

# ROADSIDE STAND

BY ROBERT FROST

**Sub: Ways with Words**  
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**2020-2023**

## ROBERT FROST

- Born on March 26, 1874 in San Francisco, California
- He belonged to New England.
- His personal life was miserable with misfortunes and deaths.
- His father died of TB, mother of cancer, one of his sons committed suicide and his daughter had a complete nervous breakdown.
- Farming was his first love as a profession.
- But he was not successful so turned to teaching and writing.
- His poems revealed the rural life of New England as the setting of his poem.
- He used language and situations familiar to common man.
- Most of his poems explore the fundamental questions of human existence.
- He was America's widely read poet.
- A national celebrity.



- His volumes of poetry include *A Boy's Will*, *Mountain Interval*, *West Running Brook* and many others.
- Some of the poems that won him great admiration are *The Road Not Taken*, *Mending Wall*, *Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening*, *Birches* and *After Apple Picking*.
- Great choice of words.
- Colloquial rhythm
- Simplicity of images
- Akin to rusticity and honesty in writing.
- He says, “ I prefer synecdoche in poetry”. ( a figure of speech in which we use a part for the whole)
- His poems “ begin in delight and end in wisdom”.
- He strongly reacted against free verse forms.

## ➤ **POEM SUMMARY**

The poem “A Roadside Stand”, composed by Robert Frost is about a farmer who puts a little new shed in front of his house on the edge of a road. Several thousands of cars speed past it. He desires to sell wild berries, squash and other products. He does not like charity. He tries to sell his products for money. He believes that money can give him a better lifestyle as he saw in the movies. However, his hopes are never fulfilled. People in cars go past without even giving a cursory look at his stall. And if few of them happen to look at it, they see how the letters N and S had been turned wrong. They believe that such badly painted signs spoil the beauty of the countryside. Nevertheless, a few cars did stop. One of them desired to take a U-turn. It came into the farmer’s yard and spoiled the grass. Another car stopped to know the way. And one of them stopped as it needed petrol, though it was quite evident that the farmer did not sell petrol.

The poor village people had little earning. They have not seen much money. They lead a life of poverty. It is known that some good-doers plan to remove their poverty. They aimed to buy their property on the roadside to build theatres and stores. They plan to shift the villagers into the village huddled together. They wished to teach them the ways that could change their good and healthy habits. They even aimed to teach them to sleep during day time. The 'greedy good-doers' and 'beneficent beasts of prey' desired to force the benefits on the poor village people and befool them.

The poet feels quite miserable at the pitiable sufferings of the poor village folk. He even had a childish desire for all the poor to be done away with at one stroke to end their pain. But he knew that it is childish and vain. So, he desires that someone relieves him of his pain by killing him.

## LITERARY DEVICES USED

### ➤ TRANSFERRED EPITHET:

➤ Polished traffic

➤ Selfish cars

### ➤ PERSONIFICATION:

➤ 1) A roadside stand that too pathetically

### ➤ METAPHOR:

➤ Trusting Sorrow

### ➤ OXYMORON & ALLITERATION:

➤ 'Greedy good-doers' and 'beneficent beasts' of prey.

A Roadside Stand

