

# FIRST FLIGHT

STD-X

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

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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# ABOUT THE POET

Born	Robert Lee Frost March 26, 1874 <a href="#">San Francisco, California</a> , US
Died	January 29, 1963 (aged 88) <a href="#">Boston, Massachusetts</a> , US
Occupation	Poet, playwright
Alma mater	<a href="#">Dartmouth College</a> (no degree) <a href="#">Harvard University</a> (no degree)
Notable works	<a href="#">A Boy's Will</a> , <a href="#">North of Boston</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
Notable awards	<a href="#">Pulitzer Prize for Poetry</a> , <a href="#">Congressional Gold Medal</a>
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.



# RECAPITULATION



<https://youtu.be/vuMT0DWLYzM>

1. For Frost, what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for?
2. What are the two different views about the end of the world?

## EXPLANATION STANZA 2

Fire can bring destruction of this world(doom/apocalypse).  
But if the world was to be destroyed not once but twice , ice is strong enough to do the job. The poet has seen and experienced enough of hatred in this world. Cold reasonings devoid of human feeling only produce hatred.

### VOCABULARY:

Perish- destroy

Suffice- would be sufficient

## 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

# CRITICAL APPRECIATION



- The repeated phrase “some say” conveys a mood of studied callous detachment.
- A famous critic said- it is as if a super scientist were weighing possible ends of the world, clinically viewing the scene before pronouncing his decision.
- The poet reads like the report of a scientist in which he has weighed all evidences for and against the subject in his hand. The poem ends with a chill politeness.

# CRITICAL APPRECIATION

## **SYMBOLISM:**

Fire stands for desire. It stands for all kinds of greed and lust. (Avarice and intolerance)  
Ice indicates hatred and indifference which is as cold as ice.

## **RHYME SCHEME:**

abaa bcbcb

## **ALLITERATION:**

Some say the world will end

Some say in ice

A mood of helpless gloom pervades the poem. There is a realistic pessimism by which the poem is governed. It seems that Frost sees the bitter reality of the world with a rare detachment as though he were not a part of the world.

Critics have spilt much ink on the hard tone of the poem. The entire poem is a compact unit. The essence of the poem is in simple analogies of fire and ice, but these analogies assume universal dimensions making the analogies usually incisive.

# MESSAGE OF THE POEM

## Fire and Ice

**Fire:** *Warmth, Emotions, Desire*

**Ice:** *Coldness, Dryness, Hatred*

- Both are extremes and these extremes lead towards destruction.
- Fire symbolize for desire,
- and ice symbolizes here for hate.



- The message is crystal clear.
- This world is transitory and nothing in this world is eternal.
- This world will end in fire or ice.
- The poet doesn't give any personal opinion but favours the idea that world will end in fire.
- He doesn't ignore the other proposition.
- We should not forget this supreme reality and keep ourselves above all selfish matters.

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