

Stopping by
WOODS on a SNOWY EVENING

by Robert Frost

"The darkest evening of the year" (8).

"The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake" (11-12).

"These 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" (13-16).

PERSONAL RESPONSE:

Robert Frost's poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" uses vivid imagery to establish the setting deep within a snowy wooded area on a dark night. The black-and-white look of my one-pager attempts to recreate this imagery with white snow and dark trees in silhouette. Winter is often representative of death, the end of the life cycle, and wooded areas are often places of mystery and intrigue. This poem, in some ways, could be seen as a metaphor for the human curiosity with death. The persona in this poem has stopped in the woods on this dark, snowy night and is captivated, almost hypnotized by the woods. There is a mysterious element to these woods, and it may even be quite dangerous (even his horse thinks it's a bad idea). At the end of the poem, the persona decides that, as beautiful as the woods are, he can't stay--he has miles left on his journey before he is ready to sleep. In this case, sleep is a metaphor for death. The entire poem could be seen as an extended metaphor where a person contemplates the mysteries of death. Death, in this case, seems quite inviting.