

SUPPLEMENTARY READER

STD-VIII

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER:2
PERIOD NUMBER : 1
CHAPTER NAME :STOPPING BY WOODS ON A
SNOWY EVENING
POET:ROBERT LEE FROST

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

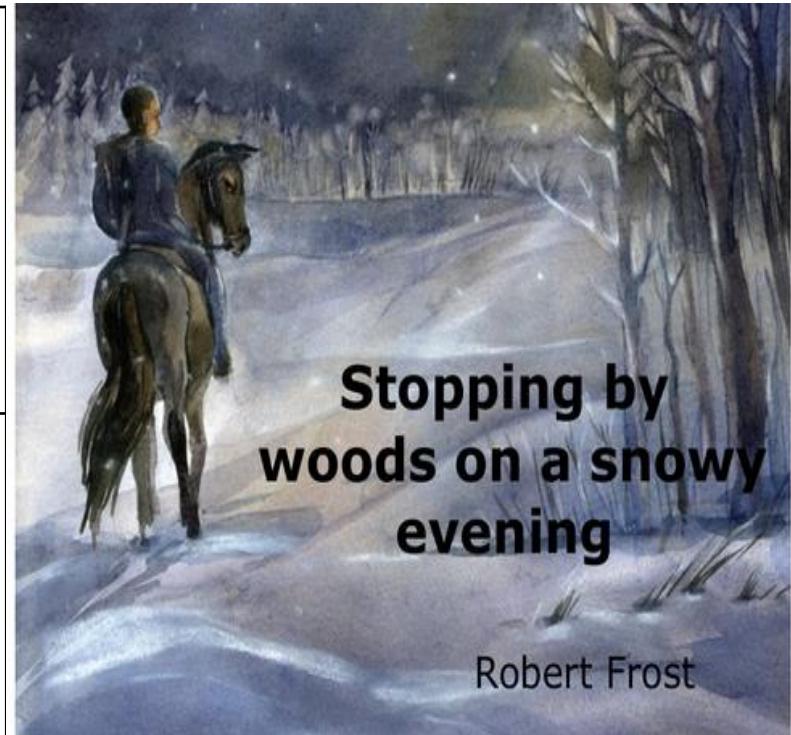
EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Recitation of the poem
- Being acquainted with poem and poet's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the poem
- Developing LSRW Skills

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ EXTENDED OBJECTIVES

- Recitation of the poem
- Being acquainted with poem and poet's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the poem
- Developing LSRW Skills



INTRODUCTION TO THE POET



Born: 26 March 1874, San Francisco, California, USA

Died: 29 January 1963, Boston, Massachusetts,

United States Nationality: American Genres:

Philosophical, symbolic poetry. Awards-Pulitzer prize

Robert Lee Frost (March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963) was an American poet. His work was initially published in England before it was published in the United States. Known for his realistic depictions of rural life and his command of American colloquial speech, Frost frequently wrote about settings from rural life in New England in the early 20th century, using them to examine complex social and philosophical themes.

Frost was honored frequently during his lifetime and is the only poet to receive four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry. He became one of America's rare "public literary figures, almost an artistic institution." He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960 for his poetic works. On July 22, 1961, Frost was named poet laureate of Vermont.

THEME OF THE POEM

The theme of Robert Frost's poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* is returning to home. The rider has been away from home travelling, and has finally started his return journey. He takes time to stop for a while, to rest I suppose, and enjoys the winter scenery as well. In the beginning and when Frost says, "The only other sound's the sweep/ of easy wind and downy flake" gives the feeling of serenity and calm when admiring the wintery scene. The poem also gives the reader a feeling of discomfort sometimes, for example when Robert Frost says "His house is in the village though/ He will not see me stopping here" that implies that the rider should not be there. Also, Frost mentions how dark it is outside multiple times, increasing the discomfort for the reader. And lastly, he decides he must get a move on in the end because he has "promises to keep" and "miles to go before I sleep".

Frost's last stanza and repetition of the last line emphasizes the theme of returning home. He must tear himself from the beautiful scenery and serenity and peace to return home where he is needed. He is so reluctant that he must remind himself that he has "promises to keep" and he repeats that he must travel a long distance to get there, so he needs to get going.

The theme of Robert Frost's poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* is returning to



CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM

- The main idea of the poem is that nature is vast and beautiful but man cannot leave his responsibilities and spend his life in looking at the natural beauty. The woods are beautiful but the poet can not stay there forever. The woods are beautiful but the poet can not stay there because he has to keep his promises. Thus life is short and nature is everlasting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lomZZYyf79A>

STANZA-1

- ***“Whose woods these.....fill up with snow.”***
- One evening, the poet is out on his horse for some important work and stops by some woods for some time on his way. He thinks he knows the owner of the woods and also knows that he lives in a village. He is enjoying his moment in solitude and is a bit relaxed thinking that the owner cannot see him immersed in the beauty of his snow-clad woods because his home is far away in the village. The unequaled beauty has captivated him and he has stopped there for some time to watch the snowfall in the forest.
- Rhyming scheme-
aaba
- Rhyming words-
know-though-snow
- Vocabulary-
woods-forest
- Poetic devices--Alliteration –
“whose woods’
“His house”
Assonance---see-me

STANZA-2

- ***“My little horseevening of the year.”***

The poet thinks that his little horse must be finding it strange as he has stopped so far from any civilization. There is no farmhouse close by and they are surrounded by the forest and a frozen lake, on the longest night of the year. These lines indicate that the poet is a humble person and they probably spend a lot of time together. Though the animal cannot speak but the poet can feel its emotions.

Rhyming words----

queer-near-year

Rhyming scheme—aaba

Vocabulary---

queer-strange/eccentric

Poetic Device- Personification-

Horse must think it queer

STANZA-3

- ***“He gives his harness.....wind and downy flake.”***

As the horse cannot talk but the poet can read his mind so, the horse shakes his head ringing the bell attached to his harness. The poet knows that the horse is shaking his bells in order to ask his master if there is any problem, as it is unusual for him to stop by the woods in the darkness. The only other sound that the speaker can hear beyond the harness bells' ringing is the sweeping noise coming from the slight wind and the softly falling snow.

- Rhyming words....

shake-mistake-flake

- Rhyming scheme---aaba

- Vocabulary—

sweep-moving

downy-soft

flake-snowflake

harness-set of leather bands used to control a horse

- Poetic devices—Alliteration-

his harness

STANZA-4

- “The woods are lovely.....go before I sleep.”

The poet describes the woods as lovely, dark and deep. He is enjoying the scenic beauty and wishes to stay longer at the place. However, he has other responsibilities as well so he cannot stay. Before they can sleep, they have to go miles so, he has to move on. But he will be reminded of this magnificent view of nature again and again.

- Rhyming words....
deep-keep-sleep-sleep
- Rhyming scheme---aaaa
- Poetic devices—Repetition –
“And miles to go before a sleep”
personification—
“woods are lovely”

SYMBOLS---

Robert Frost uses symbols in his poem. In *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, the woods are a symbol, and they are described as "lovely, dark and deep". The woods provide a place for shelter and serenity. It's peaceful, and the character is not anxious to leave, but he must pull himself away and go home and fulfill his promises. Another symbol is the snow. The snow implies the purity he feels when he is alone; it is just him. The blanket of white implies that he is not corrupted by society or the outside world, and he feels at peace when he is alone. This explains why he is reluctant to leave and return to the outside world, but he must leave his peace to return to reality.

IMAGERY USED IN THE POEM

There are five types of imagery; one based on each of the five senses. Robert Frost uses visual imagery when the rider describes the woods as he sees them, and auditory imagery when he describes the silence of the woods when he says "The only other sound's the sweep/ of easy wind and downy flake". Visual imagery adds to the mood by describing the woods as "lovely, dark and deep" and the auditory imagery adds to the poem by allowing the reader to understand the silence by the only other sound being the wind and the snowflakes falling. Imagine how quiet it would have to be to hear a snowflake fall. So quiet, and so peaceful, no contamination from the restlessness of the world. He uses these two techniques to tantalize our senses and emphasize the beauty and serenity the rider feels in the woods.

HOMEWORK----

Locate poetic devices, rhyming scheme, 1 page handwriting

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