

### 3.3 The Road Not Taken

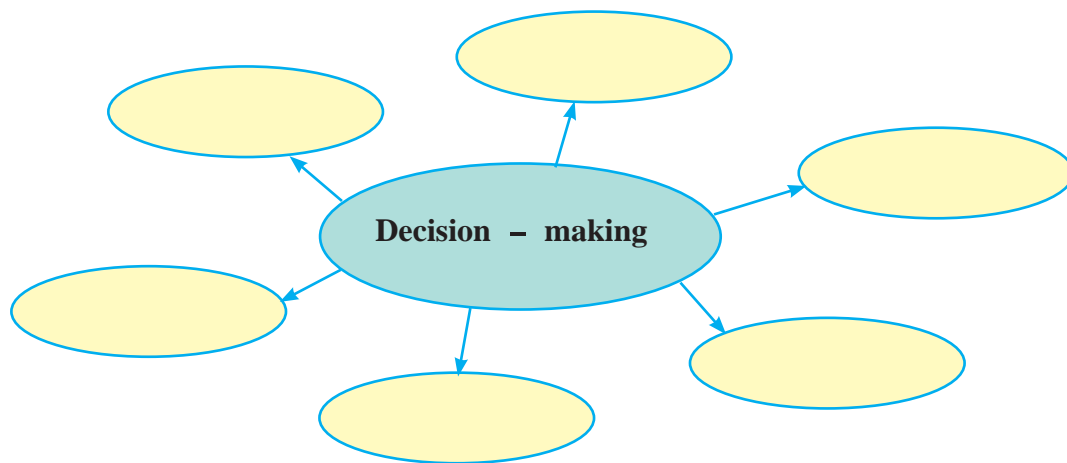
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■ ■ ■ Warming up! ■ ■ ■

1. After your SSC Exams/Result you may have to take a decision regarding the choice of a career. What factors will you consider?

Choose from the block below and complete the web-diagram.

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (1) Is the option easy/difficult ? | (6) Your skills/inborn talents        |
| (2) Your capability                | (7) Study the 'Job Profile' carefully |
| (3) Your likes/dislikes            | (8) Easy money                        |
| (4) Friends' decision              | (9) Possible difficulties             |
| (5) Parents' profession            | (10) Your ultimate aim                |



2. Form pairs or groups of four. Think of the situations when you have to choose between two things. Make a list of those situations. Some of them may be minor or trivial things – for example, what to wear when going out. Some choices may be related to important things, for example, having to decide between games and studies, whether to confront a close friend about something that he/she did, owning up to your mistakes, etc.

- (a) Discuss how to decide what to choose.
- (b) Write what you feel when your decision proves right.
- (c) Write what you feel when you regret the decision.

## The Road Not Taken

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, as 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



And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

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.

- Robert Frost

- ◆ Why does the poet feel sorry?
- ◆ Did the poet choose the road quickly?
- ◆ Was one of the roads better than the other?
- ◆ Does the poet tell us what difference it made?

- diverge : separate and go in different directions
- wanted wear : needed to be used

■■■ ENGLISH WORKSHOP ■■■■■■

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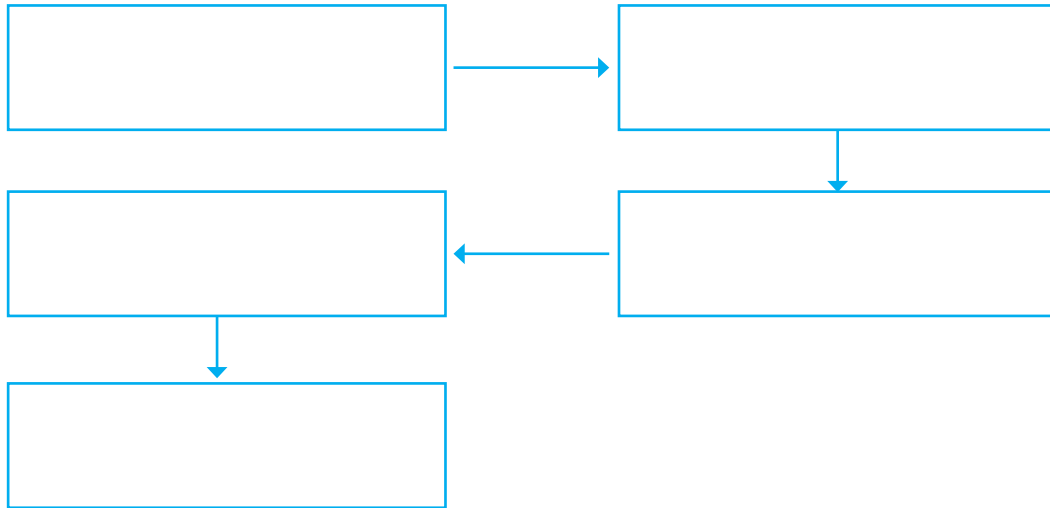
1. Read the poem again. Does it have a uniform rhyme scheme throughout?  
Write down the rhyme scheme of every stanza separately.

- 1<sup>st</sup> stanza .....
- 2<sup>nd</sup> stanza .....
- 3<sup>rd</sup> stanza .....
- 4<sup>th</sup> stanza .....

2. Write the symbols that are used in the poem to represent the following ideas.

- (a) Choice of two options .....
- (b) I made a rare choice .....
- (c) Equally good options .....
- (d) It was tempting and needed to be tried .....
- (e) Some other time .....

3. Rearrange the following facts in the proper order and fill in the flow chart.



- (a) He chooses the one barely travelled.
- (b) Choosing the lesser-used road has made a great difference.
- (c) He observed one, as far as he could.
- (d) The traveller came to a fork in the road.
- (e) He planned to travel along the previous one some other time.

4. Think and write in your own words.
  - (a) In which season does a greenwood turn to a yellow wood? Which stage in our life can be compared to that season?
  - (b) Why did the traveller choose the road less travelled? What attribute of the traveller does it bring out?
  - (c) Why does the traveller doubt that he shall ever come back?
  - (d) If you were in the traveller's place, which road would you choose? Justify your choice.
5. From any collection of classic poetry or the internet, find another famous poem by Robert Frost titled '*Stopping by the woods on a Snowy Evening*'. Try to understand the symbolism used in that poem in 8-10 lines.
6. Write a letter to your friend or cousin telling him/her about a difficult choice you have recently made, for example, pursuing one sport or hobby rather than the other or choosing between your studies and hobbies.

Tell your friend/cousin how his/her example helped you to take a decision.



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7. Collect quotations on the topic 'choice'. Example:

'Decisions are the hardest thing to make, especially when it is a choice between where you should be and where you want to be.'

Present the quotations in a beautiful hand on cardpaper.