

“The Road Not Taken”

Assessment Preparation: Writing with Purpose—Extended Metaphor

What decisions have you made this week? Did you choose to stay up late one night to watch a movie? Did you go to bed earlier than usual? Did you get homework done or did you put it off? Did you pack your lunch or buy it?

You can probably think of hundreds of decisions and choices that you’ve made this week. What choices had a consequence – big or small? Staying up late may have left you tired in English class. Buying your lunch may have meant you had to spend your allowance. Talk about a recent choice and consequence with another student.

Choices have consequences whether they are big or small. The poem –The Road Not Taken” is about making choices. As a matter of fact, the entire poem can be read as a metaphor about a choice the speaker makes – it is a comparison between two things. Metaphorically speaking, what are those two things?

When a poet uses a metaphor throughout an entire poem, it’s called an **extended metaphor**.

Part One

Directions: Robert Frost created the extended metaphor by using **diction** (word choice). Go back to the poem. Take a look at the diction. Use the graphic organizer below to identify each time Frost uses a word or phrase related to **travel** and the **road**. The chart has been started for you.

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|----------|--|
| Stanza 1 | Two roads, diverged, travel, one traveler, it bent |
| Stanza 2 | |
| Stanza 3 | |
| Stanza 4 | |

1. Contrast what you think of as a road with what the speaker of the poem experiences as a road. What do you imagine a –road” to be like in your experiences? What is the speaker’s road like?
