

FIRST FLIGHT

STD-X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER: 1
CHAPTER NAME : FIRE AND ICE

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

ABOUT THE POET

Born	Robert Lee Frost March 26, 1874 San Francisco, California , US
Died	January 29, 1963 (aged 88) Boston, Massachusetts , US
Occupation	Poet, playwright
Alma mater	Dartmouth College (no degree) Harvard University (no degree)
Notable works	A Boy's Will , North of Boston ^[1]
Notable awards	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry , Congressional Gold Medal
Spouse	Elinor Miriam White (m. 1895; died 1938)
Children	6

Robert Frost was a famous American poet. He was born in San Francisco on March 26, 1874. Nature poet but not like Wordsworth. He has often been called a nature poet. Indeed he depicts aspects of nature accurately. We often get the actual tone of country dweller in Frost's poems. However Frost is not interested in nature for itself. Unlike Wordsworth he finds no sustaining power or source of joy and moral health in nature. Man and nature in Frost are two distinct entities, and the two may exist together but not fuse into a single being.



CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM

- “ A poem”, says Robert Frost, “ begins in delight and ends in wisdom”.
- Frost’s simplicity is deceptive, his poetry has a complex texture.

THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM:

‘Fire and Ice’ is an extremely compact little lyric. Here the poet surmises the fate of the world-
What would cause it to end. The theme of the poem is age-old question. The question is whether the world will end in fire or ice.

SYMBOLISM:

Fire is symbolic of human desire or passion, and ice is symbol of hatred.



EXPLANATION OF THE POEM STANZA 1

Fire and Ice

Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

ROBERT FROST

In this stanza the poet talks about two different beliefs regarding the end of the world. The existing world will come to an end one day. People are divided on this issue. Fire means- passion or desire. Some people say the world will end in ice- cold reasoning and hate. Fire is used here as animal tendencies. The poet has experienced passions of love and desire.

Vocabulary:

Tasted of desire- Experienced passions and desires

Hold with those- support

HOME ASSIGNMENT

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

- (a) What is the poet's opinion of the world in these lines?
- (b) What is the poet's opinion about the world?
- (c) What is the contradictory opinion of public?
- (d) How are ice and fire similar to each other though they have contradictory traits?

THANKING YOU
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