

WildChina: Taking the Road Less Traveled Case Solution

and Its Rhetorical Devices

Which Road Will You Take?

Everyone has made tough decisions at some point. Road A or Road B? But *what if* the other road was taken?

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SOAPSTone Analysis

Occasion - Inspired by a walk in the woods with his friend Edward Thomas. Thomas suffered from indecision and would frequently regret making decisions.

Audience - Probably American, general audience
- Indecisive people
- Fans of Frost
- Age Group: 14+



Appeal to Logos

Structure
- Has correct grammar, unique and interesting structure and way of speaking
- Rhyming Scheme is ABAAB
"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."

Reliability
- Topic is familiar, a fork in the road and indecision



Is It Rhetorically Effective?

Yes, in a way

- Frost gives the theme of the poem, but in an indirect way. Many readers misinterpret the theme.
The last stanza is misleading unless the reader picks up on Frost's irony.
"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less-traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."

SOAPSTone Analysis

Speaker - Robert Frost

- Interest of poetry at young age
- Has a New England bias
- Also uses nature for analogies
- Very famous for his work, well-known, i.e. JFK (Inauguration and library)

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Other Rhetorical Devices

Repetition/Anaphorism

"And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could,
"Two roads, diverged..."



Imagery

"yellow wood"
"In leaves no step had trodden black"
"it was grassy and wanted wear"

SOAPSTone Analysis

Purpose - To persuade the reader that when indecision is present and both paths look equal, pick one and stick with it.

Subject - Difficult choices, indecision

Tone - Gloomy - "I shall be telling this with a sigh"

Happetil - "Oh, keep the first for another day!"

Disappointed - "I doubted if I should ever come back."

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Poem by Robert Frost
Presentation by Ben Shertzer



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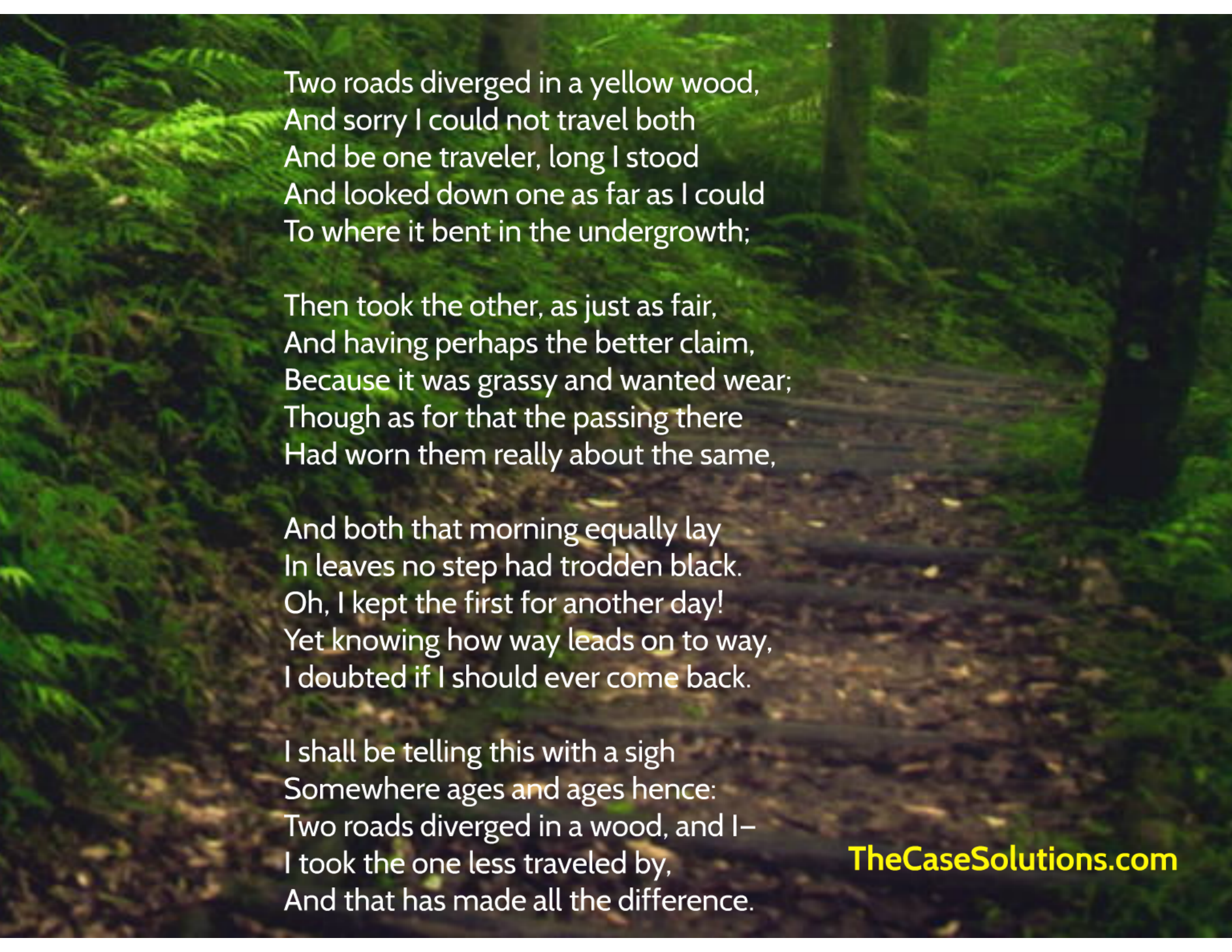
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Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

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.

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Tone - **Gloomy** - *"I shall be telling this with a sigh"*

Hopeful - *"Oh, I kept the first for another day!"*

Disappointed - *"I doubted if I should ever come back."*

Appeal to Ethos

Creditibility

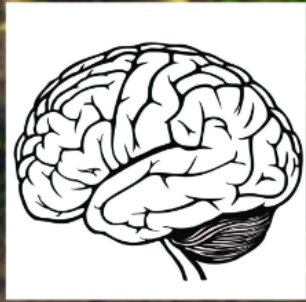
- Frost's credibility is pre-established
 - Frost has a likable, relatable persona
- "Oh, I kept the first for another day!"*

Ethos

(or why should I listen to you?)



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Relatability

- Topic is familiar, a fork in the road and indecision