

Song of the Open Road/The Road Not Taken (page 288)**Active Reading SkillBuilder****Paraphrasing**

Paraphrasing is simply putting things in one's own words. It is often useful in helping a reader to better understand a poem. Paraphrasing often uses simpler forms or words, but it is not necessarily shorter, since it is not a summary but a reshaping of information. To be able to paraphrase, a reader must find the main idea, notice important details, and think of a simpler or more familiar way of saying what the writer has written. While reading "Song of the Open Road" and "The Road Not Taken," use the chart to write down the main idea of each poem in your own words. Then write a paraphrase of each poem.

"Song of the Open Road"**Main Idea:****Paraphrase:****"The Road Not Taken"****Main Idea:****Paraphrase:**

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Literary Analysis SkillBuilder

Rhyme Scheme/Free Verse

Most rhyming poems have a distinctive **rhyme scheme**. A rhyme scheme is charted by using a letter of the alphabet to represent the sound at the end of each line. Lines that rhyme are given the same letter. Whenever a new sound is introduced at the end of a line, it gets a new letter. Read "The Road Not Taken" aloud, and chart the poem's rhyme scheme below.

Stanza 1	Stanza 2	Stanza 3	Stanza 4
1. a	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.	5.

Poetry with no regular pattern of rhyme or rhythm is called **free verse**. Free verse often uses other sound devices, such as repetition, that help hold the poem together. Reread "Song of the Open Road," and write down words or phrases that are repeated. Then describe the effects of the repetition.

Words and Phrases That Repeat	Effects of Repetition

Follow Up: Explain how the form of each poem fits the spirit or thought of the poem.

- _____ 4. In "The Road Not Taken," the fact that both roads "equally lay / In leaves no step had trodden black" suggests that no matter which road he chooses, the speaker must
- follow where others have gone.
 - make his own way.
 - step lightly.
 - take his time.

C. Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of the selection. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

- The speaker in "The Road Not Taken" says he will someday tell about the two roads "with a sigh." Why? Was he unhappy with the choice he made? Explain.
- Both poems are told in first person, but they are told from very different perspectives. What are these two perspectives, and how do they affect the tone of each poem?

D. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

As you think about your own future, do you like the idea of taking a road "less traveled by," or do you think you would prefer to take a well-traveled road? Explain.