**The Metaphor – Charlotte’s decisions and out comes throughout the story**

* She didn’t defend her teacher; outcome: guilt
  + She sided with her friends; wanted to fit in; wanted to be noticed

“I was. No other members of the class shared my knowledge of Miss Hancock or my misery.”

“I killed her. We killed her. But especially me.”

* She got upset when her mother insulted Miss Hancock

**The Road Not Taken – the speaker’s decisions and out comes throughout the poem**

* The speaker had a decision to make
  + He chose the “road less traveled”

Outcome: the decision “made all the difference”

* We can assume this mean a positive outcome

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Similarities | Differences |
| * Both the speaker and Charlotte had decisions to make | * Outcomes – one positive, one negative * Poem = took the road less traveled * Story = followed the crowd |

Lauren Citton

Ms. Citton

EN 10

19 November 2013

The Roads we choose to Drive On

“The Metaphor” by Budge Wilson is a short story about a student named Charlotte who is faced with tough decisions: does she defend her teacher and become an outcast? Or follow the crowd and fit in? In the poem “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost, the speaker is also faced with a decision and describes his journey. Both stories share certain similarities and differences. The main similarity is that both Charlotte and the speaker have decisions to make. Charlotte in Grade 10 must choose between fitting in or defending one of her favorite teachers. Miss Hancock beats to her own drum, and the students make fun of her. Charlotte is often “caught in a stranglehold somewhere between shocked embarrassment and a terrible desire for concealment.” Because Charlotte wants to fit in, she chooses to follow the crowd and stays quiet. Similarly, the speaker in the poem is also faced with a decision. S/He takes into consideration the possible routes s/he can take. The one road “was grassy and wanted wear.” The other, was covered in leaves and “no step had trodden black.” He chose to take the “road less traveled.” The main difference in these two pieces of writing are the outcomes of the decisions. Charlotte choses to stay quiet, and not defend her teacher. When Miss Hancock suddenly dies, Charlotte is filled with regret and guilt. She exclaims, “I killed her. We killed her. But especially me” which proves she regrets her decision and wishes she could take it back. In contrast, we can assume the speaker in the poem is happy with her/his decision. While s/he may be “telling this with a sigh,” s/he is glad they took the road less travelled because it “has made all the difference.” While the reader does not get a full picture of the outcome, they can assume the speaker does not have any regrets; s/he is happy with the outcome. Clearly both pieces of writing have certain similarities and differences.