



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
EDUCATION

**DIRECTORATE SENIOR CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT (SEN-FET)**

**HOME SCHOOLING SELF-STUDY WORKSHEET**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	English HL	<b>GRADE</b>	10	<b>DATE</b>	May 2020
<b>TOPIC</b>	Poetry: Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening	<b>TERM 1 REVISION</b>	(Please tick)	<b>TERM 2 CONTENT</b>	(Please tick) √
<b>TIME ALLOCATION</b>	90 Minutes	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TIPS TO KEEP HEALTHY</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>WASH YOUR HANDS</b> thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Alternatively, use hand sanitizer with an alcohol content of at least 60%.</li><li>2. <b>PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING</b> – keep a distance of 1m away from other people.</li><li>3. <b>PRACTISE GOOD RESPIRATORY HYGIENE:</b> cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue and dispose of the tissue immediately after use.</li><li>4. <b>TRY NOT TO TOUCH YOUR FACE.</b> The virus can be transferred from your hands to your nose, mouth and eyes. It can then enter your body and make you sick.</li><li>5. <b>STAY AT HOME.</b></li></ol>			
<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the poem entitled 'Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening' from your anthology.</li><li>• Read the background and notes on the poem.</li><li>• Answer the questions set on the poem.</li><li>• A memorandum has been attached for you to mark yourself.</li></ul>				

## NOTES ON CONTENT

### ANALYSIS:

Look at the title of the poem first and at the drawings. What do you think the poem is about?

*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, written by Robert Frost, is a beautiful and gentle poem which captures the conflict between man and nature, and highlights the difference between wishes and duties.

In stanza one, the speaker who is travelling on horseback stops by the woods to enjoy the beauty of nature. He thinks he knows the owner of the woods, and he knows that he won't be seen by him because he is far away from the woods, in the village. There is an element of doubt because he says, "I think I know".

In stanza two, even his horse finds it very strange that he stops between the woods and the frozen lake, far away from the farmhouses where there are people, and where the horse can graze and drink water. It is not only snowing, it is in the evening and it is very dark.

In stanza three, the horse is curious, he shakes the bells that hang on the leather strap (that is tied around his head and neck) that controls him. The horse feels that the traveller has made a mistake by stopping in the middle of nowhere, where there are no people. Besides the sound of the harness bells, the only sound is that of a very gentle wind and the snowflakes as they fall softly on the ground.

In stanza four, the traveller would love to stay longer and enjoy the mesmerizing beauty of nature, but he remembers that he has a lot of work to do and a long journey ahead of him. Therefore, he starts his journey all over again and gallops away. Remember that he stopped in the middle of his journey by the woods, so he had to start his journey all over again.

The traveller is a busy man who has a lot of duties/obligations/has made a lot of promises to people in the village. Those people are waiting for him to deliver on his promises. Although he would love to stay longer to watch the woods fill up with snow his duties to the people and the long distance he has to travel forces him to leave the woods. Therefore, he puts his wishes aside and starts his journey again.

The traveller is in the woods because he wants to forget about his work, his personal affairs/problems for a while. He wants to get away from his busy life: the air pollution and noise pollution, and enjoy the silence, innocence, calmness and comfort of the woods.

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The title of the poem gives you a clue of what the poem is about, a traveller stopping by a private property to appreciate the beauty of the woods on a snowy evening.

- **STRUCTURE:** the poem is made up of **FOUR STANZAS** which consists of **FOUR LINES**. The poem has an **ALTERNATING RHYME SCHEME**, which is [aa ba bb cb cc dc dd dd] These are the **WORDS** that create this alternating rhyme scheme [know, though, here, snow, queer, near, lake, year, shake, mistake, sweep, flake, deep, keep, sleep, sleep]. These words are **GENTLE**, they are **NOT HARSH**, because they are used to describe the beauty of nature. As a result, the **TONE** of the poem is **GENTLE** and the **MOOD/ATMOSPHERE** of the poem is **GENTLE**. The **RHYTHM** is the **BEAT** that is created by the words in the poem, and this one is like a song.
  
- **SYMBOLISM:** This journey that the traveller is on, represents/symbolizes the journey of life that we are all on.
- The **WOODS** represent the beauty of nature, peace, comfort, innocence and an uncorrupted place.
- The **WOODS** also represent **DANGER** because you don't know who might be hiding behind those tall tree trunks in the darkness.
- The **VILLAGE** represents work/duties/obligations. The village is full of people who the traveller serves, and that is why he is on the road.
- The **SNOW** represents the beauty of nature and innocence/purity.  
The **SNOW** also represents **DANGER**. One may freeze to death, like Klara Majola.
- **EXTENDED METAPHOR:** "And miles to go before I sleep." (last line of the poem) "miles" represent the journey of life. "sleep" represents death. The traveller does not want to stay longer in the woods because he must live longer to serve his people before he dies.
- **PERSONIFICATION:** The horse is personified in stanza two and stanza three. The horse is given human qualities, it has thinking and asking abilities.  
"My horse must think it queer" "To ask if there is some mistake."
- **ALLITERATION:** There is a repetition of letters at the beginning of words.  
"watch his woods", "sound's the sweep", "His house",  
"dark and deep", "Whose woods"
- **ASSONANCE:** There is a repetition of vowels. "He will not see me", "Whose woods"

· IMAGE: These are pictures that the poet has painted for us using words. The poet has used images like the “lovely, dark, deep” woods, house, frozen lake”. Close your eyes and have a picture of this.

· LITERAL: “And miles to go before I sleep,”

The first one has a literal meaning. It means that the traveller has a long distance to travel before he gets to his destination and goes to bed.

· FIGURATIVE: “And miles to go before I sleep.” The second one has a figurative meaning. It means that the traveller must start his journey of life and perform all his duties before his life ends/he dies.

**Note that: in the Klara Majola’ s story “snow” represents danger and death. The story ends in a tragedy. The eight - year - old freezes to death because of a heavy snow fall.**

**In *Stopping by woods on a snowy evening*, the traveller gets extreme pleasure, enjoyment, comfort, peace and quiet from a heavy snow fall.**

### **In other words .....**

Popularity: Written by Robert Frost, this poem was published in 1923. It was written to capture the conflict between man and nature and also to highlight the difference between wishes and obligations we face in our lives. However, it has become one of the most popular poems in English literature.

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” as a poem about nature: As the poem is about nature, it has been written from the perspective of an adult, who stops by the woods to enjoy the mesmerizing beauty of nature. The expression of stopping given in the first stanza continues until the traveller decides to restart his journey. The expression of not knowing the woods and then realizing one’s duties mark the central point of the poem. However, what stays in the minds of the readers is the eye-catching and bewitching beauty of woods in the snowy evening.

Major themes in “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”: The poem comprises the thoughts of an adult, why he stops and why he wants to stay in the lap of nature, forgetting all his worldly affairs. The traveller wants to take a moment to pause in the quiet woods to watch the snow falling. He says he knows whose woods are these, but he is sure the owner of the woods will not notice

his presence because he is in the village.

He is tempted to stay longer, but the pull of obligations and considerable distance force him to leave the woods. As he says that he has to travel a lot, it means he has to perform a lot of duties. Therefore, he puts his wishes aside and starts his journey again. This poem is about the boundaries and limits in which human beings pass their lives, and which do not allow them to get derailed from their respective paths.

#### Analysis of Literary Devices in “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

Seemingly simple, this poem by Robert Frost is loaded with meanings on account of the use of the following literary devices.

1. The poem doesn't have any metaphors. However, there are two extended metaphors in the poem. The last line of the third stanza, “sweep of easy wind and downy flake” and the second metaphor is used in the last line with repetition, “and miles to go before I sleep.” Here, miles represent life's journey, while sleep represents death.
2. Robert Frost has personified the thinking of the horse mildly in the second stanza when it stops, and in the third stanza he gives a sign to the rider. “He gives his harness bells a shake/ to ask if there is some mistake.” It shows as if the horse is a human being who understands his owner's needs or inquires if they have to stop.
3. Imagery is used to make readers feel things through their five senses. The poet has used the images for the sense of sights such as woods, house, lake, and These images help readers see the woods a source of solace and comfort to a lonely traveler.
4. Alliteration is the repetition of the same consonant sounds in the same lines such as the consistent use of /w/, /wh/ and /s/ sounds. The following phrases are examples of alliteration from the poem:  
“watch his woods”, “sound's the sweep”, “His house”.
5. Assonance is a repetition of the vowel sounds in the same line such as the sounds of /e/ and /i/ come in quick succession in “he will not see me stopping” and in “he gives his harness bells a shake.”
6. The repetition of consonant sounds such as /w/ and /th/ sounds in  
“Whose woods are these I think I know” and /w/ sound in “to watch his woods fill up with snow.” Assonance.

7. Euphony refers to the sound that is pleasing to the ears. While the journey through the forest is of the loneliness, according to Robert Frost, the woods are not haunting or even scary but provide comfort and calmness. The woods also represent an uncorrupted world that the traveler wishes to stay. Therefore, it is euphony.

Concluding the analysis, it can be stated that Frost has beautifully used various literary devices to make his poem a great piece of literature.

### Activity

1.1. Choose one option from the following and support yourself with evidence from the poem. (2)

A. The poem is about a man who has a sense that he will die and he feels that he has too much to do still.

B. The poem is about a man wishing he had time to enjoy nature.

C. The poem is about people who live in the city and don't have time to enjoy nature.

1.2 What time of the year is it?

QUOTE one word from stanza TWO and one word from stanza THREE to support your answer. (2)

1.3 The horse is concerned about the traveller stopping in the woods. How do we know this? (1)

1.4 Quote THREE adjectives (descriptive words) from stanza four. (2)  
from stanza four.

1.5 Give A SYNONYM of "queer". (1)

1.6 Explain the meaning of the LAST TWO LINES (literal & figurative) (2x2)

[12]