



Lesson 6

## Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Robert Frost

**The Poet :** Robert Frost (March 26, 1874 - January 29, 1963) was an American poet. He is known for his realistic depictions of rural life. Some famous poems of Robert Frost are : *Mending Wall, Fire and Ice, The Road Not Taken, Birches.*



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 farmhouse 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 sound's 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.

Daily Assam. Com

### Word Notes :

woods	: small forest
queer	: strange
farmhouse	: a house on a farm
frozen	: with a layer of ice on the surface
sweep	: movement of wind over the woods
downy	: covered in something very soft
flake	: small and thin piece of something (here snow)
promises	: here it means duties and responsibilities
sleep	: here it means death

**Summary** : In this poem the speaker is driving a horse-drawn carriage. He stops between a frozen lake and a snow-covered forest. He believes that he knows the owner of the woods, who lives in a village nearby. The horse becomes anxious to see its owner stop suddenly because there is no farmhouse near the woods. So the horse shakes its harness bell to remind its owner that they should move on. It is quite silent in the woods. Apart from the ringing of the harness bells, the only other sound is of the wind and the downy flakes.

Though the woods are lovely, the speaker can't stay there for long because he has many other duties to perform before it gets dark. Likewise we can't stop anywhere for long in the journey of our life because we have many responsibilities that we must perform before we die.

Answer the following questions.

- i) Who is the poet of the poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' ?
- ii) Where has the speaker stopped ?
- iii) Why does the speaker stop ?
- iv) What sounds could the narrator hear ?
- v) What does the speaker mean by 'promises' ?
- vi) Where does the owner of the woods live ?
- vii) Find out some rhyming words from the poem.

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