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CLASS – 9

ENGLISH

Beehive

Poem : The Road Not Taken

Part – 2

Comprehension

ARPITA SHARMA

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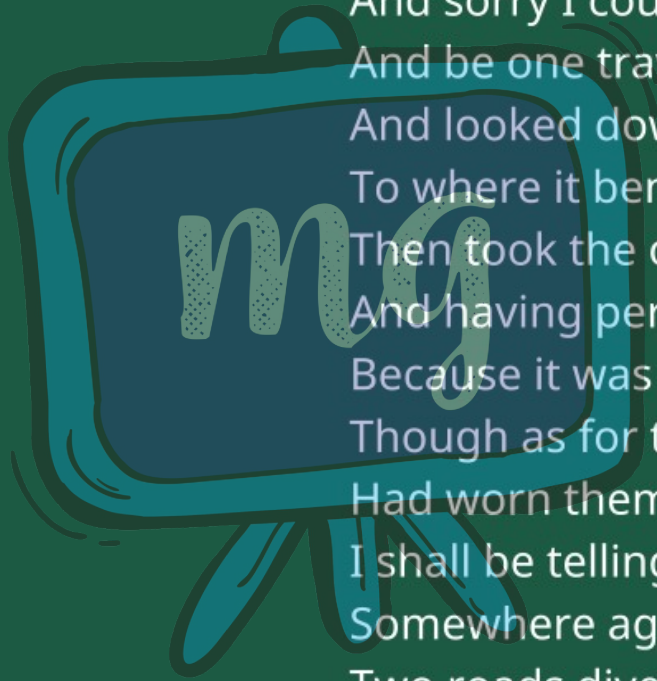

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.
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 travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

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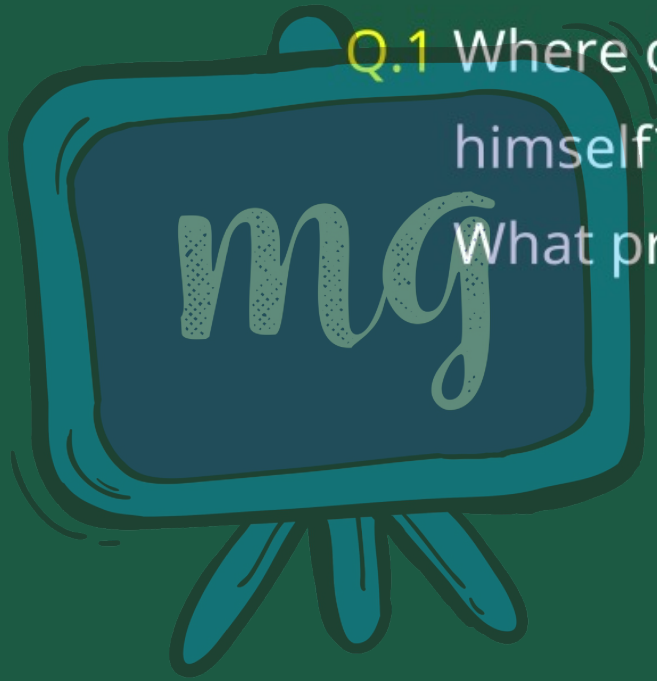
I Poet



Q.1 Where does the traveller find himself?

What problem does he face?

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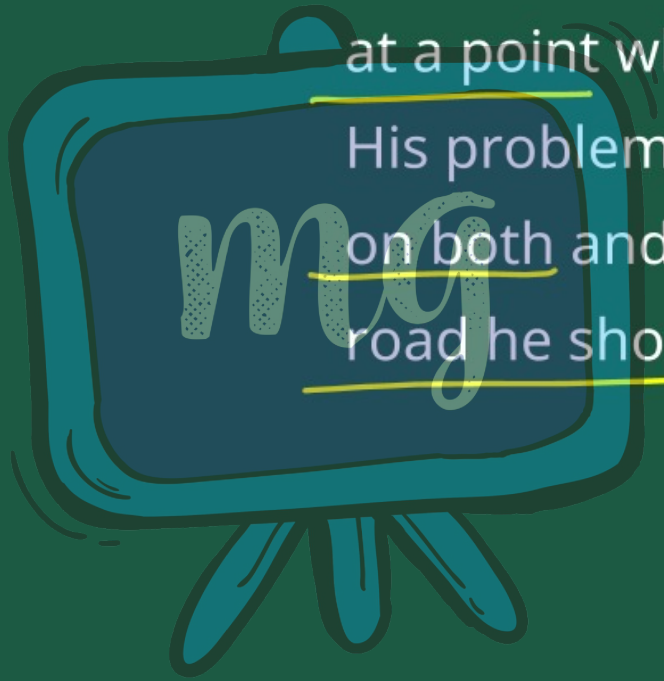

Answer : The traveller finds himself at a point where two roads diverge. His problem is that he cannot travel on both and has to decide on which road he should walk.

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Q.2 Discuss what these phrases mean to you.

a. a yellow wood

b. it was grassy and wanted wear (road)

c. the passing there (People)

d. leaves no step had trodden black

e. how way leads on to way

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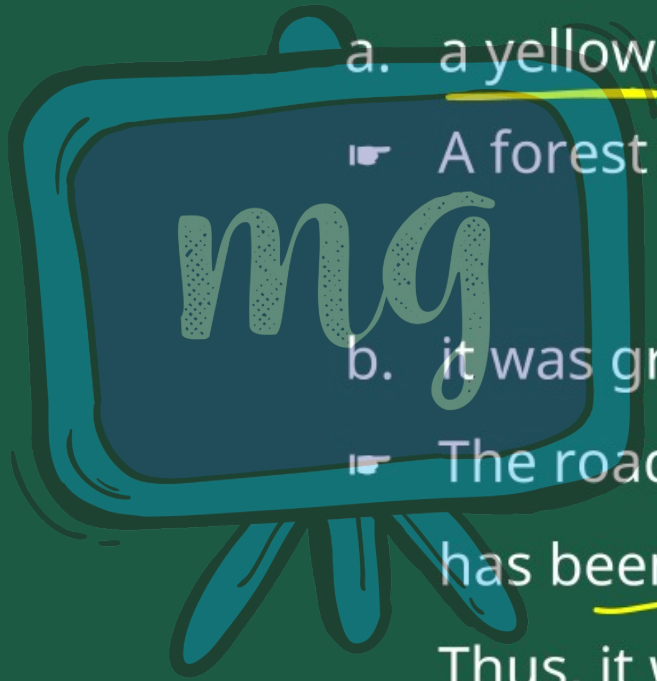
Answer :

a. a yellow wood

☛ A forest in the autumn season.



b. it was grassy and wanted wear

☛ The road is grassy because it has been a less travelled road. Thus, it wants people to wear (move on) it.

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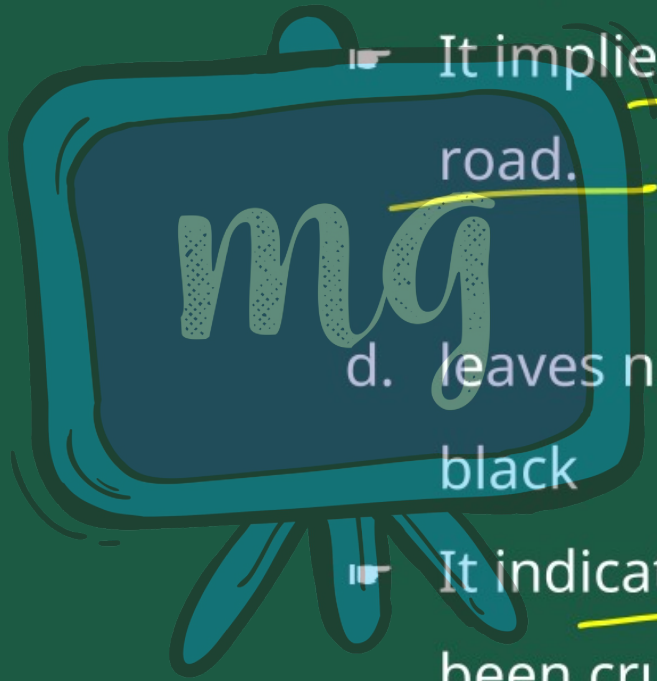
c. the passing there

☛ It implies people walking on the road.



d. leaves no step had trodden black

☛ It indicates the leaves had not been crushed under the feet of travellers.

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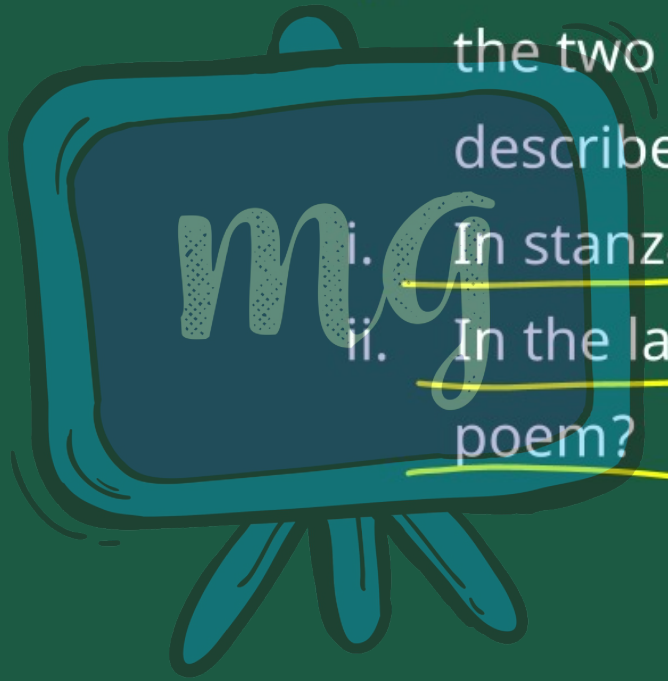
e. how way leads on to way

☛ The phrase “how way leads on to way” means ‘How one road leads to another?’. So once the poet has made a choice between the roads. He wonders if he will ever be able to return to the same spot.



Q.3 Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them?

i. In stanzas two and three?

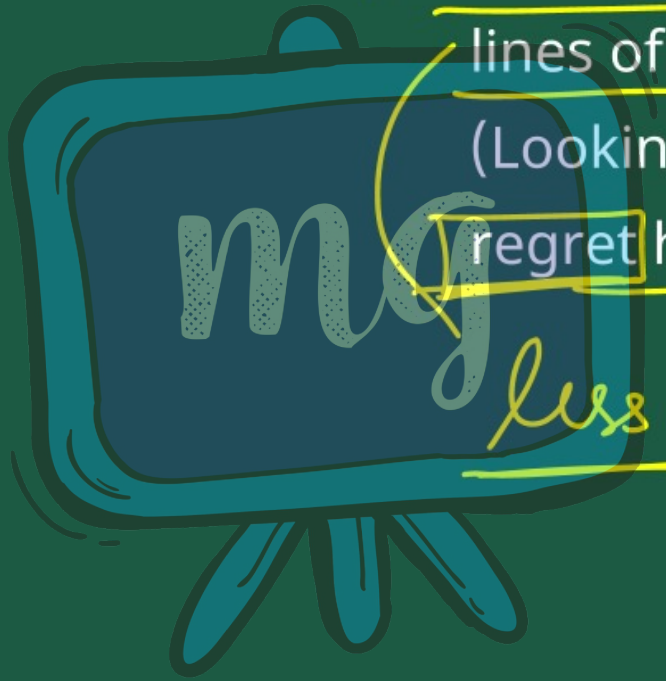
ii. In the last two lines of the poem?

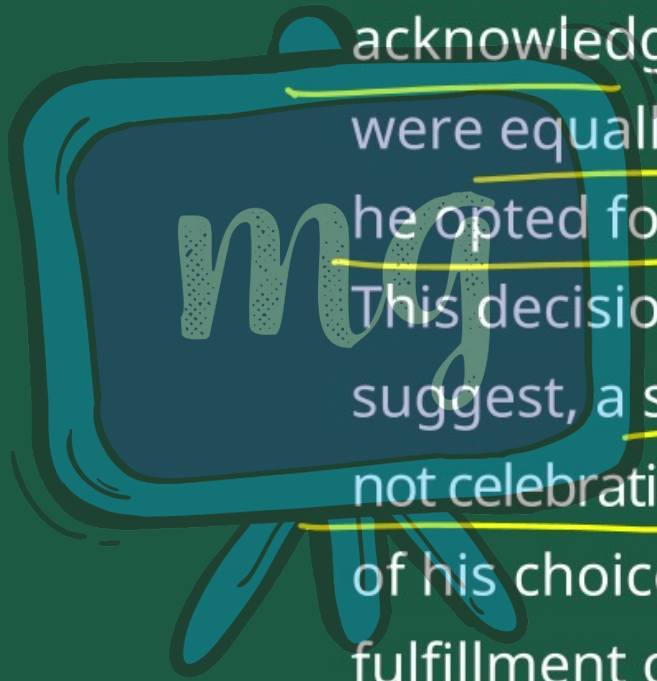
Answer :

i. There is no difference between the two roads in stanzas two and three.

ii. In the last two lines of the poem the poet indicates a difference between the two roads as he tells that he opted for the less travelled.

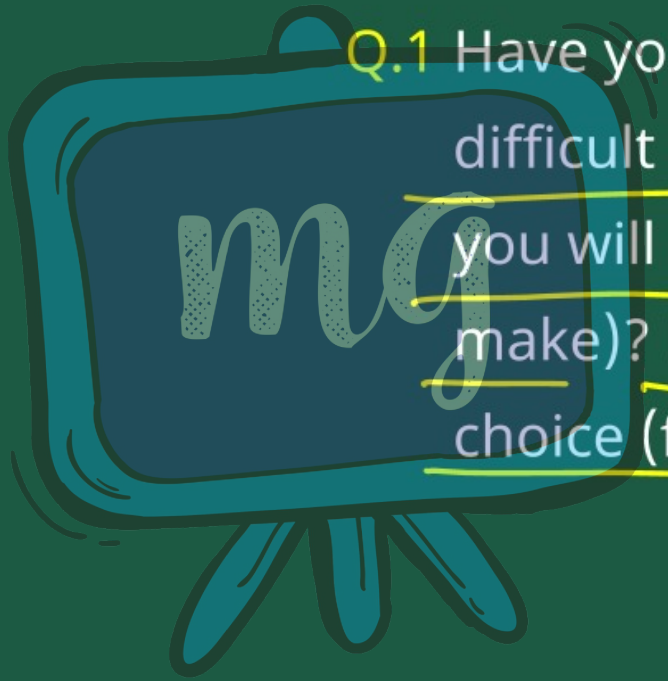
Q.4 What do you think the last two lines of the poem mean? (Looking back, does the poet regret his choice or accept it?)



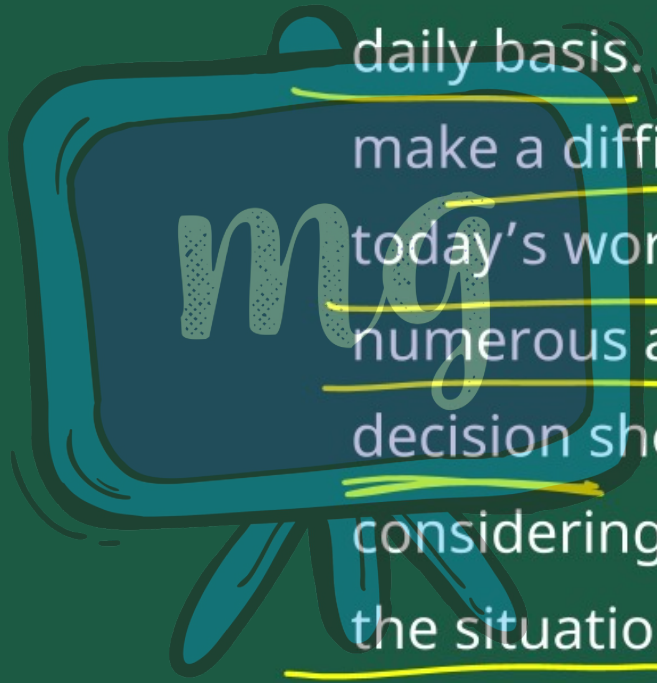


Answer : While the poet acknowledges that both paths were equally inviting and unknown, he opted for the less traveled one. This decision, as the final lines suggest, a sense of acceptance, if not celebration, of the consequences, of his choice, implying a sense of fulfillment or perhaps a profound realization about the nature of life.

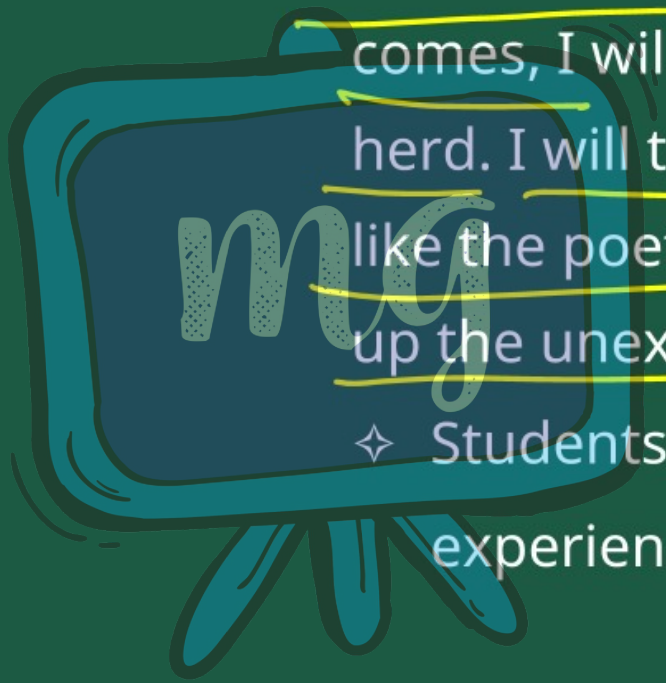
II



Q.1 Have you ever had to make a difficult choice (or do you think you will have difficult choices to make)? How will you make the choice (for what reasons)?



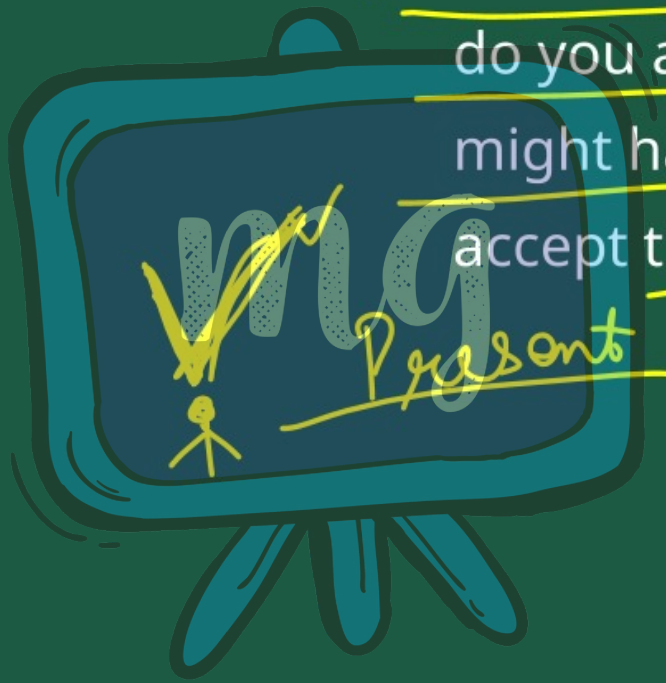
Answer : We all make choices on a daily basis. But I have not had to make a difficult choice till date. In today's world people have numerous alternatives. But the decision should be taken after considering all the ins and outs of the situation. We must ruminate over the disadvantages also.

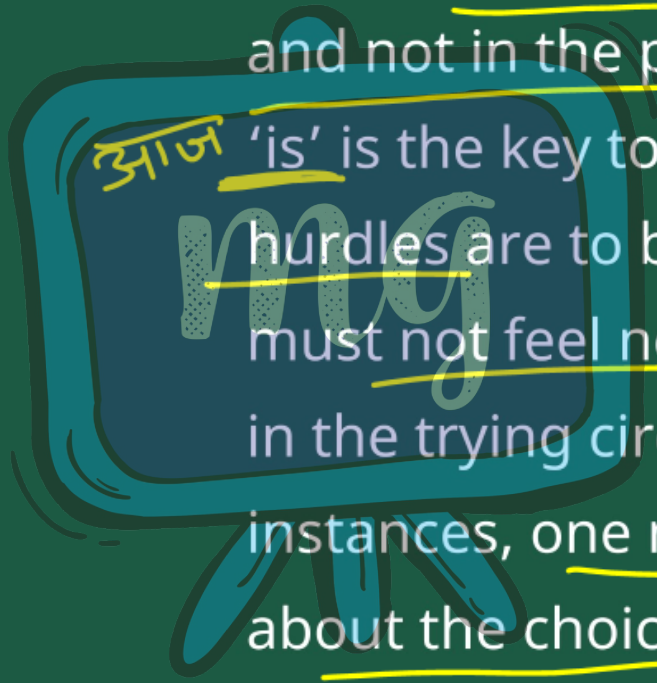


I think when such a situation comes, I will not just follow the herd. I will think it through and just like the poet, if required, I will take up the unexplored paths.

✧ Students can write their own experiences.

Q.2 After you have made a choice do you always think about what might have been, or do you accept the reality?





Answer : One should live in the present and not in the past. The philosophy of 'is' is the key to attaining success. Its hurdles are to be crossed bravely. One must not feel nervous and get dejected in the trying circumstances. On some instances, one needs to be confident about the choice he/she makes. Accepting reality is the best way to overcome any situation.