

**STOPPING BY WOODS
ON A SNOWY EVENING**

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Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Before we go for a line-by-line analysis of the poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, there are some important points to note about the structure or form of the poem, the style in which the poem is written, and the rhyme scheme followed

- Actually the poem looks very simple in its use of language and also in the subject matter. But what strikes us most is the use of a special form and rhyme scheme to express the theme so fluently. To mingle the content with the structure is really a tough task. The poem is rich in its use of figures of speech like imagery, alliteration and personification. It also has an allegorical meaning

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.

*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.*

- The narrator (may be the poet himself) of the poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* stops by some woods on his way one evening. The narrator knows the owner of the woods and even where he lives. He is a bit relaxed thinking that the owner of the woods lives in the village and so he won't see the narrator stopping here. Therefore he can continue watching the natural beauty of his snow-covered woods.

*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.*

- In the second stanza, the narrator of the poem says that his dear horse, whom he is using as his carriage, must think it strange to stop here between the woods and the frozen lake in a dark evening, as he normally stops near a farmhouse. The narrator calls his horse “**my little horse**”, as it is very dear to him or may be the horse is a little one in the literal sense, i.e., a pony. It may also suggest that the speaker is a humble and ordinary citizen and cannot afford to buy an expensive horse. He also personifies the horse by indicating that it has a thought process and also referring it as “he” in the next stanza.

*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 horse is shaking its head ringing the bell attached to its harness, as if 'he' is asking his master whether there is any problem, as it is unusual for him to stop by the woods in the darkness. And the important thing in this stanza of the poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* is the sound imageries. There is only three sounds – the sounds of the harness bell, light wind and the snowflakes

*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.*

Here in the last stanza the narrator describes the woods using three adjectives – lovely, dark and deep. This indicates that he is enjoying the scene and wants to do so for long. But he has other responsibilities in life. He has to go a long way before he sleeps. So he cannot get the enjoyment for long. He has to move on. And the important thing here is that the poet repeats the last line to attract the attention of the readers. In this very last line lies the allegorical interpretation. Here “sleep” may refer to death. We, in our real life, have many things to look at with awe, many things to enjoy, but in most cases we cannot simply because we have other things to do in our short lifespan, so we have to move on.



A circular graphic with a light pink background and a floral pattern. The pattern includes large yellow flowers, smaller blue flowers, green leaves, and pink flowers. In the center, there is a white circle containing the text "THANK YOU" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

THANK
YOU