The poem “The Road Not Taken” is set during a walk in the woods. Read the poem. Then answer the questions.

*The Road Not Taken*

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

8 Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

—Robert Frost

*The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost, from *Mountain Interval*.  
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“The Road Not Taken”

1. The poet writes, “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both…” What does the word “diverged” mean?

   a. appeared  
   b. curved  
   c. branched off  
   d. continued on

2. The two roads might symbolize

   a. different ways out of the woods.  
   b. different ways to return home.  
   c. different ways to get to town.  
   d. different choices in life.

3. Which feature of the selection most strongly indicates that it is a poem?

   a. It appeals to the senses.  
   b. It is divided into lines and stanzas.  
   c. It has a title.  
   d. It is told in first person.

4. What does “grassy and wanted wear” in the 8th line of the poem mean?

   a. Many people had walked the grassy road.  
   b. The grass needed cutting.  
   c. Not many people had walked this road.  
   d. The grass was too high for anyone to walk through it.

5. What conclusion can the reader draw about the speaker in the first stanza?

   a. He is lonely and sad.  
   b. He is hesitant and thoughtful.  
   c. He is hurried and rushed.  
   d. He is kind and generous.

6. What evidence is there that the speaker of the poem feels some regret about his choice? Use at least two details from the poem to support your answer.

   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________

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7. In both “The Road Not Taken” and “A Story with a Surprise Ending,” someone must make a choice. Identify a choice made by a character from each passage, and explain how that choice made a difference in his or her life. Use a detail from each passage to support your explanation.
Key

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. B

6. The speaker of the poem shows that he feels regret in the words, “Yet, knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back.” The second passage that shows regret is “I shall be telling this with a sigh...” (Regret is shown in the words, “And sorry I could not travel both...”)