii. Having chosen his road, what decision did the speaker take about the first road?**

Ans– He decided to stick to the chosen road for some more time and promised himself that he would travel the other one sometime later.

**iv. Explain: ‘leaves no step had trodden black’.**

Ans – No traveller had trodden on either of the two roads. It was evident from the fact that the fallen and sodden leaves lay uncrushed there. No feet had trampled them.

**v. Why is the poet not sure whether he will ever come back to the first road?**

Ans– The poet thinks so because in the journey of life one road leads to another and one can seldom relive the moments and undo the circumstances gone by.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE EXTRA QUESTIONS-

### 1. The word 'sigh' in the poem means:

- (i) regret (ii) to hate  
(iii) not to feel sorry (iv) to be indifferent

### 2. What has made all the difference in the poet's life?

- (i) Choosing a travelled road (ii) Choosing a less travelled road  
(iii) By not choosing any road (iv) By not being weak

### 3. 'Road' is a metaphor for :

- (i) travelling wisely (ii) good health  
(iii) choices we make in life (iv) morning walks

**Ans : (a) (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii)**

4. The phrase 'yellow wood' refers to \_\_\_\_\_

- i. wood painted yellow    **ii. autumnal forest**  
iii. trees with infected flowers    iv. wood which is yellow in colour

5. The poet regrets that

- i. he could not travel on both the roads simultaneously**  
ii. he has become old  
iii. the roads are covered with thick undergrowth  
iv. the paths are not clearly visible

6. The poet finally crosses the road

- i. which has been travelled by many  
ii. which looks more attractive  
**iii. which very few have trodden on**  
iv. which has less grass