

E-Content

American Literature

Semester: III

Lecture 11

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COURSE CONTENT UNIT-III

Course Code : XXXXX

Course Name: Data structures using C

Lecture 11: Robert Frost: 'The Road not Taken'

"The Road Not Taken" is a narrative poem by Robert Frost, published in 1916 as the first poem in the collection *Mountain Interval*.

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Its central theme is the divergence of paths, both literally and figuratively, although its interpretation is noted for being complex and potentially divergent.

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Frost spent the years 1912 to 1915 in England, where among his acquaintances was the writer Edward Thomas. Thomas and Frost became close friends and took many walks together.

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After Frost returned to New Hampshire in 1915, he sent Thomas an advance copy of "The Road Not Taken". Thomas took the poem seriously and personally, and it may have been significant in Thomas' decision to enlist in World War I. Thomas was killed two years later in the Battle of Arras.

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STRUCTURE

The poem consists of four stanzas of 5 lines each. With the rhyme scheme as 'ABAAB', the first line rhymes with the third and fourth, and the second line rhymes with the fifth.

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The meter is basically iambic tetrameter, with each line having four two-syllable feet, though in almost every line, in different positions, an iamb is replaced with an anapest.

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RHYTHM

"The Road Not Taken" reads naturally or conversationally, beginning as a kind of photographic depiction of a quiet moment in yellow woods.

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The variation of its rhythm gives naturalness, a feeling of thought occurring spontaneously, affecting the reader's sense of expectation.

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In the only line that contains strictly iambs, the more regular rhythm supports the idea of a turning towards an acceptance of a kind of reality: "Though as for that the passing there ... " In the final line, the way the rhyme and rhythm work together is significantly different, and catches the reader off guard.

School of Liberal Education

Course Code : ENG2012

Course Name: American Literature

COURSE CONTENT UNIT-III

Reference Page

http://mbelliveau.weebly.com/uploads/3/8/6/4/38642515/the_road_not_taken.pdf

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