

Fourth Year

American Literature in the 20th. Century

(3)

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

Robert Frost

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost is the second poem in this course. The poem is replete with symbolism. For example, the “woods” stands for death; “stopping by woods” is a symbol of accepting death. The line “And miles to go before I sleep” in the last stanza is also significant. One interpretation of this stanza is that the speaker is tempted toward death which he considers “lovely, dark and deep,” but that he has many responsibilities to fulfill before he can “sleep.” In spite of the peaceful appearance of death, the speaker cannot accept it now because he has many errands to complete before surrendering to the charm of death.

Dear students,

You can study only the first five pages from 271 – 275. Do not study pages 276 – 282.

These five pages 271 – 275 include the following points:

1. Introduction
2. Author biography
3. Poem summary
4. Themes:
 - A. Beauty
 - B. Return to Nature
 - C. Duty and Responsibility
5. Style

Best Luck