

## Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

On the surface, this poem is simplicity itself. The speaker is stopping by some woods on a snowy evening. He or she takes in the lovely scene in near silence, is tempted to stay longer, but acknowledges the pull of obligations and the considerable distance yet to be travelled before he or she can rest for the night.

There is a gentle, slight mysterious atmosphere which suggests that the owner of the woods lives elsewhere, is separate and won't see the trespassing narrator observing his woods. Yet somehow the image presented to the reader to the reader is as innocent as a scene on a Christmas card. Thus the first

Stanza introduces a sense of uncertainty.

The second stanza concentrates on the horse's reaction to the rider stopping.

The horse stands between the woods and the frozen lake and the poet considers the day as "darkest evening of the year."

---

To be continued in the next class.

---