

Topic Sentence**The Road Not Taken**

We all face different opportunities and challenges in life, and it is often the case that we feel regret over some of our decisions, and over the 'roads not taken'. This exact theme is what Robert Frost conveys in his poem 'The Road Not Taken'. This poem is about the choices and chances of life, and thus highly relatable to every one of us, despite its artistic brilliance. Some interpretations state that this poem is about the hopes and successes of life by taking the 'roads less travelled', and thus conveying to us the importance of choosing the unusual path in life to gain success. However, I believe that this is not the only interpretation for this poem's theme, as a close reading highlights the more significant idea of choices and regrets, rather than hopes and success. The major theme of this poem is all about life decisions, regrets, and the inevitability of life moving on.

Body Paragraphs

The poem opens with the lines of "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both". The color yellow here symbolizes autumn, which in turn is used to signify the presence of melancholy or dryness. The idea of the woods being yellow is brilliant because it beautifully blends with the theme of life choices and the melancholy that it often brings when we are unable to fulfill all our desires. The next line states that the poet is sorry that he could not travel both. There can be two meanings here. The first one is that the poet is sorry for himself that he could not take both paths in life and had to leave one. The second meaning could be that the poet is saying sorry to everyone else who were expecting more of him but ultimately, he had to choose one path and could not satisfy everyone.

The lines "And be one traveler, long I stood, and looked down one as far as I could" are symbolizing the idea that the poet is alone in life's tough choices. These lines highlight that the activity of analyzing any life decision and what it leads to is a solitary activity, because no one else can understand your life and take the decisions on your behalf. These lines portray the isolation of the poet from society when it comes to choosing between

different paths in life. It is as if he had realized that chasing others was of no use and the final decisions must be made by himself with his own confidence.

In the second stanza, the poet writes “Then took the other, as just as fair, and having perhaps the better claim.” These lines further the same theme that has been conveyed hitherto. He is saying that after deliberation about what road should be taken, he took the other one despite it being just as fair as the first one. It shows the tendency of life to confuse when making tough decisions as a person never knows what would be really right, and sometimes multiple choices can appear to have the same value. However, the poet adds that it had the better claim. This implies that he saw something in it that made it better than the first one but he is not sure what that was. It was only the appearance of the road which made him choose this one, as he later says, “because it was grassy and wanted wear.”

To sum up, we can see from this poem that Frost has tried to convey his message and feelings regarding the decisions and choices of life. He tells us that choosing a path in life can be confusing, often misleading and hard to decide, require deliberation, and ultimately be a solitary act.

References

Benét, W. R., & Pearson, N. H. (1938). *The Oxford Anthology of American Literature Vol. 2*.
Oxford University Press, New York.

