

# The Road Not Taken

## Basic Understanding

1. Fill in the chart.

Setting (where and when)	
Character (Who?)	
Events (What happened?)	

2. Answer the questions:

**A stanza is a group of lines that forms a unit in a poem.**

<b>Stanza 1</b>	1.	Where is the “traveler” as he starts telling his story?
	2.	What prevents the “traveler” from seeing father down the road?
	3.	What regret does he express in the first stanza of the poem?
<b>Stanza 2</b>	4.	Which road does the traveler choose?
	5.	What does the word “that” refer to?
	6.	What similarities between the two roads does the traveler point out?
<b>Stanza 3</b>	7.	What is said about the two roads on that fall morning?
	8.	What decision did the traveler make in the woods, as the two roads “equally lay” before him?
	9.	What does the traveler realize as he takes one of the roads?
<b>Stanza 4</b>	10.	Does he think his decision will have any impact on his life? Yes / No Quote from the poem to justify your answer.

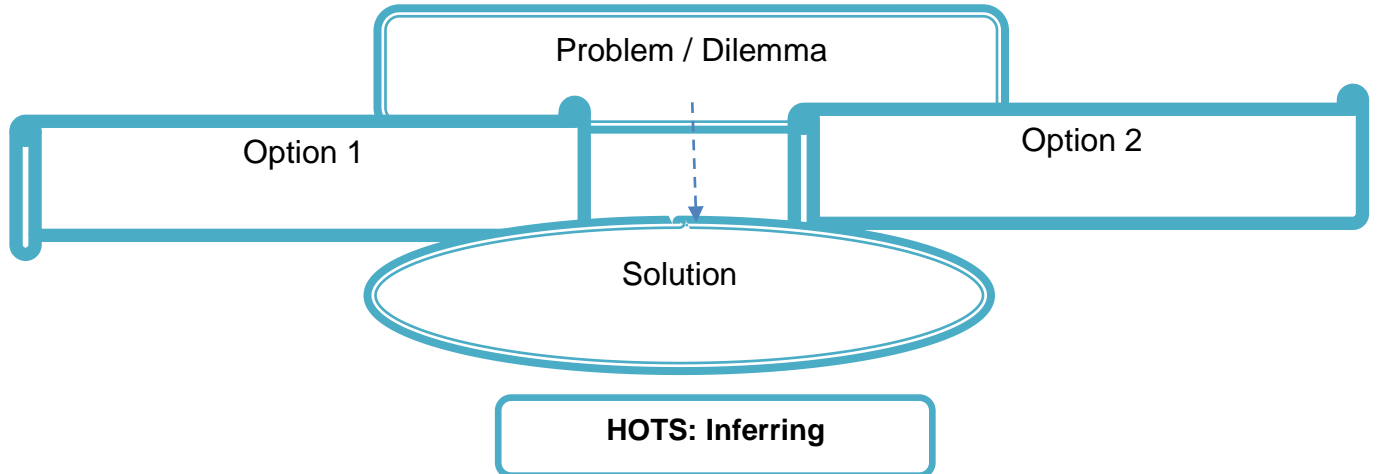
3. Match the sentences to the appropriate line numbers in the poem.

1. A traveler has reached a crossroads in a forest.	2. The traveler regrets or feels comforted by his choice.
3. The traveler’s choice of road directly impacted his life path.	4. The two roads were, in fact, more similar than different (2 lines)
5. The road he did not take seemed to have been used by more travelers.	6. However hard he tried to look down the road, the vegetation of the forest prevented him from seeing where it led (2 lines)
7. In life, one event or choice leads to another and it’s unlikely we can go back to where we started	

# The Road Not Taken

## Analysis and Interpretation

1. What is the speaker's dilemma in the poem and how does he solve it? Complete the graphic organizer. Use the thinking skill of Problem Solving.



2. Answer the questions:

1. Why doesn't the speaker think he will ever have a chance to walk the other road? What does this tell us about our decisions?
2. What kind of a person do you think the speaker is?
3. The speaker does not yet know how his choice has affected his life. He says he "shall be telling this with a sigh / Somewhere ages and ages hence."

\* Fill in the table using the word bank:

**a sudden decision, future, unconventional (less used), fall, choice**

Metaphor	It symbolizes
two roads diverged in the woods (line 1)	
yellow wood (line 1)	
to where it bent in the undergrowth (line 5)	
then took the other, as just as fair (line 6)	
it was grassy	

**The theme** – is the central philosophical idea of a story or a poem. We can usually find the theme by asking, “What is this work about?”

\* Fill in the blanks to complete the following paragraph that deals with the theme of the poem. Use the word bank:

In the poem the speaker stands at a 1 \_\_\_\_\_ in the road. Frost uses the road as a 2 \_\_\_\_\_ of life. The poet tries to see where the 3 \_\_\_\_\_ in life will lead. He looks down one road until it “bends in the 4 \_\_\_\_\_” and he cannot see any further. Similarly, it is difficult for us to see what will happen in the 5 \_\_\_\_\_. We can only see the immediate future and then our vision becomes 6 \_\_\_\_\_ by the unknown. The poet finally chooses the other road, justifying his 7 \_\_\_\_\_ by saying that it was “grassy and wanted wear”. He chooses it because fewer people have walked that way and he sees it as the less 8 \_\_\_\_\_ and more adventurous choice. However, he knows that both roads are equally inviting – his 9 \_\_\_\_\_ to take one or the other is totally arbitrary. He tries to console himself with the thought that he will return and take the “other” road, but he knows that “way leads on to way” and one can never 10 \_\_\_\_\_ to the same point again.

In the final 11 \_\_\_\_\_ the poet projects himself into the future and contemplates the consequences of his decision. There are several interpretations of this stanza. The poet’s sigh might be one of 12 \_\_\_\_\_ and satisfaction with his decision, which has made “all the difference” in his life. However, it could also be one of 13 \_\_\_\_\_ that he will never know what he missed by not taking the other road, or that things didn’t work out as he had hoped. It is 14 \_\_\_\_\_ that the poem is called “The Road Not Taken”, as the poet wonders what would have happened if he had taken the other road.

**regret, appropriate, return, relief, stanza, decision, conventional, obscured, choice, future, undergrowth, roads, symbol, fork**

