Standards Focus: Theme and Extended Metaphor

1. What is the speaker in the poem doing?

2. Infer the season. How do you know?

3. What decision must the speaker make? Describe the conflict the speaker feels.

4. Explain why the reader doubts he’ll ever come back to travel the first road.

5. What items of the poem might be symbolic of something else?

6. Propose a reason for the ―sigh” the speaker has at the end of the poem. What are some of the reasons he may be sighing? Explain your answer.

7. Look back at the first stanza and the last stanza. What line does the speaker repeat? Infer why you think the speaker repeats that line.

8. Analyze the last line of the poem. What do you think the speaker means by the last line?

9. When a poet uses a metaphor throughout an entire poem, it’s called an extended metaphor. What is the metaphor in the poem?

10. What is the meaning of the title?

**The Road Not Taken by 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;

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 yellow wood, and I –

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.