

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

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 queer¹ _____
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. _____

By Robert Frost

queer - strange

1. Indicate the rhyme scheme to the right of the poem (this one is slightly tricky).
 2. Underline two words that provide an example of alliteration
 3. Write out an example of personification _____
 4. ____ These woods are most likely owned by: a) the speaker in the poem. b) an acquaintance of the speaker. c) someone unknown to the speaker. d) the speaker's best friend.
 5. ____ The speaker in the poem: a) wished that the owner of the woods were there. b) seemed relieved that the owner of the woods was not there. c) came looking for the owner of the woods. d) is thinking about buying the woods.
 6. ____ The horse is apparently: a) surprised the speaker has stopped. b) relieved the speaker has stopped. c) angry the speaker has stopped. d) unwilling to stop itself.
 7. ____ The night described is: a) November 21. b) December 21. c) January 21. d) February 21.
 8. ____ The speaker interprets the horse's shaking bells as a) a signal to spend the night. b) a signal to turn around. c) a signal to keep on going. d) a signal to turn around.
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9. ____ Which of the following weather reports would have been the most accurate? a) a wild and stormy night. b) a cold and cloudless night. c) a brief mid-winter thaw. d) a gentle snow.
10. ____ The line, “The woods are lovely, dark and deep”: a) sums up what attracted the poet to stop. b) the opposite of what the speaker has said until now. c) unrelated to what the speaker has said until now. d) an explanation for the rest of the stanza.
11. ____ The last three lines suggests the poet is: a) going to stay in the woods for the night. b) going to start on his journey again. c) unsure where to go because he is lost. d) afraid to make a decision.
12. There is a tension in the poem about whether the speaker should stay or move on. What is it that tempts him (her) to stay?

13. **(bonus question)** Some critics have suggested that by repeating “Miles to go before I sleep”, the poet meant us to read the line both literally and as a metaphor. What could it mean other than he still had a long way to travel that night?

¹ queer - strange.