THE POOL PLAYERS.

SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL.

We real cool. We

Left school. We

Lurk late. We

Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We

Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We

Die soon.

What might the crossroads in this poem have looked like?

What paths do the characters face?

What factors might determine their options and motivate their decisions?

What point does Brooks make about the choices of the characters in the poem?

Do the characters in this poem take the path less traveled? Why or why not?

Have you faced decisions similar to the characters in this poem?

Symbolic words

Seven= luck

Golden= youthful arrogence

Shovel= death/burial

Jazz= meaningless/ empty talk

Die soon= consequence of coolness & disordered life – rejecting education & morals

30s= jazz is king, prohibition

alliteration (jazz june, sing sin, lurk late)

rhyme (internal= thin gin and cool school)

rhythm- pause (periods, line break, single syllables)

repetition (we)

**Two roads diverged in a yellow wood**

**And sorry I could not travel both**

**And be one traveler, long I stood**

**And looked down one as far as I could**

**To where it bent in the undergrowth;**

**Then took the other, as just as fair,**

**And having perhaps the better claim,**

**Because it was grassy and wanted wear;**

**Though as for that the passing there**

**Had worn them really about the same,**

**And both that morning equally lay**

**In leaves no step had trodden black.**

**Oh, I kept the first for another day!**

**Yet knowing how way leads on to way,**

**I doubted if I should ever come back.**

**I shall be telling this with a sigh**

**Somewhere ages and ages hence:**

**Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—**

**I took the one less traveled by,**

**And that has made all the difference**

**. . . Robert Frost**

**Write answers in complete sentence on a separate sheet of paper! : )**

1. Give an example of three poetic devices in the poem?
2. What is the comparison in the poem?
3. Does the speaker think that he/she will ever be able travel the other path? Why?
4. Why do you think he/she might be telling the story with a "sigh" in the future?
5. What does the speaker mean by "that has made all the difference?" Paraphrase the last two lines (rewrite them in your own words).
6. Explain why the diverging roads are an effective image in “The Road Not Taken.” What is its literal and symbolic meaning?
7. What less-traveled paths can you (students) choose to take when at life's crossroads?
8. Why do you think Frost titled this poem “The Road Not Taken,” rather than “The Road Taken”?

\*\*Choices are inevitable & you can only take one road/journey “What if”

Paths in the woods and forks in roads are ancient and deep-seated metaphors for the lifeline, its crises and decisions. Identical forks, in particular, symbolize for us the nexus of free will and fate: We are free to choose, but we do not really know beforehand what we are choosing between. Our route is, thus, determined by an accretion of choice and chance, and it is impossible to separate the two.

Personification/ rhyme ABAAB

Was the difference the journey or the destination

select the comfortable, predictable, ordinary path as opposed to the uncommon, slightly mysterious (described as being obscured and bent in the undergrowth)