

The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Two Roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry that 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.

to diverge: to go in different directions

and be: and being

to bend: to be in the shape of a curve

undergrowth: bushes, small trees
growing under bigger trees

fair: good, acceptable

having the better claim: being the
better choice

to want: here: to need

wear: growing damage by continuous
use (cf. to wear)

as for that: with regard to wear

hence: ...later, ...from now

Comprehension:

1. What are the differences and similarities between the two roads?
2. Do you think it was a difficult decision to take? Give reasons.
3. What makes the narrator decide on one of the two roads.
4. Describe the narrator's feelings when taking his decision.
5. Is the narrator satisfied with his choice after all?
6. What could be the meaning of this poem? How is it linked to Keating's philosophy?

7. *Two roads diverged in a wood, and I --
I took the one less traveled by...*

Why is there a repetition of "I"?

Discussion:

1. Do you personally like this poem? Why (not)?
2. Many Americans consider this their favourite poem. Can you guess why?
3. Have you once taken a "road less traveled by" in your life?