

The Road Not Taken

1. Why does the poem have a negative, 'not', in the title? Does it hint at regret or some other emotion?
2. At what point in the speaker's life does this choice take place?
3. What does 'yellow wood' suggest about the time of year? Could this represent a certain time in a person's life?
4. How does the speaker suggest he tried to look ahead?
5. What might the 'undergrowth' on the path represent?
6. Why does the speaker then choose the other path?
7. Why might a path that, 'was grassy and wanted wear' seem inviting?
8. What does the speaker realise about the choice of path, on reflection?
9. Why do you think the poet depicts making the choice in the morning?
10. What is meant by the lines, 'Yet knowing how way leads on to way, / I doubted if I should ever come back.'?
11. In what way do the lines, 'I shall be telling this with a sigh / Somewhere ages and ages hence,' change both the tense and the way we might view the speaker on his or her journey?
12. Do you find the end of the poem: miserable; uplifting; hopeless; hopeful; angry; melancholic? Give reasons for your choice.
13. Can you identify anything significant (important) about the structure of the poem? It is only important if you can explain why the poet might have written the poem in this way (and writing, 'to make it more interesting,' doesn't count).
14. What do you think this poem is about?
15. Why do you think it appears in the 'Identity' section of the anthology?