

* Symbolism

- Fire - Represents passionate emotions, like love, ambition, greed, rage, desire, fury that leads to war, violence and societal collapse
- Ice - Represents cold emotionless forces like hatred, indifference or apathy that leads to isolation, societal decay

* Simple yet profound meaning

Fire and Ice

* Published in 1920

⇒ Influenced by WWI

- 1914 - 1918

- great destruction & devastation

- destructive forces of humanity

Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire → experience with strong emotions
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.

* Tone of speaker → calm and detached
→ without any emotion

* Subject → serious, fearful, and sense of urgency

ROBERT FROST

* Theme → Destructive power of emotions
→ Duality of destruction

* Poetic devices

- Metaphor

- Anaphora

- Enjambment

- Personification

- Rhyme - abaa bcbcb

Glossary

perish: die

suffice: be sufficient

Thinking about the Poem

1. There are many ideas about how the world will 'end'. Do you think the world will end some day? Have you ever thought what would happen if the sun got so hot that it 'burst', or grew colder and colder?
2. For Frost, what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for? Here are some ideas:

greed	avarice	cruelty	lust
conflict	fury	intolerance	rigidity
insensitivity	coldness	indifference	hatred

3. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? How does it help in bringing out the contrasting ideas in the poem?