

## GRADE 8 English Language Arts Reading and Responding: Lesson 27

Read aloud to the students the material that is printed in **boldface type** inside the boxes. Information in regular type inside the boxes and all information outside the boxes should **not** be read to students. Possible student responses are included in parentheses after the questions.

Any directions that ask you to do something, such as to turn to a page or hand out materials to students, will have an arrow symbol ( $\rightleftarrows$ ) by them.

*Optional:* At some point during the lesson, you may read the passage aloud so students can hear fluent, expressive reading and the correct pronunciation of unfamiliar words. You may read the passage aloud at any point during the lesson as you feel appropriate. The decision to read the passage aloud should depend on student needs, the degree of text difficulty, and the particular lesson.

*Purpose of Lesson 27:*

In this lesson, the tutor and students will

- read a poem, and
- practice answering multiple choice and short answer questions.

*Equipment/Materials Needed:*

- Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 27-1
- Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 27-2
- pencils

Introduction:

**Today you will apply reading, thinking, and test-taking strategies by reading another poem and answering a few questions about it.**

⇒ Distribute Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 27-1.

**Before reading the poem to yourself, let's read it aloud. Would someone like to read this poem aloud?**

Read the poem aloud if a student doesn't volunteer to read.

**What is this poem about? Pause. (decisions)**

⇒ Distribute Student Worksheet: Reading and Responding Lesson 27-2.

**After you have answered a few questions about this poem, we will discuss the answers together and talk more about the poem.**

**After students have finished reading the poem and completed the worksheet, go over the answers together.**

**After discussing the answers, ask students to share their experiences with making important decisions.**

Answers to Worksheet (Key words in the question and correct answers are highlighted.)

1. Which statement best describes the author of *The Road Not Taken*?
  - A. He makes decisions quickly without much thought.
  - B. He takes the time to think carefully before making a decision.**
  - C. He makes decisions based on what others choose.
  - D. He doesn't think a particular decision has much effect on one's life.
2. What phrase in the poem tell us that the author would prefer not having to make a decision between two choices because he wanted to experience both of them?
  - A. *And sorry I could not travel both, And be one traveler;***
  - B. *And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.*
  - C. *Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,*
  - D. *Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.*
3. What does *grassy and wanted wear*, (8<sup>th</sup> line) mean?
  - A. Many people had walked the grassy path.
  - B. The grass needed cutting.
  - C. The grass was too high for anyone to walk through it.
  - D. Not many people had walked this path.**
4. Explain the dilemma the author faces in the first stanza.  
*He doesn't know which path to take. He would like to take them both, but knows he must decide on one. He doesn't know where either path will take him; therefore, it is difficult for him to decide on one.*  
*(Accept students' answers that make sense and are explained. Require students to back up their answers with specific parts of the poem.)*

(Answers to Worksheet continued)

5. What **three lines** in *The Road Not Taken* tell the **main idea** of the poem.

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

**Explain** what these **three lines** mean.

*Two roads diverged means two paths or roads went different ways. The author took the one less traveled by: he took a road or path that few people had traveled on before. If the roads represent life journeys, or life experiences, this line means the author made decisions that most people don't make. Making these decisions made a big difference in his life, as shown by the last line, And that has made all the difference.*

## **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;

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 traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

