

A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The metal spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the cover.

**Poetry Analysis Using
TPCASTT**

GETTING STARTED...

- This is a process to help you organize your analysis of poetry.
- We have already learned the poetic devices and terms, now it's time to put it into practice!
- Together, we are going to analyze “The Road Not Taken” using TPCASTT.

Create a sheet for analysis of “The Road Not Taken” like this:

Poetry Analysis—TP-CASTT.doc

T	TITLE	
P	PARAPHRASE	
C	CONNOTATION	
A	ATTITUDE	
S	SHIFTS	
T	TITLE	
T	THEME	

T is for TITLE

- Analyze the title first.
- What do you predict this poem will be about?
- Write down your predictions.
- We will reflect on the title again after we have read the poem.

**READ THE
POEM!!!!**



THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth; 5

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, 10

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. 15

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 traveled by,
And that has made all the difference. 20

P is for PARAPHRASE

- Paraphrasing is putting something in your own words.
- After reading the poem, rewrite it in your own words.
- Rephrase the poem using the same number of lines in the original poem, as much as your paraphrase will allow

P is for PARAPHRASE

Two roads separated in a yellow forest
And I felt disappointed that I could not
travel both
I stood for a while and thought . . .
I looked as far as I could see
To the point that I could no longer see past

Finally, I made a choice
Because it looked better than the others
Also because it was grassier and it seemed
not so many people had chosen this way
But, eventually they will be the same

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, 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,

P is for PARAPHRASE

They were the same in the morning
And seemed like nobody passed before me
I will keep the other road in mind for
another day
But because I didn't know where I was
going
I didn't think I would ever come back

And someday I will be telling the story with
regret
That there were two roads separated in the
forest, and I--
I took the one people didn't go on
And it made all the difference.

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 traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

C is for CONNOTATION

apostrophe
ASSONANCE
RHYME
alliteration
personification
diction
onomatopoeia
sine
implied metaphor
meter
HYPERBOLE
direct metaphor

- Usually refers to the emotional overtones of the word choice (diction) but also:
- Analyze the figures of speech and sound effects of the poem and how they may contribute to the meaning. (These are the poetry terms we reviewed)
- Identify the devices that will help you support the conclusions you will draw about the poem.

C is for CONNOTATION

- Poetic Devices used in this poem:
- **Metaphors:**
 - “Roads” refers to paths of life and
 - “Traveler” refers to a person who grows up experiencing life

C is for CONNOTATION

- **Symbolism:** “Yellow”

The **yellow** coloring of the woods is representative of the light, hope, and promise that the speaker is standing before. His future is bright and stretches before him. Though both paths are equally lit, he must choose only one.

C is for CONNOTATION

- **Symbolism (and Metaphor): “Woods”**

The poem is set in the woods because we get an image of a quiet, deserted place where the speaker is left alone to decide. There are no road signs or people to stop and ask for directions. Similarly, there are no signs in life designed to help people choose their path.

C is for CONNOTATION

- **Symbolism (and Metaphor): “Roads”**

The roads are symbolic of the paths we take in life. Every road leads to a specific place and the nature of one’s destination depends entirely on the decisions that are made. We don’t just arrive at a location; we make a series of choices that lead us there.

C is for CONNOTATION

- **Symbolism (and Metaphor):** “Morning”
The morning represents a new beginning and the endless possibilities the day ahead has to offer. Frost sets the poem in the morning to reveal that the speaker is in the early years of his life and his future is spread out before him.

C is for CONNOTATION

- **Rhyme Scheme:** a, b, a, a, b
 - At first, life's choice can feel bumpy at times (a, b) and not quite seamless but once the decision is made (a), it can more along more smoothly (a) until a new predicament comes along (b) to make you stop and choose again.
 - Life is a process, not a destination.

A is for ATTITUDE

- Examine diction, images and details to decide on the speaker's attitude.
- **Tone** is the attitude of the speaker toward the subject of the poem.
- Tone can change from beginning to end – if so, note the changes.



A is for ATTITUDE

- At beginning of the poem tone is reflective and nostalgic.
- Use of past tense verbs – flashback on his life.
- Pensive and patient as he considers choosing one path over another
- “with a sigh” (line 16) – unclear in meaning – sigh of relief or regret?

S is for SHIFT



- See if there is a change in...
 - Time
 - Tone
 - Speaker

This should always be noted as this will also affect the meaning.

Some poems use more than just one shift type but usually there is at least one.

S is for SHIFT

- **Shift in Tone:**

- “In leaves no step had trodden black.”(line 12)/Oh, I kept the first for another day!” (line 13)
 - Line 12 ends with dark imagery; tone shifts to optimism in line 13, which ends with an exclamation point. This heightens the mood and quickens the pace of the poem.
- “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I --/I took the one less traveled by . . . “ (line 18-19)
 - Double hyphen and repetition of “I” emphasizes that his decision was his own and he prides himself on this choice.

S is for SHIFT

- **Shift in Time:**

- Line 15 to 16

- Poem is written in the past but then jumps forward to the future emphasizing the satisfaction the speaker has towards his/her decision

T is for TITLE (again)

- At this time, you should reconsider the title again.
- Were you right in your predictions?
- What other meanings might the title have in light of your analysis?

T is for TITLE (again)

- Initially leads the reader to think that the speaker is going to reflect on a path he should have chosen and may feel regretful
- But, ultimately he seems satisfied with his choice.

T is for **THEME**

- As you already know, theme is the general insight into life conveyed by the author through his/her work.
- It merely states something that is true to life and the human condition.

How do I find the **THEME?**



- Look at the other parts of TPCASTT.
- What insight are all of these working together to convey?
- What is the poet trying to say about life?

T is for THEMIE

- Celebrates the choices we have in life
- Consider choices before we make major decisions, because often, there is no turning back
- Encourages us to make the decision for ourselves, rather than others
- Best choice may often lie in the one less chosen by others