

## Unit-8

STOPPING BY WOODS ON

A SNOWY EVENING

جنگل میں قیام ایک برفباری کی شام

Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)

## Words Meaning (Translation)

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.

یہ جنگل کس کا ہے میرا خیال ہے میں جانتا ہوں

اگرچہ اس کا گھر گاؤں میں ہے

وہ مجھے یہاں رکتا ہوا نہیں دیکھے گا۔

نہ ہی اپنا برف سے بھرا جنگل دیکھنے آنے کا

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

یہ میرے چھوٹے سے گھوڑے کو عجیب لگتا ہے

وہاں رکنا جہاں فام ہاؤس نہ ہو

جنگل اور منجمد تھی جھیل کے درمیان

سال کی تاریخ ترین شام کو

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

وہ اپنی بندھی ہوئی گھنٹیوں کو دور سے ہلاتا ہے

یہ پوچھنے کے لئے آیا اس نے کوئی غلطی کی ہے

اور آنے والی مزید آوازیں تو بس

ہلکی ہوا کے چلنے اور برف کے نرم گالوں کی ہیں

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.

جنگل دلکش اور گھنا ہے

لیکن مجھے وعدے نبھانے ہیں

اور سونے سے پہلے مجھے میلوں مسافت طے کرنی ہے

اور سونے سے پہلے مجھے میلوں مسافت طے کرنی ہے

## Unit Related Question Answers

1. What hidden meanings the following words convey to us?

woods, house, horse, harness bell, downy flake

Ans.

Words	Synonyms	Meanings
Woods	Forest	جنگل
House	Home	گھر
Harness Bell	tie together	گھوڑے کا ساز
Downy flake	silky shaving	تازہ گرتی ہوئی برف
Horse	mount	گھوڑا

2. Note the alliteration and imagery in the poem.

**Ans.** Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though, my little horse must think it queer, To stop without a farmhouse near, He gives his harness bells a shake, To ask if there is some mistake. The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but have promises to keep.

### **For the Teacher**

- Help students read the poem aloud with proper stress and intonation, then read it silently to infer the theme of the poem.

## **Notes and Comments**

Robert Frost was famous American poet. He was born in San Francisco on March 26, 1874. He was an internationally acclaimed poet who won the famous Pulitzer Prize for four times. His poetry focused on themes of nature in which he embedded the contemporary and philosophical issues of his times. He died in Boston on January 29, 1963.

### **Other poems by Robert Frost:**

Birches, After Apple Picking, Mending Wall, Desert Places, Home Burial, The Road not Taken

## **Theme**

The poem points out at the attractive and exciting beauty of nature and simultaneously hints at the need to carry on with the daily affairs of life. The world of fantasy is very inviting. But one must maintain balance between the world of reality and imagination.

## **Glossary**

Woods	-----	forest
Queer	-----	strange
Harness	-----	control
Downy	-----	soft, feathery
Flake	-----	very small loose mass of snow

## Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

**1. Who is the speaker in the poem?**

**Ans.** The horse rider is the speaker in the poem.

**2. Whom does the speaker refer to in the first stanza of the poem?**

**Ans.** The speaker refers to the owner of the woods.

**3. Why does the speaker stop on 'the darkest evening of the year'?**

**Ans.** The speaker stops there to enjoy the beauty of nature and the darkest evening because the woods are lovely dark and deep.

**4. Why does the horse impatiently await the next move of his master?**

**Ans.** The horse thinks there is no farmhouse nearby he will be unable to get any food.

**5. The speaker in the poem is captivated by the beauty of nature. Why doesn't he stop for long to enjoy nature's beauty?**

**Ans.** He is captivated by the beauty of dark, deep and lovely woods but he has promises to keep.

**B. Some statements are directly supported by the poem, some are inferences based on evidences from the text while some are not supported by any evidence. Put a tick in the right column.**

Statements	Directly supported by the poem	Inference based on some evidence from the poem	Statement not supported by any evidence
It is a cold and dark winter.	✓		
The speaker knows the owner of the wood.	✓		
The speaker feels guilty about stopping in the woods.			✓
The speaker thinks about commitments restarts his journey.		✓	
The speaker is tired and wants to rest.		✓	
The horse feels strange to stop unexpectedly.	✓		
The speaker appreciates the beauty of nature.	✓		

**C. Underline the words and phrases that depict clear imagery in the poem.**

**(i) Watch his woods**



**But I have promises to keep.  
And miles to go before I sleep.  
And miles to go before I sleep.**

**Ans.** The poet expresses that the snowy woods are lovely, beautiful and dark but the poet has many things to do, promises to fulfill and places to go. He has to travel along distance before he reaches his destination. He can rest his heads on little pillow, so he had better get going.

**A. Here are some words opposite in meaning. Match the columns.**

Column A	Column B
village	City
stopping	Moving
snow	Water
frozen	Melt
darkest	Brightest
sound	Silence
downy	Hard
deep	shallow

**B. Circle the correct option.**

- i. The poem is suggestive of profound thoughts about**
- a scene of woods in winter
  - reality of life and death
  - a song of enjoyment.

- ii. **The poem presents a conflict between**
- a. poet and his friend
  - b. obligations of life and desire to escape from them
  - c. poet and forces of nature
- iii. **After reading the poem we**
- a. feel fed up of life
  - b. wish to sleep for a long time
  - c. get ready to face the challenges of life
- iv. **The poem conveys to us only**
- a. a surface meaning
  - b. profound thought
  - c. no meaning at all
- v. **Dark woods symbolize**
- a. darkness spread around the poet
  - b. death and departure to another world
  - c. darkness in the mind of poet

**Answers:**

i. <b>b</b>	ii. <b>b</b>	iii. <b>c</b>	iv. <b>b</b>	v. <b>b</b>
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**Grammar****1. Adjective Phrase:**

An Adjective Phrase is a group of words that does the work of an Adjective.

**Examples:**

- a. I like to see a smiling face. (adjective)
- b. I like to see a face with a smile on it. (adjective phrase)

**2. Adverb phrase:**

An Adverb Phrase is a group of words that does the work of an Adverb.

**Examples:**

- a. Ali ran quickly. (adverb)  
b. Ali ran with great speed. (adverb phrase)

**A. Replace each of the following underlined Adjective Phrases by an Adjective.**

1. He wore a turban made of silk.

**Ans.** He wore a silk turban.

2. He is a man without a friend.

**Ans.** He is a man with no friend.

3. Nobody likes a person with bad temper.

**Ans.** Nobody likes a bad-tempered person.

4. It is of no use.

**Ans.** I had no use.

5. He is a man of sense.

**Ans.** He has a lot of sense for a person.

**B. Replace each of the following underlined Adverbs by an Adverb Phrase.**

1. The pigeon flies swiftly.
2. He built his house there.
3. He tried hard.
4. He spoke eloquently.

5. Did Sara behave well?

**Ans.**

1. The pigeon flies at fast speed.
2. He built his house at that place.
3. He tried with a great deal.
4. He spoke in full flow.
5. Did Sara behave in a good way?

**C. Make three sentences using adjective phrases and three sentences using adverb phrases.**

**Ans.**

1. She wore a dress made of cotton.
2. He is a man of words.
3. Nobody likes a person with a bad moral.
4. This train runs with fast speed.
5. We shall build a house at this place.
6. He lived life in a comfortable manner.

## Writing Skills

**A. Summarize the poem "Stopping by the Woods on A Snowy Evening".**

**About Poet:**

Robert Frost was famous American poet. He was born in San Francisco on March 26, 1874. He was an internationally acclaimed poet who won the famous Pulitzer Prize for four times. His poetry focused on themes of nature in which he embedded the contemporary and philosophical issues of his times. He died in Boston on January 29, 1963.

**Other poems by Robert Frost:**

Briches, After Apple Picking, Mending Wall, Desert Places, Home Burial, The Road not Taken.

**Summary**

The poem points out at the attractive and exciting beauty of nature and simultaneously hints at the need to carry on with the daily affairs of life. The world of fantasy is very inviting. But one must maintain balance between the world of reality and imagination. It is a very beautiful and symbolic poem written by 'Robert Frost'. It is regarded as his masterpiece and the most famous poem.

The poet stops in dark snowy wood evening. The owner of woods is in his house and does not know that a traveler has stopped in his woods to enjoy beauty of nature. When the poet's little horse finds no farmhouse nearby, it gives a jerk and bells of its harness sound. In this way it expresses its surprise for staying there. The light wind and soft flakes of snow also make sound.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep but he has many things to do and his obligations pull him away from the allure of nature. Therefore, he starts his journey again to travel a long distance before he goes to sleep. In this poem 'sleep' stands for 'death'. The poet means to say that we should enjoy beauty of nature. We should remember that we are traveler in this world. We should keep in mind our main aim of life and continue our struggle to get this aim till our death.

**B. Write an essay contrasting living in the city with living in the country.**

**(170-200 words.)**

Life in the city is challenging. Yes, there are activities galore. Shopping is convenient and the presence of public transportation reduces the demand for private transportation and the accompanying expenses. City life provides all the

advantages of modern society including the distractions available in the arts, theater, and other forms of entertainment. But city life carries a heavy price. Housing and food are expensive. Services, such as transportation, are expensive and almost mandatory. Worst of all, the most expensive component of life in the city is the toll it takes on your body through stress.

Stress is present with every waking moment in the city. The crowds, traffic, tight work schedules never let up. The air is not healthy. The poisons of thousands of vehicles overwhelm what little green life remains to clean the air. Crime is high in most cities. The odds of becoming a victim are high even for simple trips to the local grocery or ATM. Brain and body are continuously bombarded by environmental pollutant that diminish the human spirit. Opportunities to relax are few and short. Stress builds. Quality of life declines.

The city dweller looks forward to a day out of the city. Historically, movement patterns have been from the city to the suburbs and later to the country. Escape becomes the order of the day. Each move to the outer boundaries of the urban environment makes life a little more peaceful. The move to the country is the greatest move of all.

Peaceful is the most succinct description of the country. The night is quiet. Soft insect noises and the plaintive call of an owl rule the stillness. No heavy traffic, no sirens, no rush of the "madding crowd." Life is simple and calming. Food is grown locally, instead of remotely. Everyone knows your name, and has been to your grandparents' house. The country offers advantages to the harried city dweller that can reduce stress, induce health, and present familiarity.

**C. Paraphrase the following stanzas in to simple English with reference.**

**Ans. About Poet:**

Robert Frost was famous American poet. He was born in San Francisco on March 26, 1874. He was an internationally acclaimed poet who won the famous Pulitzer Prize for four times. His poetry focused on themes of nature in which he embedded

the contemporary and philosophical issues of his times. He died in Boston on January 29, 1963.

**Other poems by Robert Frost:**

**Briches, After Apple Picking, Mending Wall, Desert Places. Home Burial, The Road not Taken.**

**Reference:**

These stanzas have been taken from the poem "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening". This poem has been written by Robert Frost.

**Stanza 1.**

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.

**Paraphrasing:**

The poet has stooped near the snowy woods. He first wonders who owns these Woods. In the same breath, he tells that he thinks he does know who owns them. The owner of the woods lives in the house in the village. He would not come to watch his woods. So, he would not get into trouble for trespassing on his land.

**Stanza 2.**

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

**Paraphrasing:**

The poet is not alone. He has a horse, and his horse is little. He and his little horse spend a lot of time together. The poet's horse finds it strange to stop at a place where there is no farmhouse nearby. It is the darkest evening of the year. White snow, dark evening and frozen lake present a beautiful scene. The poet and his horse are feeling cold in the between the wood and the frozen lake. The poet wants to enjoy the beauty of the nature. Therefore, he stops there.

**Stanza 3.**

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

**Paraphrasing:**

The horse gives a jerk and the bell of its harness shakes impatiently. The horse could stand in the cool wind any more. The poet can read the feeling of his little fellow. There is also the sound of wind and soft flakes of snow. By the sound of bell the horse wants to remind the poet about the aims of his life, and a signal that they should continue the journey to reach their destination.

**Stanza 4.**

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.

**Paraphrasing:**

The poet expresses that the snowy woods are lovely, beautiful and dark but the poet has many things to do, promises to fulfill and places to go. He has to travel

along distance before he reaches his destination. He can rest his heads on little pillow, so he had better get going.

## Oral Communications Skills

### Expressions to refuse politely

No please.

I am really sorry.

I am sorry but this is not possible.

I regret to inform you that...

I am afraid I can't do it.

I apologize for not accepting the offer.

Sorry I'm unable to do it right now.

**A. Work in pairs. Read the situations below and respond using expressions of polite refusal.**

No.	Situation
1	Your friend asks for your book.
2	Your cousin requests to use your computer.
3	Your friend wants to take you to a party.
4	You request your teacher to extend the date of the exam.

**Ans.**

No.	Situation
1	I am afraid I can't let you.
2	I am sorry but this is not possible.
3	I apologize for not accepting the offer.
4	Sorry I'm unable to do it right now.

**B. Form groups and discuss a situation where you faced difficulty. How did you tackle the situation?**

