

Lyrics to Frostiana by Robert Frost, Music by Randall Thompson

1. The Road Not Taken

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

2. The Pasture

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
(And wait to watch the water clear, I may):
I sha'n't be gone long
You come too

I'm going out to fetch the little calf
That's standing by the mother
It's so young
It totters when she licks it with her tongue
I sha'n't be gone long
You come too

3. Come In

As I came to the edge of the woods
Thrush music -- hark!
Now if it was dusk outside
Inside it was dark

Too dark in the woods for a bird
By sleight of wing
To better its perch for the night
Though it still could sing

The last of the light of the sun
That had died in the west
Still lived for one song more
In a thrush's breast

Far in the pillared dark
Thrush music went --
Almost like a call to come in
To the dark and lament

But no, I was out for stars;
I would not come in
I meant not even if asked;
And I hadn't been

4. The Telephone

"When I was just as far as I could walk
From here to-day
There was an hour
All still
When leaning with my head against a flower
I heard you talk
Don't say I didn't, for I heard you say -
You spoke from that flower on the window sill -
Do you remember what it was you said?"

"First tell me what it was you thought you heard."
"Having found the flower and driven a bee away
I leaned my head
And holding by the stalk
I listened and I thought I caught the word -

What was it? Did you call me by my name?
Or did you say -
Someone said 'Come' - I heard it as I bowed."

"I may have thought as much, but not aloud."

"Well, so I came."

5. A Girl's Garden

A neighbor of mine in the village
Likes to tell how one spring
When she was a girl on the farm, she did
A childlike thing

One day she asked her father
To give her a garden plot
To plant and tend and reap herself
And he said, "Why not?"

In casting about for a corner
He thought of an idle bit
Of walled-off ground where a shop had stood
And he said, "Just it."

And he said, "That ought to make you
An ideal one-girl farm
And give you a chance to put some strength
On your slim-jim arm."

It was not enough of a garden
Her father said, to plough;
So she had to work it all by hand
But she don't mind now

She wheeled the dung in the wheelbarrow
Along a stretch of road;
But she always ran away and left
Her not-nice load

And hid from anyone passing
And then she begged the seed
She says she thinks she planted one
Of all things but weed

A hill each of potatoes
Radishes, lettuce, peas

Tomatoes, beets, beans, pumpkins, corn
And even fruit trees

And yes, she has long mistrusted
That a cider apple tree
In bearing there to-day is hers
Or at least may be

Her crop was a miscellany
When all was said and done
A little bit of everything
A great deal of none

Now when she sees in the village
How village things go
Just when it seems to come in right
She says, "I know!

It's as when I was a farmer--"
Oh, never by way of advice!
And she never sins by telling the tale
To the same person twice

6. Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farm-house near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake
The only other sounds the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake

The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep

7. Choose Something Like a Star

O Star (the fairest one in sight)
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud
It will not do to say of night
Since dark is what brings out your light
Some mystery becomes the proud
But to be wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat
Say something! And it says "I burn."
But say with what degree of heat
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade
Use language we can comprehend
Tell us what elements you blend
It gives us strangely little aid
But does tell something in the end
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite
Not even stooping from its sphere
It asks a little of us here
It asks of us a certain height
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid