

UNIT 09

The Road Not Taken

راہ جو نہ لی گئی

Pre-reading

- What does the phrase "taking the road less traveled" mean to you? Do you think it's important to make unique or unconventional choices in life? Why or why not?

Ans. To me, it means choosing a different or uncommon path in life. Yes, it is important because such choices can lead to success and personal growth, and make a person unique.

- Have you ever faced a situation where you had to make a difficult decision? How did you choose between different options, and what did that decision mean for you later?

Ans. Yes, I have once faced such a situation. I chose by thinking carefully and considering the results. My decision helped me learn valuable lessons and improved my confidence.

Vocabulary Table

Sr.	Words	Pronunciation	POS	Synonyms	Meanings
1	diverged	/di'vɜ:rdʒd/	v	split	جدا ہوا
2	traveler	/'trævələ/	n	voyager	مسافر
3	bent	/bent/	adj	curved	جھکا ہوا، مڑا ہوا
4	undergrowth	/'ʌndəgrəʊθ/	n	shrubs	جھاڑیاں
5	perhaps	/pər'hæps/	adv	maybe	شاید
6	grassy	/'græsi/	adj	covered with grass	گھاس سے ڈھکا ہوا
7	worn	/wɔ:rn/	adj	used	پہنا ہوا، پوسیدہ
8	trodden	/'trɒdən/	v	walked on	پاؤں سے روندنا
9	doubted	/'daʊtɪd/	v	questioned	شک کیا
10	sigh	/saɪ/	n / v	exhale	آہ، آہ بھرنا
11	ages	/'eɪdʒɪz/	n	long time	مدت دراز
12	difference	/'dɪfrəns/	n	contrast, distinction	فرق

The Poem — English Text with Urdu Translation

English Text	Urdu Translation
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;	کسی زرد جنگل میں دو راہیں جدا ہوتی تھیں، اور افسوس میں دونوں پر سفر نہ کر سکتا تھا اور ایک مسافر ہونے کے ناطے، میں دیر تک کھڑا رہا اور ایک کو جتنی دور میں دیکھ سکتا تھا دیکھا جہاں تک وہ جھاڑ جھنکار میں مڑ جاتی تھی؛
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,	پھر دوسری لے لی، خوبصورتی کی طرح اچھی، اور شاید بہتر دعوے والی، کیونکہ وہ گھاس والی تھی اور پوسیدہ چاہتی تھی؛ گرچہ اس معاملے میں وہاں سے گزرنے نے انہیں تقریباً اُسی سا پوسیدہ سا بنا دیا تھا،
And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden black. Oh, I kept the first for another day!	اور دونوں اس صبح برابر پڑی تھیں پتوں تلے کسی قدم نے سیاہ نہ کی تھیں۔ اوہ، میں نے پہلی کسی اور دن کے لیے رکھ لی!

English Text	Urdu Translation
Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back.	ہنوز جانتے ہوئے کہ کیسے راستہ دوسرے راستے کی طرف جاتا ہے، مجھے شک ہوا کہ کیا میں کبھی واپس آ پاؤں گا۔
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.	میں ایک آہ کے ساتھ یہ سناروں گا کہیں آج سے مدتِ دراز کے بعد: کسی جنگل میں دو راہیں جدا ہوتی تھیں، اور میں— میں نے وہ لے لی جس پر کم سفر ہوا تھا، اور اسی نے سارا فرق ڈالا ہے۔

Box Questions

► What does the speaker mean by "I doubted if I should ever come back"?

Ans. The speaker means that once he makes a choice, he may not get the chance to return and choose the other path.

► What is the significance of the speaker choosing "the one less traveled by"?

Ans. It is significant because the speaker chose a unique and less common path, which made a great difference in his life.

Glossary

Sr.	Words	Meanings
1	ages	years, eras
2	diverged	separated, branched
3	doubted	unsure, suspected
4	perhaps	maybe, possibly
5	trodden	walked on, trampled
6	sigh	a long breath, exhale
7	undergrowth	bushes, shrubs
8	worn	used, tired

Reading and Critical Thinking

A. Answer the following questions:

Question	Answer
1. Where does the speaker find himself at the beginning of the poem?	Ans. At the beginning of the poem, the speaker finds himself in a forest standing at a fork in the road, where two paths diverge. He is thinking about which path to take and reflects on the choices in life.
2. Why does the speaker feel sorry for he cannot travel both roads?	Ans. The speaker feels sorry because he cannot explore both paths at the same time. Each path represents a different choice in life, and he must choose only one, knowing that choosing one path means leaving the other path unexplored.
3. How does the speaker describe the two roads?	Ans. He describes the two roads as almost the same, both "equally worn" and covered with leaves that had not been stepped on. One road is grassy and less traveled, while the other is slightly more worn, but the difference is not very obvious.
4. What does the speaker mean when he says, "doubted if I should ever come back"?	Ans. By saying so, the speaker means that life choices are permanent. Once a decision is made, he is unlikely to

Question	Answer
	return to the same point to take the other path, highlighting the finality of decisions in life.
5. Why do you think the speaker saves the first road for another day?	Ans. He saves it for another day because he wants to keep his options open and hopes to explore the other path later. It shows his hesitation and careful thinking, knowing he may never get a chance to travel it again.
6. What emotions does the speaker express when he imagines telling this story "ages and ages hence"?	Ans. He expresses nostalgia and reflection. He feels pride and wonder about the choice he made, thinking it has made a big difference in his life. There is also a sense of regret or curiosity about what might have happened if he had opted the other.

Exercise MCQs

B. Choose the correct option.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	Where does the road diverge?	forest ✓	desert	mountain	river
2	What colour is the wood described in the poem?	green	yellow ✓	red	brown
3	What emotion does the speaker feel about not travelling both roads?	joy	sorry ✓	anger	fear
4	Which road did the speaker eventually take?	busier	clearer	less-traveled ✓	longer
5	What covers the roads in the morning?	mud	leaves ✓	snow	water
6	What does the speaker doubt he will do?	return ✓	travel	dream	rest
7	What type of journey does the road represent?	physical ✓	emotional	virtual	imaginary
8	What is the speaker doing when he chooses the road?	rushing	deciding ✓	running	meditation
9	What does the speaker predict he will do in the future?	laugh	sigh ✓	shout	forget
10	The two roads symbolize choices in ____.	nature	stories	life ✓	history

Stanza 3: Line 11-15

C. Explain with reference to the context.

*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.*

Reference: These lines have been taken from the poem "The Road Not Taken" written by Robert Frost.

Context: This poem was written during a period when the poet was reflecting on life choices. Inspired by his walks in the countryside with a friend, it uses the image of two diverging roads to symbolize decision-making. The context highlights how choices shape one's future and identity, often with uncertainty and later reflection.

Explanation: This stanza expresses the idea that life is full of choices and once we decide something, we cannot change it. One fine morning in a forest, the poet saw two similar roads that were yet to be used. They were new and unexplored, symbolizing the choices and decisions of life. Ultimately, he decided to keep the first road for another day but he knew that one road led to another so it was unlikely that he would ever return to take the other road. Here, the poet wants to show the feelings of doubt and uncertainty that people experience while making an important decision.

Summarized in Own Words: In Robert Frost's poem, the speaker chooses between two paths in a forest, realizing that his decision will shape his life, even though he feels some uncertainty about the road not taken.

D. Answer the following questions with reference to the summary information you have just read.

1. What choice does the speaker make in the poem? Explain in your own words.

Ans. The speaker makes a choice between two jungle roads. He decides to take the less-traveled road, knowing that this decision will shape his future. By choosing this path, he shows that important life decisions require careful thought, and once made, they can influence the course of life permanently.

2. Why is it important to use your own words instead of copying the original text when summarizing?

Ans. Using your own words ensures that you have understood the text thoroughly and can convey the ideas clearly. It also makes your summary concise, organized, and easy to read. Teachers give higher marks for the summaries written in the students' own words.

3. Which punctuation marks help make a summary clearer and more organized?

Ans. These punctuation marks include:

- i. Full stop (.) to end sentences clearly.
- ii. Comma (,) to separate ideas within a sentence.
- iii. Semicolon (;) to connect related ideas.
- iv. Colon (:) to give explanation.

4. Summarize the speaker's emotions in two or three sentences, using appropriate connectors.

Ans. The speaker feels uncertain and thoughtful as he stands at the fork in the forest. However, he chooses the less-traveled road, knowing that it will affect his life. In addition, he experiences a sense of curiosity and regret, wondering what would have happened if he had chosen the other road.

Inference: The speaker feels some regret or nostalgia about the choice he made, even though he says it made "all the difference". The poem does not directly say he regrets his decision, but the word "sigh" and the reflective tone suggest mixed feelings.

E. Answer the following questions:

1. What can you infer about the speaker's feelings toward his choice at the end of the poem?

Ans. At the end of the poem, the speaker feels a blend of satisfaction and reflection about his choice. He knows that choosing the less-traveled road has made a significant difference in his life, but he also wonders what might have happened if he had chosen the other road. It shows that he accepts his decision but still feels curiosity.

2. What does the "sigh" imply about the speaker's emotions?

Ans. The word "sigh" implies that the speaker feels some regret or nostalgia about the choice he made. Although he acknowledges that it made all the difference, the sigh shows that he is reflecting on the road not taken, which suggests mixed emotions of satisfaction and wonder.

3. Based on the description of the two roads, what does the poet suggest about life choices?

Ans. The poet describes the two roads as almost equally worn and covered with untrodden leaves, showing that both choices seemed equally possible. It suggests that in life, choices are often not clearly right or wrong, but we have to make decisions even when outcomes are uncertain.

4. How does the writer's tone (serious, thoughtful) help you understand his point of view?

Ans. His serious and thoughtful tone shows that he is carefully thinking about his life and decisions. It helps the reader understand that the writer values reflection in making choices, and that decisions in life are important as they bear consequences.

5. What conclusion can you draw about the role of decisions in shaping a person's future, according to the poem?

Ans. According to the poem, we can conclude that every decision we make shapes our future. Choosing one path means leaving another, and once a choice is made, it is unlikely we can return to take the other path. Therefore, decisions are important and irreversible because they determine the course of life.

Interpreting and Integrating Information from a Variety of Sources: It means reading, understanding, and combining information from different formats like maps, graphs, charts, and diagrams, to deepen comprehension of a topic.

F. Answer the following questions:

1. If you saw a map with two paths, one busy and one quiet, which path would match the road the speaker chose? Why?

Ans. The quiet path would match the road the speaker chose. In the poem, the speaker deliberately takes the less-traveled road, which symbolizes making a choice that is unique, unconventional and reflective.

2. How could a flowchart help you understand the speaker's decision-making process?

Ans. The following flowchart could help understand this process:

- Standing at the fork → Observing the roads → Comparing the options → Making a choice → Understanding consequences.

It helps visualize the process and makes it clear that decisions are sequential, thoughtful, and lead to specific outcomes.

3. What symbols or images would you include in a diagram about the poem's theme of choice?

Ans. To represent the theme of choice, the diagram would include:

- v. Two diverging roads → showing different paths in life.
- vi. Footprints → showing the travelers who had walked before.
- vii. Signposts or arrows → indicating decisions and direction.
- viii. Question marks → representing doubt and uncertainty.
- ix. A heart or brain symbol → showing reflection or careful thinking.

4. If a graph showed "number of travelers" on each road, what would it reveal about the speaker's choice?

Ans. The graph would reveal that the less-traveled road has fewer travelers. It emphasizes that the speaker's choice is unconventional and unique, symbolizing that sometimes a less popular option can lead to important or meaningful experiences.

5. Why is it helpful to use both the poem and a visual (like a map or chart) to understand the meaning more deeply?

Ans. Using both the poem and a visual allows to interpret and integrate information. The poem provides emotions, thoughts and reflection, while a visual shows paths, choices and consequences. Combining them gives a clearer understanding of how decisions shape life, and helps remember the concepts better.

Vocabulary and Grammar

1. Simple Sentence: It contains one independent clause.

Example: The speaker stood at the fork in the road.

2. Compound Sentence: It joins two or more independent clauses with conjunctions.

Example: The speaker wanted to take both roads, but he could only choose one.

3. **Complex Sentence:** It has one independent clause with at least one dependent clause joined by subordinating conjunction or relative pronoun to show their relationship.

Example: Because the two roads looked equally worn, the speaker found it hard to decide.

A. Answer the following questions:

1. Can you write a simple sentence describing where the speaker is in the poem.

Ans. Simple Sentence: The speaker is standing at a fork in a yellow wood.

(subject + verb + object)

2. Create a compound sentence about the speaker's feelings when choosing the road.

Ans. Compound Sentence: The speaker wanted to travel both roads but he could not choose both.

(independent clause + conjunction + independent clause)

3. Write a complex sentence using the word "because" to explain why the speaker chose the road he did.

Ans. Complex Sentence: The speaker chose the less-traveled road because he wanted to make a unique choice in life.

(independent clause + subordinating conjunction + dependent clause)

4. Can you join two ideas from the poem using "but" or "although"?

Ans. (i) But: The two roads looked similar but the speaker chose the less-traveled one.

(ii) Although: Although the roads were equally worn, the speaker decided to take the less-traveled road.

5. Why is it important to use different types of sentences when writing about a poem or story?

Ans. It is important because they make the writing clear, interesting and meaningful. Simple sentences give clear information, compound sentences connect ideas, and complex sentences explain reasons and results. Using varied sentence structures helps the writer express his thoughts logically and makes the paragraph more effective and impressive.

Constructing Complex Sentences and Paragraphs: It means combining a main clause (complete idea) with one or more subordinate clauses (dependent ideas) to create richer, more detailed writing. The students should also use transitional devices such as because, although, however, therefore and correct punctuation like commas, full stops etc. to show relationships between ideas, at different levels of complexity.

B. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the difference between a main clause and a subordinate clause?

Ans. A main clause expresses a complete idea and can stand alone as a sentence whereas a subordinate clause depends on the main clause and cannot stand alone. A subordinate clause adds extra information such as reason, condition, contrast or time.

2. Write a complex sentence about the speaker's decision, using "because" as a connector.

Ans. Complex Sentence: The speaker chose the less-traveled road because he wanted to make a unique decision in his life.

(main clause + connector + subordinate clause)

3. Which transitional device could you use to show a contrast between the two roads?

Ans. To show a contrast between the two roads, we could use transitional devices like although, but, however, whereas, on the other hand etc.

4. Create a complex sentence that explains why the speaker sighed in the future.

Ans. Complex Sentence: The speaker sighed in the future because he thought about the road he had not taken and wondered what might have happened otherwise.

(main clause + connector + subordinate clause)

5. Why is it important to use different clauses and transitional words when writing a paragraph?

Ans. It is important to use them because main clauses give complete ideas, subordinate clauses provide extra details and transitional words like because, although, therefore, however etc. show relationships between them. So, they make the writing clear, organized and more interesting.

Oral Communication Skills

A. "The Roads We Choose"

Example Questions Students Can Use:

1. Have you ever faced two choices where you could only pick one? How did you decide which "road" to take?

Ans. Yes. Like the traveler in the poem "The Road Not Taken", I imagined weighing both paths. I chose the one that felt less certain, guided by curiosity and instinct, accepting that every choice shapes the future.

2. Did you ever wonder what would have happened if you had chosen differently?

Ans. Yes, I have often reflected on the missed possibilities, wondering another choice might have led to a different life, though the true outcome of that unchosen path remains unknowable.

3. Do you usually choose the easy way or the more challenging path?

Ans. I usually tend to choose the more challenging path, like Robert Frost, believing that less-traveled roads shape character, bring growth, and make life more meaningful and distinct.

4. What is the one decision that made a big difference in your life?

Ans. Choosing a less popular academic path, like the traveler in the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, shaped my growth, leading to unique opportunities and personal satisfaction. So, it made a big difference in my life.

Writing Skills

Developing a Book Review:

It involves analyzing and evaluating a book's content, structure, and writing style, then summarizing your findings in a clear and organized way. A well-written book review includes the following key components:

- x. Introduction: The title, author, and genre of the book, along with a brief overview of the plot or central theme.
- xi. Summary: A concise description of the book's plot, characters, and setting without revealing too much especially spoilers.
- xii. Analysis: An evaluation of the writing style, themes, character development, pacing and emotional impact.
- xiii. Opinion: Your personal response, including what you liked, what you didn't like, and why.
- xiv. Conclusion: A summary of your overall thoughts, and a recommendation to potential readers.

A. Answer the following questions on your own:

1. What are the key components of a well-written book review?

Ans. A well-written book review has five key components: introduction, summary, analysis, opinion and conclusion.

2. How does the analysis section of a book review differ from the summary?

Ans. Summary tells concisely what happens in the book (story, characters, setting) while analysis explains how well the book is written, evaluating the writing style, themes and character development.

3. What makes a good personal opinion in a book review?

Ans. A good personal opinion in a book review is clear, honest, and supported with reasons and examples. It explains why the reviewer liked or disliked the book.

4. What are some ways you can evaluate a book's writing style or theme?

Ans. We can evaluate the following:

- xv. language and vocabulary
- xvi. description and dialogue
- xvii. main themes (like friendship, honesty)
- xviii. character development and emotional impact

5. Why is it important to avoid spoilers in the summary of a book review?

Ans. It is important to avoid the spoilers (pieces of information that reveal key plot points of something, ruining the surprise for others) in the summary of a book review because they destroy the story for new readers and reduce their interest in reading the book.

6. In your own words, how would you write a conclusion for a book review?

Ans. In the conclusion for a book review, I would give my final opinion in my own words and recommend the book to readers, saying whether it is worth reading or not.

7. Choose a book you've read recently and write a short review that includes an introduction, summary, analysis, and your opinion.

Book Review of the Short Story "The Three Questions" by Leo Tolstoy

- xix. Introduction: "The Three Questions" is a short story written by Leo Tolstoy. It teaches an important lesson about life and decision-making.
- xx. Summary: The story is about a king who wants to know the right time to do things, the most important person, and the most important work. He visits a wise hermit who teaches him that the most important time is now, the most important person is the one with you, and the most important thing is to do good.
- xxi. Analysis: Tolstoy's writing style in "The Three Questions" is simple but meaningful. The story has a strong moral lesson about kindness and living in the present. The characters are realistic, and the events are easy to understand. The pacing is smooth and keeps the reader interested.
- xxii. Opinion: I liked this story because it teaches us to value time and help others. The message is inspiring and practical for daily life. However, the story is a bit lengthy.
- xxiii. Conclusion: Overall, "The Three Questions" is an excellent story with a powerful ethical lesson. I highly recommend it to the students because it teaches wisdom, kindness and responsibility.

Precise Writing:

It involves summarizing a longer text in your own words, maintaining the original meaning while condensing the content into a shorter version. It requires clarity, accuracy, and the ability to identify key points without unnecessary details. When writing a precis, you should:

- xxiv. Focus on the main idea and essential details.
- xxv. Use your own words (paraphrasing) and avoid copying phrases directly from the original.
- xxvi. Preserve the tone and logical flow of the original text.
- xxvii. Ensure that your precis is well-structured, clear and precise.

B. Answer the following questions:**1. What is the main purpose of a precis?**

Ans. The main purpose of a precis is to give a clear and concise summary of a piece of writing. It presents the central idea and important points in a brief form without changing the original meaning, tone or message of the writer.

2. What are the key characteristics of a good precis?

Ans. A good precis has the following key characteristics:

- xxviii. focus on the main points
- xxix. writer's own words
- xxx. original tone and logical flow
- xxxi. clarity and accuracy

3. Why is it important to avoid including unnecessary details when writing a precis?

Ans. It is important to avoid including unnecessary details because a precis should be brief and focused. Including such details makes it lengthy and unclear. A good precis highlights only the essential points so that the reader may understand the main idea quickly and easily.

4. Can you rewrite a different passage from "The Road Not Taken" as a precis?

Ans. Precis of Stanza 2: The poet closely examines the second path and observes that it is grassy and less worn, suggesting it has been traveled less. Later, he realizes that both paths are actually quite similar in usage. This stanza highlights his careful consideration and the subtle differences between the two choices.

Paraphrasing:

It means restating a text or a passage in your own words while maintaining the original meaning. It involves changing the structure and vocabulary of the text, but not its message. Paraphrasing is especially useful for clarifying complex language, shortening a passage, or explaining an idea in simpler terms. When paraphrasing a poem, it's important to retain the tone, imagery, and central theme while altering the wording.

C. Can you paraphrase the following lines from the poem?

*I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Paraphrase: The poet chose the road that was less commonly used by people. This choice proved to be very important because it created a big difference in his life.

Summary Skills:

They involve the ability to condense a longer piece of text or a poem into a short, concise, and objective version while maintaining the core meaning and main points. A good summary does not include personal opinions or excessive details but focuses on the key ideas of the original text. When summarizing a poem or any text, it's essential to use your own words, ensure clarity, and retain the central message.

Key Features of the Summary:

- xxxii. Focuses only on the main idea.
- xxxiii. It shortens the original text without losing the essence.

xxxiv. Avoids adding personal opinions or unnecessary interpretations.

D. What are the key elements you should include when writing an objective summary of a poem?

Ans. When writing an objective summary of a poem, you should include:

- xxxv. The main idea or central theme of the poem.
- xxxvi. The important points or events related to the theme.
- xxxvii. The writer's message or purpose.
- xxxviii. A brief and clear explanation in your own words.
- xxxix. Logical order of ideas.

E. Can you summarize the message of the poem "The Road Not Taken" in one or two sentences?

Ans. Yes. The poem conveys the message that life is full of choices, and the decisions we make today shape our future. So, choosing a less common or an unconventional path can make a significant difference in our life.

The Poem in Detail

A. What is the main idea of the poem "The Road Not Taken"?

Ans. Main Idea: The poem gives the main idea that life involves choices, and each decision shapes one's future. The poet reflects on selecting a less-traveled path, symbolizing individuality and personal direction, while recognizing that choices bring both uncertainty and lasting consequences in life.

B. Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1: Line 1-5

Explain the following lines with reference to the context:

*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;*

Reference: These lines have been taken from the poem "The Road Not Taken" written by Robert Frost.

Context: This poem was written during a period when the poet was reflecting on life choices. Inspired by his walks in the countryside with a friend, it uses the image of two diverging roads to symbolize decision-making. The context highlights how choices shape one's future and identity, often with uncertainty and later reflection.

Explanation: This stanza portrays the poet standing in a forest in the autumn at a place where his passage splits into two roads. He feels regret that he cannot travel both and must choose only one. Since no one knows what lies ahead, the poet lingers at this point to decide. Carefully, he looks down one path as far as he can to finalize which way to go. This moment symbolizes the beginning of a life decision, showing how people often face choices where only one option can be taken. It highlights uncertainty, curiosity and the importance of thoughtful decision-making in life.

Stanza 2: Line 6-10

Explain the following lines with reference to the context:

*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,*

Reference: These lines have been taken from the poem "The Road Not Taken" written by Robert Frost.

Context: This poem was written during a period when the poet was reflecting on life choices. Inspired by his walks in the countryside with a friend, it uses the image of two diverging roads to symbolize decision-making. The context highlights how choices shape one's future and identity, often with uncertainty and later reflection.

Explanation: This stanza closely examines the second road that was adopted by the poet finally after reaching a decision. He observes that it appears "as just as fair" like any path. Perhaps it is even slightly less worn, suggesting it has been traveled by fewer people. However, he also admits that both paths are actually quite similar, as they have been used almost equally. This moment reflects the speaker's careful consideration and uncertainty. It also shows that while people often believe their choices are unique or special, in reality, the differences between options may not be as clear or significant as they seem.

Stanza 3: Line 11-15

Explain the following lines with reference to the context:

*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.*

Reference: These lines have been taken from the poem "The Road Not Taken" written by Robert Frost.

Context: This poem was written during a period when the poet was reflecting on life choices. Inspired by his walks in the countryside with a friend, it uses the image of two diverging roads to symbolize decision-making. The context highlights how choices shape one's future and identity, often with uncertainty and later reflection.

Explanation: This stanza expresses the idea that life is full of choices and once we decide something, we cannot change it. One fine morning in a forest, the poet saw two similar roads that were yet to be used. They were new and unexplored, symbolizing the choices and decisions of life. Ultimately, he decided to keep the first road for another day but he knew that one road led to another so it was unlikely that he would ever return to take the other road. Here, the poet wants to show the feelings of doubt and uncertainty that people experience while making an important decision.

Stanza 4: Line 16-20

Explain the following lines with reference to the context:

*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.*

Reference: These lines have been taken from the poem "The Road Not Taken" written by Robert Frost.

Context: This poem was written during a period when the poet was reflecting on life choices. Inspired by his walks in the countryside with a friend, it uses the image of two diverging roads to symbolize decision-making. The context highlights how choices shape one's future and identity, often with uncertainty and later reflection.

Explanation: This stanza presents the speaker before us imagining his future, when he will be reflecting on his choice "with a sigh". After a very long time, his deep breath with a sound may suggest both satisfaction and regret, showing the complexity of human decisions. The poet believes that choosing the less-traveled road has made a significant difference in his life. However, there is also a hint of uncertainty, as both roads were actually quite similar. Hence,

these lines highlight how people often shape their past choices into meaningful narratives, even if the differences were small at the time of decision.

C. Write down the summary of the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost.

Ans. Summary: This poem has been written by Robert Frost, a famous American poet. It is a profound meditation on the nature of choices and their impact on life.

The poet, like a traveler, is standing in an autumn forest, where his path divides into two directions so he regrets that he cannot experience both simultaneously. He stands there for a long time, observing one path until it disappears into the bushes. Eventually, he chooses the other which appears grassy. Although both paths are covered with leaves that no step has crushed, he saves "the first for another day". He acknowledges that one way leads to another, making it impossible to return to the starting point. At last, he reflects on the future with a sigh, imagining himself telling his story. He realizes that his choice to take the unconventional path is what determined his destiny. The poem concludes that while every choice involves a loss of the alternative, it is our courage to make a wise decision that may add uniqueness to our lives.

It is a thought-provoking poem about the importance of choices. It shows that every decision may lead to a different direction and shape our future. It encourages us to be confident, independent and brave, because the path we choose today can make "all the difference" tomorrow.

Objective Type

Spelling MCQs

(I) Choose the words with correct spellings.

Sr.	A	B	C	D
1	ages ✓	agess	ajes	ayges
2	divirged	divergd	diverged ✓	diverjed
3	dowbt	duobt	dought	doubt ✓
4	equally ✓	iqualy	equaly	eqally
5	parhaps	perhabs	perhaps ✓	perheps
6	sighh	sigh ✓	syne	sygh
7	troddun	trodan	trodden ✓	troden
8	undergrath	undergrowth	undergrwoth	undergrowth ✓
9	worne	worn ✓	wornn	warne
10	yallow	yellou	yelloh	yellow ✓

Meaning MCQs

(II) Choose the correct meanings of the underlined words.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	The path diverged into two in the quiet woods.	met	separated ✓	joined	crossed
2	I pushed through the thick undergrowth carefully.	bushes ✓	river	hill	fog
3	Perhaps I will take the other path tomorrow.	certainly	always	maybe ✓	definitely
4	The worn leaves crunched under my feet.	bright	new	fresh	old ✓
5	Both roads seemed equally inviting and mysterious.	fairly ✓	unequally	differently	mostly
6	The trodden trail showed that few had passed there.	slept	ignored	jumped	walked ✓
7	I doubted whether I had made the right choice.	believed	was uncertain ✓	trusted	accepted

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
8	He gave a deep sigh as he looked at the fork.	yell	smile	exhale ✓	laugh
9	Somewhere ages and ages hence:	short moment	long time ✓	small number	quick action
10	And that has made all the difference.	similarity	agreement	contrast ✓	decision

Grammar MCQs

(III) Choose the correct option according to grammar.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	Identify the tense in the line: "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood."	present	past ✓	future	present perfect
2	What is the preposition in the line: "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood"?	two	diverged	in ✓	wood
3	The word "yellow" in "yellow wood" is a/an:	noun	verb	adverb	adjective ✓
4	Identify the verb in the line: "And sorry I could not travel both."	sorry	travel ✓	I	both
5	What type of pronoun is "I"?	relative	possessive	reflexive	personal ✓
6	Identify the type of sentence: "Then took the other, as just as fair."	declarative ✓	interrogative	imperative	exclamatory
7	What part of speech is "perhaps"?	noun	adverb ✓	adjective	conjunction
8	The word "both" in "And both that morning equally lay" is a/an:	pronoun ✓	noun	verb	article
9	Identify the correct tense: "In leaves no step had trodden black."	future perfect	past simple	present perfect	past perfect ✓
10	Identify the correct tense: "I shall be telling this with a sigh."	present continuous	past continuous	future continuous ✓	future perfect continuous
11	In the line "Somewhere ages and ages hence", the word "hence" functions as a/an:	adverb ✓	noun	pronoun	adjective
12	The word "less" in "less traveled" is a/an:	noun	adverb	adjective ✓	verb