

Name _____

Date _____

Robert Frost - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. Perhaps Robert Frost's most **celebrated** work, this poem was first **published** in the *Atlantic Monthly*'s August 1915 issue. Frost sent the poem to his friend, the writer Edward Thomas, with whom he had taken many walks. Thomas was heavily **influenced** by Frost's words; they may have played a part in his decision to enlist in World War I. **"The Road Not Taken"** 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.

In this poem, Frost uses the metaphor of the road "less traveled" to symbolize the importance of { }.

A. nature



B.

nonconformity

This metaphor can be read as a commentary on the importance of nonconformity. In the poem, Frost writes that taking the road "less traveled by... has made all the difference."

C. travel

D. collectivism

2. This poem was published in the *Yale Review* in October 1923. In his typical simple style, Frost combines everyday observations of a **rural** landscape with a Biblical metaphor. The poem has been a reference for many novels, movies, TV shows, and songs in the years since, including *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, and music by Lana Del Rey. **“Nothing Gold Can Stay”** **Nature’s first green is gold, Her hardest hue to hold. Her early leaf’s a flower; But only so an hour. Then leaf subsides to leaf. So Eden sank to grief, So dawn goes down to day. Nothing gold can stay.**

Which of the following best describes the message of this poem?

- A. The natural world can be cruel.
- C. No life is perfect.

B. Wisdom is acquired with age.



D.

Beauty is fleeting.

The message of this poem is that beauty is temporary. Frost writes that gold is nature’s “hardest hue to hold,” while a flower only lasts “an hour.” He concludes by stating, “Nothing gold can stay.”

3. Frost won an unprecedented four Pulitzer Prizes for **Poetry**. The first of these **prestigious** awards was for his 1923 collection, *New Hampshire*, in which the following poem appears. **“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”** **Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow. My little horse must think it queer To stop without a farmhouse near Between the woods and frozen lake The darkest evening of the year. He gives his harness bells a shake To ask if there is some mistake. The only other sound’s the sweep Of easy wind and downy flake. The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.**

Which of the following literary devices does Frost use in this poem?

- A. Hyperbole and juxtaposition



B.

Alliteration and repetition

In this poem, Frost uses repeating “w” sounds, most notably in the first stanza. The poem also concludes with the repetition of a single line.

- C. Personification and paradox

D. Allusion and analogy