

04/04/2002
LIT 2000
Robert Frost
“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
Betty Gilson
<http://www.artistrue.com>

In his beautiful poem, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” full of unique and astonishing scenery and sounds, Robert Frost describes a peaceful setting, inspired by nature—especially the woods and snow. Frost also contemplates how relaxing and hypnotic nature can be. Although he lives a fulfilling life, the calming effect of the falling snow almost makes him want to stop for a second. The only sounds that can be heard are produced by the author’s presence, the wind, and the falling flakes of snow, which contribute to the hypnotizing effect that nature has on its observers. The readers are transported into this peaceful setting as well, and due to Frost’s talent to convey his message, they can’t help but to feel mesmerized by the suggestive power of this poem.

The owner of the woods lives in the village. He’ll never be out in the woods on a snowy day, missing all of the wonders of nature that he’ll never understand, although he owns. It is unfortunate to think that some people cannot appreciate nature for what it really is, and not just for the material gain. Unlike the rich owner of the woods, the author takes time to stop to appreciate nature at its best. Not too many people do that, and even his horse seems to acknowledge this unusual behavior by impatiently trying to move on. The horse has obviously never encountered someone who stops in the middle of nowhere, where there aren’t any houses or farms. But his master is not the usual traveler, as he thrives for inspiration, meditation, and the beauty of nature.

This natural setting seems to fascinate the author, who almost feels tempted to surrender to its charms and forget about his daily chores—but only for a second. In the end, he overcomes the snow's hypnotic power and moves on, ready to face the continuous challenges of life. There are many more things that he has yet to accomplish in his life, before being able to retire (sleep). The contrasting effect that the dark woods have against the white snow is the reason that the author is not completely hypnotized. He is appreciative of the forests, by calling them lovely, dark, and deep. The word deep, almost confers to the woods a certain judgment, making them the guardian of lost travelers.

Frost demonstrates that he is not only a refined observer of nature, but also one that connects and communicates with it, through a dream-like state. He suggests that the fate of nature and humans has always been intertwined. Even though humans don't depend on the physical presence of the forest like they used to in ancient times, they still breathe the oxygen produced by them. It's very sad that the owner of the woods who lives in the village doesn't realize how precious the woods are and doesn't appreciate their beauty. He will never come out when it snows, just to admire nature at its best. That is why Frost wants his readers to know how important it is to respect and understand nature, not only because it's vital to us, but also because of its majestic beauty.

Works Cited

Frost, Robert . “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.” *Literature: An Introduction to Writing*. Roberts, Edgar V. and Jacobs, Henry E. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2001.
673.