**Title**

**Anticipate Meaning/ask questions**

I think this poem is what he could have done in life but did not—a road he could have taken but he did not take

In life there are different paths you choose and often times the best path is not chosen—the toughest road to choose because less people choose it

Decisions made in life decide how your life is now and everything would be different if you took the other road

What road is he talking about? What will happen to him if he doesn’t take the road?

**Paraphrase: 1-3 sentences—what is literally going on in the poem**

A guy is in the woods and comes up to two paths and he could not decide which path to take but finally decides to take the one less traveled.

He is making a choice on where to go with life and between the two paths he made his own and was not a follower.

**Figurative devices:** musical/sound devices/figurative language/rhyme scheme/meter/etc. How do these figurative/sound devices affect the meaning/feeling of the poem?

**Must give evidence from poem**

Rhyme scheme: abaab/cdcd/efeef/ghggh

Rhyme: end rhyme: “wood/ stood/ could” / “fair/ wear/there”

Slant or near rhyme: last stanza: “hence/ difference”

Alliteration: “wanted wear/ worn” and 3rd stanza: “lay/leaves/leads” and “first/for”

Consonance: “Kept/ first/yet”

Onomatopoeia: “Oh” / “sigh”

Repetition of “and” in first stanza/second/third/fourth stanzas—create the effect of a journey that goes on—continuation of journey, one that does not end, choices must be made along the way (look at where the “and”s are placed and how it curves out and back in—like a winding path—like life can be full of ups and downs)

Windy

Imagery: “yellow wood”—we know it is fall, when the leaves are beginning to turn; “trodden black”—we see the path that is well worn and the leaves have turned black under all the heavy foot traffic

“yellow wood” symbolic—fall—time for change
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<th>Attitude: (tone)</th>
<th>Confident: “about the same”/ “doubted if I should ever come back”/ “made all the difference”/ “telling this”/ “ages and ages hence”; all these phrases lead to a confidence about the speaker’s decision to take a certain path—either choice is fine and he knows it will turn out well, and years from now he will be telling what kind of a difference his choice made</th>
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<td>How does the author feel about the subject he/she is writing about (look at word choice—diction—and syntax—sentences and how they are put together) Must give evidence from poem.</td>
<td>Thoughtful: “long I stood”/ “looked down one as far as I could”/ “took other”/ “just as fair”/ “doubted I should ever come back”/ “shall be telling this with a sigh”/ “made all the difference”; all these phrases indicate that the speaker considers both choices or options open to him very carefully. He realizes that both are about the same and that at some point in the future he will tell his story with a “sigh” and relate the “difference” it made in his life</td>
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<td>Adventurous: “difference”/ “oh, I kept the first for another day”/ “about the same”/ “sorry I could not travel both”/ “long I stood”/ “way leads on to way”; all these phrases indicate someone who is adventurous and who seeks to take a way “less traveled” by others. The speaker considers both options or choices but makes the choice that few choose because he knows that everything will turn out okay in the end—making a “difference” whatever that difference will be is fine with him.</td>
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<td>Mysterious: “all the difference”/ “telling with a sigh”/ “about the same”/ “kept first for another day”/ “way leads on to way”; these phrases indicate a mysterious speaker who, when having to make a choice, considers both options but does not reveal how the choice he made eventually turns out. The options or choices he has are about the same and really he chooses one on a whim, keeping the other for another day, or so he says. The speaker does not reveal the outcome of his choice either and clearly that is mysterious—is it a good outcome or a bad outcome?</td>
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<td>Shift: change in the tone/mood of the poem. This could be a change in speaker, setting, verb tense, word choice, syntax, etc. (This is where the meaning of the poem will really come forth) Must give evidence from poem to support</td>
<td>In Fourth stanza: verb change shift from present tense to future tense: “shall be telling”—this means he has not yet seen the “difference” his choice has made in his life fully yet because he has not seen it through to its conclusion; he does not tell us if the difference it made was a “good” one or a “bad” one; regardless—he seems to say that either way, it will have been a lesson learned.</td>
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<td>Title: look back at the title now in terms of everything you have discovered about the poem—has your original prediction about the poem</td>
<td>Does the “road not taken” indicate a regret now that he has taken a certain road? Or made a certain choice.</td>
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<td>Perhaps the meaning of the poem is meant to stress that choices—ones not made/taken can be just as important as those that are made/taken. The author could have titled the poem “The Road Taken” indicating the choice or path he choice made “the difference” but perhaps it is the road he did not take</td>
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<td>changed? How? Does the title make more sense now? Why?</td>
<td>or the choice he did not make that made “all the difference” instead.</td>
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**Theme:** the lesson the author wants to convey to the reader. In sentence format, write what you have learned from this poem about life (this is the underlying meaning of the poem/not literally what is going on, but what the author wants you to take away from the poem about life or the subject he/she is writing about. This may be different for each person because of individual experiences; must support your theme with evidence from poem.

Life is a journey where there are choices to be made, and once you make your choice, you must learn to live with the outcome—whether good or bad. (extended metaphor throughout poem/ repetition of “and” and the figurative devices all lead to the conclusion of a decision to be made—“chose the other—just as fair”/ living with outcome—“made all the difference” no matter what kind (because he does not say) and also will be telling his story with a “sigh” —living with regret perhaps, or resignation. )

In our life journey, we all have choices to be made; one can only thoughtfully consider the choices in front of them and make the best choice based on the information we have at the time, learning from each choice we make along the way. (extended metaphor of life as a journey—learning from the choices we make—same as above examples used, but also, “long I stood” and “looked down one as far as I could” in examining the choices we have to make before we make them—then choosing from information we have “chose the other”)

Even though sometimes it may be nice to stop and rest, the journey of life does not let us just stop; we must continue down life’s path and make choices along the way, learning to live with the choices we make, both good and bad. (extended metaphor of life as a journey, decisions need to be made, all the examples above as well as—“made a difference” and “shall be telling this with a sigh” indicating that he is living with the choice he made no matter what type of difference it made in his life—obviously he learned from it.)