

The background of the slide is a painting of a forest path. The path is made of dirt and is flanked by tall, thin trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage. The path splits into two directions, one straight ahead and one curving to the right. The lighting is warm, suggesting a sunny day. The painting is divided into two vertical panels by a thin white line.

# **The Road Not Taken**

**By Robert Frost**

Presented by  
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GSMAC College Pune



# About the Poet

<b>Name</b>	<b>Robert Lee Frost</b>
<b>Birth and Death</b>	<b>March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963</b>
<b>Known as</b>	<b>An American Poet, Playwright, Teacher and Lecturer and also Known for his realistic depictions of rural life and his use of colloquial language</b>
<b>Achievements</b>	<b>4 Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry, Poet Laureate of Vermont and Nominated for Nobel Prize in Literature for 31 times</b>
<b>Notable Works</b>	<b>"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," "Birches", "A Boy's Will," "Mountain Interval," and "West Running Brook"</b>
<b>Themes of his Poetry</b>	<b>Deep connection with Human Nature, Human Experiences, and Philosophical Inquiries</b>

# POET- ROBERT FROST





## About the Poem

Title: The Road Not Taken

Subtitle- A Poem About Life's Choices

Written by Robert Frost

Published in 1916 in the Collection: "Mountain Interval"

One of Frost's most famous and frequently analyzed works

# The Road Not Taken

ROBERT FROST, 1916

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.



## Poem's Title

**"The road" is the symbol of the choice made by us in life. Many times, we regret the choice we make but what is done once cannot be undone.**

**Man regrets for what he has denied himself in life, rather than what he has chosen. Hence, the poet has given his poem the title "The Road Not Taken".**

**The word "road" not only means "way", it also means "journey" or a "stage of journey". Here "road" does not signify any ordinary road, but functions a metaphor of a vital decision in our life.**



## First Stanza

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;





## Second Stanza

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,





## Third Stanza

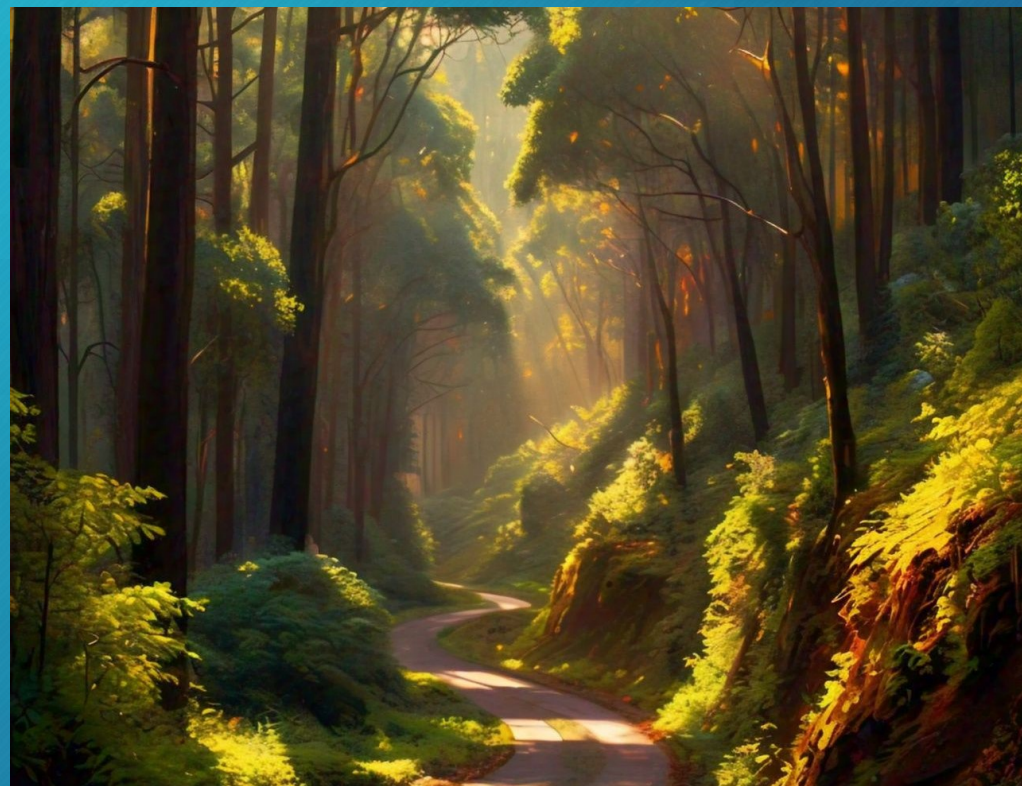
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.





## Fourth Stanza

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.





## Stanza 1 Explanation

Here, the poet talks about two roads divided into two ways and he could not travel both at the same time when he was one traveler.

The poet was sad because he could not travel on both roads.

From the poem, we also understand that he turned back and he saw another road as far as he could.

He was thinking about this as the hardest part of human life. Which represents yellow wood.

Yellowwood also represents old ages also it can autumn season.



## Stanza 2 Explanation

The poet looked at the other path and decided to go in that way.

He says the path he chooses had grass on it which means that it was rarely used.

Many people had not walked on this path earlier; that is why this path was of grass.

After he walked on the path for some distance, he felt that the path had been worn out the same way the before one and were similar.

Even in our life, we take one path or choice, but all of them have the advantages and disadvantages to face.



## Stanza 3 Explanation

The poet says that both the paths were similar that morning.

Both the paths had leaves and grass on them, and no one had stepped on them as they were still green in colour; otherwise, they would have been crushed by the foot.

He thought he would take the other path for another day, although he knew that one way leads to another.

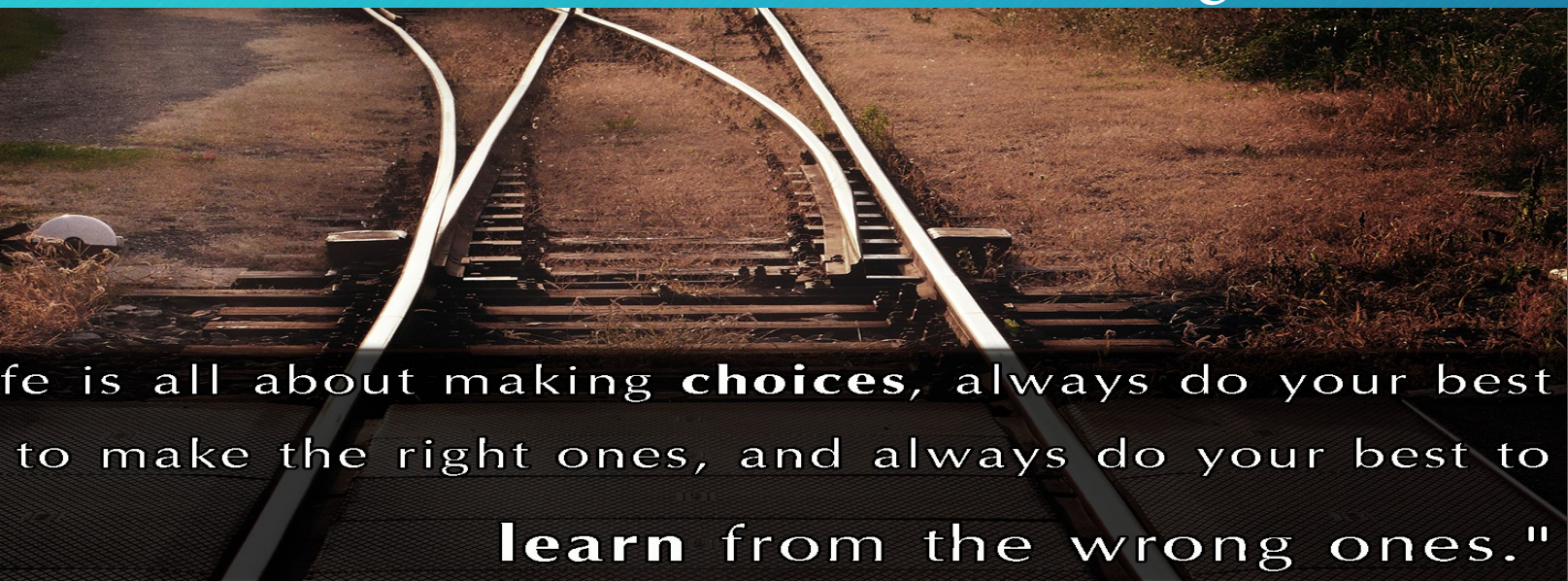
He knew that he could not go back on the alternate he had taken.

In the same way, in our lives, if we choose an option, we must keep on moving ahead with that option as we never get a chance to come back and take the other option that we had left earlier.



## Stanza 4 Explanation

He says that in the future, with a deep breath, to his next generation, he will say that long ago, he had reached a point in life where there were two options for him and he travelled on the road which had been travelled upon by few people and that decision made so much of difference as it had changed his life





# SUMMARY

- The poet was standing at a place where two roads/ paths 'diverged in a yellow wood'. • He was sorry that he couldn't travel both at the same time.
- He looked down one as far as he could till it bent away in the undergrowth.
- The other road was just as fair and perhaps presented a better claim. • The second road was grassy, less frequented by travellers and 'wanted wear'.
- The poet had to make a choice and he resolved the dilemma.
- He chose the second road and 'kept the first for another day'.
- The poet had a doubt that he would never get a chance to travel on the first road again.
- The choice had been made and it made all the difference in his life.
- It was very difficult to say whether the choice was right or wrong on the spur of the moment
- But the poet neither seems to be very happy nor very sad with his choice and leaves the end open to the readers and their choices.



# MESSAGE

Message of the poem is that we have to make decisions by thinking about their after consequences. It has the moral that life is a continuous journey full of divergence every now and then. The important thing is to move on without looking back whether the choice of paths taken was right or wrong.



# GLOSSARY

- **Diverged:** went in different directions, Separated
- **Undergrowth:** shrubs, bushes and low trees
- **Better claim:** better results

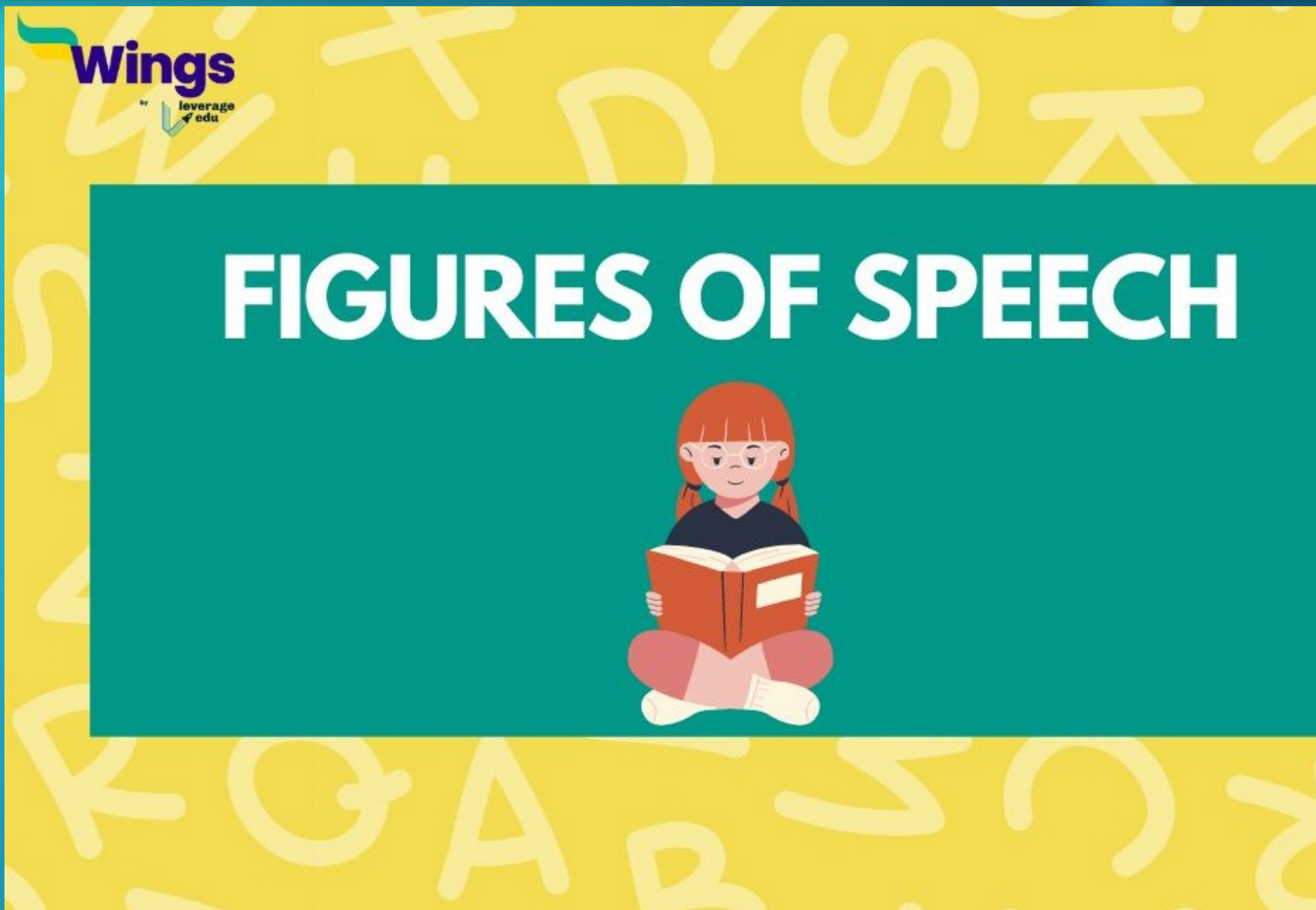
**Wanted wear:** had not been crushed or worn out under human feet, has not been used and worn so frequently

- **Trodden:** walked on
- **Equally lay** - lying in the same manner
- **Sigh** - deep breath of sorrow.



# FIGURES OF SPEECH

- > **Imagery**
- > **Metaphor**
- > **Assonance**
- > **Personification**
- > **Alliteration**
- > **Repetition**
- > **Anaphora**





## IMAGERY

What is **imagery**?

Imagery is descriptive language used to appeal to readers senses: sight, sound, touch, taste, smell.

Which line has **imagery**?

**Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,**  
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;

## 2.ASSONANCE

What is **assonance**?

It is the repetition of vowel sounds (a,e,i,o,u) in neighbouring words.

Which line has assonance?

Somewhere *ages and ages* hence.

→ Here the vowel 'e' is repeated.



## PERSONIFICATION

### What is personification?

figure of speech in which objects are presented as if they are humans.

Which line has personification?

because it was grassy and wanted wear.

► Here it is shown as if the road is human and wants wear and tear.

## ALLITERATION

### What is alliteration?

is the repetition of first letter of word in another word/s.

Which line has alliteration?

because it was grassy and wanted wear. → wanted wear Here the letter w is repeated.



# METAPHOR

What is metaphor?

A device which compares two different things without using words 'as', 'so', 'like'.

Which line has metaphor?

Two roads are compared to as choices in our life.

And looked down one as far as I could

to where it bent in the undergrowth;

→ It is compared that the traveller is looking down but he is not able to see the end of road; in the same way before taking a decision we do not know its consequences.

Note: Full poem is metaphorical.



## REPETITION

What is repetition?

Repetition is a literary device in which a word or phrase is repeated two or more times.

Which line has repetition?

shall be telling this with a sigh

somewhere **ages** and **ages** hence:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-

Took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

Here the word **ages** is repeated.

## ANAPHORA

What is anaphora?

Anaphora is a literary device in which a word is repeated at the beginning of a number of sentences, clauses, or phrases.  
(Type of repetition)

Which lines have anaphora ?

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;

Here **'and'** is repeated.



# THEME OF POEM

- The major theme of poem 'The road not taken' by Robert Frost is about making choices. "The Road Not Taken" deals with the dilemmas that man faces in life. The two roads serve as a metaphor for the choices we make in life. Life throws up many alternatives. Man being an individual cannot take up all choices. The choice we make has a far-reaching consequence. If the choice made by us happens to be not correct, we have to face the consequences as steps once taken cannot be avoided. while taking a decision we should take it by thinking about it.



# RHYME SCHEME OF POEM

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,     a  
And sorry I could not travel both         b  
And be one traveller, long I stood         a  
And looked down one as far as I could     a  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;     b

- Rhyme scheme of poem → **abaab**



**THANK YOU!**