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 queer
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 downyflake.

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.

- Robert Frost
Glossary

woods /wʊdz/ a place where trees grow thickly, smaller than a forest
queer /kwɪ(r)/ strange
frozen /ˈfrɪzn/ covered with ice
harness /ˈhænɪs/ an apparatus for controlling a horse
sweep /swɪp/ to remove or move with a brushing or swinging movement
flake /fleɪk/ a light leaf like little bit (of something soft)

Exercises

Vocabulary

A. **Distinguish between the following words given in pair.**

1) house and home
2) woods and forests
3) snow and ice
4) watch and see
5) say and ask

B. **Add two more opposites to the given list.**

1) known : strange, alien, unknown, ________,______
2) village : city, town, ________,______
3) easy : difficult, complex, hard, ________,______
4) dark : light, pale, bright, ________,______
5) deep : shallow, thin, ______,______

C. Write some more synonyms for each of the following words.

1) sleep - slumber, ________, ________, ________, ________
2) house - abode, ________, ________, ________, ________
3) ask - demand, ________, ________, ________, ________
4) mistake - error, ________, ________, ________, ________
5) lovely - appealing , ________, ________, ________, ________

D. Say the following sentences and notice the difference in the pronunciation of the words ‘and’ and ‘but’

1) I need some bread and butter.
2) And miles to go before I sleep.
3) But I have promises to keep.
4) But she is at home.
5) They are poor but proud.

E. Say the following words and notice the difference in the vowel sounds :

wood - food
full - fool
Comprehension

A. Read the first two stanzas of the poem and answer the following questions.

1. Who do you think is the real owner of the woods?

2. Find out the lines that convey the following meaning:
   The poet stopped there to enjoy the beauty of the woods covered with snow.

3. What is strange about the poet's stopping by woods?

B. Read the third and fourth stanzas and answer the following questions.

1. Why does the horse give his harness bells a shake?

2. Why does the horse think it to be a mistake?

3. What other sounds are heard by the poet?

4. What do you understand by 'downy flake'?
5. Why does the poet think of the 'promises to keep'?
6. What message do the last two lines of the poem convey?

Speaking Activity

A. Practice the following rhyming words.

- know
- here
- lake
- sweep
- though
- queer
- shake
- deep

B. The poet says about the woods:

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.

Now, use the words given in brackets and say about the following:

(beautiful, green, sandy, spacious, shallow, high, steep, full of water, airy)

- The hills are _________, _________ and ______________.
- The rivers are _________, _________ and ______________.
- The house is_________, _________ and ______________.

Writing Activity

A. Have you ever been enchanted with a beautiful scene. Describe the scene and your feelings. (50 words)

B. Compare the life in a city with the life in a village. (150 words)
Think it over

A. Wood is a place where nature is in its most beautiful form. The sounds that we hear in the woods have a musical effect.

B. What different sounds do we hear in a wood in different seasons?

C. A frozen lake is like a playground. What games can be played there?

Things to do

Collect wild flowers growing in your surroundings. Dry them with the help of a blotting paper and stick them in your project book. Write a few lines about the activity you have done.