

The Road Not Taken By Robert Frost

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.



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

The speaker, walking through a forest whose leaves have turned yellow in autumn, comes to a fork in the road

/daɪ'vɜ:dʒ/ verb (formal): to separate and go in different directions. OPP. Converge → *We went through school and college together, but then our paths diverged.*

/wʊd/ noun: an area of trees, smaller than a forest; Symbolizes the autumn of the speaker's life but also indicates a place of beauty. The colour yellow points to energy, happiness, and enlightenment, while the wood may suggest mystery and trial.

Fork /fɔ:k/ verb: (of a road, river, etc.) to divide into two parts that lead in different directions. → *The path forks at the bottom of the hill.*

A fork in the road is a metaphor, based on a literal expression, for a deciding moment in life or history when choice of presented options is required and once chosen the choice cannot be reversed.

And sorry I could not travel both

*And be one **traveler***

The speaker, regretting that he or she is unable to travel by both roads (since he or she is, after all, just one person)

Traveller (BrE)

long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could

stands at the fork in the road for a long time and tries to see where one of the paths leads

*To where it bent in the **undergrowth**;*

However, the speaker can't see very far because the forest is dense and the road is not straight.

*/ˈʌndəgrəʊθ/ noun [U] a mass of bushes and plants that grow close together under trees in woods and forests.
→ The murder weapon was found concealed in undergrowth.*

Then took the other, as just as fair,

The speaker takes the other path, judging it to be just as good a choice as the first.

Just as (adv.) : to an equal degree

(adj.) quite good, nice; “Took the other, as just as fair” means that this road that I took is just as nice as the other one.

*And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;*

and supposing that it may even be the better option of the two, since it is grassy and looks less worn than the other path.

/'grɑ:si/ adj. Covered with grass

Less used; = Off the beaten track (IDM): less travelled by

Trailblazer /'treɪblɛɪzə/ noun: a person who is the first to do or discover sth and so make it possible for others to follow.

"he was a trailblazer for many ideas that are now standard fare."



First hijab-wearing UK court judge hopes to be 'trailblazer'

Raffia Arshad says she has "broken that stereotype" of what most people imagine judges look like.

🕒 27 May 2020 | News | Nottingham

*Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same*

Though, now that the speaker has actually walked on the second road, he or she thinks that in reality the two roads must have been more or less equally worn-in.

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.*

Reinforcing this statement, the speaker recalls that both roads were covered in leaves, which had not yet been turned black by foot traffic.

PAST PART. OF TREAT /tred/ verb: put your foot down while you are stepping or walking. →
Ouch! You trod my toe!

Oh, I kept the first for another day!

The speaker exclaims that he or she is in fact just saving the first road, and will travel it at a later date.

*Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

but then immediately contradicts him or herself with the acknowledgement that, in life, one road tends to lead onward to another, so it's therefore unlikely that he or she will ever actually get a chance to return to that first road.

I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and hence:

The speaker imagines him or herself in the distant future, recounting, with a sigh, the story of making the choice of which road to take.

/saɪ/ noun: an act or the sound of sighing (SIGH (verb): to take and the take out a long deep breath that can be heard, to show that you are disappointed, sad, tired, etc.)

(informal, especially BrE) noun [pl.]: a very long time

/hens/ adv. : from now

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*