

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening (Poem)

Chapter 10: Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening (Poem) · Topic 1

Key Concept

The poem describes a traveller stopping to watch snow fall in peaceful woods, tempted to linger despite having obligations to fulfil.

The woods symbolise temptation and escape from responsibility, while the promises the speaker must keep represent duty and life's obligations.

The poem's famous repeated final lines, 'And miles to go before I sleep,' suggest both literal distance and life's ongoing journey and responsibilities.

This poem explores universal themes of balancing life's beauty and temptations with our duties and responsibilities to others.

Quick Revision Notes

- Poem: traveller stops in snowy woods.
- Tempted to linger despite obligations.
- Woods symbolise temptation, escape.
- Promises symbolise duty, obligations.
- Famous line repeated: 'miles to go before I sleep'.
- Suggests literal distance, life's journey.
- Explores balancing beauty with duty.
- Also balancing temptation with responsibility.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss what the woods might symbolise.
- 2 Discuss the meaning of the repeated final line.
- 3 Write about a time you balanced temptation with duty.
- 4 Read the poem aloud noting its calm rhythm.
- 5 Discuss Robert Frost's use of nature imagery.
- 6 Reflect on your own 'miles to go' in life.