



POETRY HANDOUT #1

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.

--Robert Frost

**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.

--Robert Frost

Fire and Ice

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

--Robert Frost



Directions: For each poem, define the vocabulary words and answer the text-based questions that follow.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

| WORD/PHRASE | DEFINITION | PICTURE/EXAMPLE |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Downy flake | | |

Text-based questions:

1. Describe the poem's setting in 2 complete sentences. (R.L.3)

2. What are the woods likely symbolic of? (R.L.4)
 A) The unknown B) death C) the afterlife D) Something else?

How do you know?: _____

The Road Not Taken

| WORD/PHRASE | DEFINITION | PICTURE/EXAMPLE |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Diverged | | |
| Undergrowth | | |
| Hence | | |

Text-based questions

1. According to the poem, the road the traveler chose was:
 A) Better than the "road not taken."
 B) Worse than the "road not taken."
 C) Equal in quality to the "road not taken."

How do you know?: _____

3. In the poem, the road is *likely* a metaphor for:
 B) Life B) Nature C) Divergence D) The narrator

How do you know?: _____

Fire and Ice

| WORD/PHRASE | DEFINITION | PICTURE/EXAMPLE |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Perish | | |
| Suffice | | |

Text-based questions

1. What does the fire represent in the poem?

2. What does the ice represent in the poem?