

THE OUTSIDERS

Nothing Gold Can Stay

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NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY

Nothing Gold Can Stay by Robert Frost

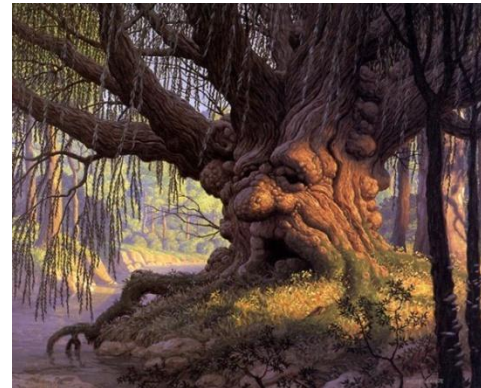
Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.



NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY

**Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.**

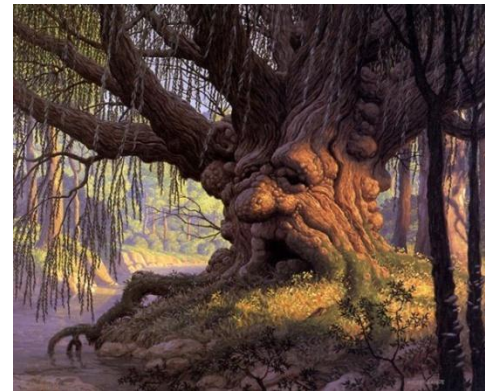
- ◉ What does it mean when we say someone is “green”?
- ◉ What is nature’s first green?
- ◉ Why is it gold? What is gold associated with?
- ◉ What does the word “hue” mean?
- ◉ What does “hold” mean in the lines above.
- ◉ Why is green the hardest hue to hold?



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Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.

- What does it mean when we say someone is “green”?
- Means someone is young or inexperienced
- What is nature’s first green?
- Things that are new—sprouts, sunrise, youth
- Why is it gold? What is gold associated with?
- New things (youth, sprouts, etc.) are special because they represent the future—they are like gold—valuable—not tainted, innocent.
- Young people usually have a more positive outlook on life and are more optimistic about the future—this is also associated with staying gold.
- What does the word “hue” mean?
- Hue is another word for colour
- What does “hold” mean in the lines above.
- Hold means to keep—hang on to.
- Why is green the hardest hue to hold?
- Things mature and grow up—lose innocence.



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**Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.**

- ◉ Why are early leaf's like flowers?
- ◉ Why just an hour?



**Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,**



- ◉ What does the word subside mean?
- ◉ What is Eden?
- ◉ What does the word grief mean?



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Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.

- ◉ Why are early leaf's like flowers?
- ◉ Things grow up—flowers eventually die and give seeds for future flowers—cycle of life.
- ◉ Why just an hour?
- ◉ Lifespan of most living things in nature is short compared to the rocks and non-living things—the main idea is life is short.

Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,

- ◉ What does the word subside mean?
- ◉ Drop or sink to a lower level/position
- ◉ What is Eden?
- ◉ Biblical allusion (reference) Adam and Eve lose their special life in the Garden of Eden
- ◉ What does the word grief mean?
- ◉ Grief is another word for sorrow/meeting disaster



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**So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.**

- ◉ What is time of the day is dawn usually associated with?
- ◉ What does the dawn symbolize in this line?
- ◉ What could the sunset symbolize?
- ◉ Why is it that “nothing gold” can stay/
- ◉ What does gold symbolize?
- ◉ How does this relate to The Outsiders?



NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY

So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

- What time of the day is dawn usually associated with?
- Early Morning—beginning of the day
- What does the dawn symbolize in this line?
- A young life--youth

- What could the sunset symbolize?
- The end of life—old age
- Why is it that “nothing gold” can stay?
- We all grow older—as each day passes—some day we will be old.
- What does gold symbolize?
- **How valuable our youth is—it’s like gold.**
- We will not always be young, innocent, and healthy—we may lose our positive attitude toward life.
- How does this relate to The Outsiders?
- Both boys are starting to understand how valuable youth is...With Bob’s murder— both boys, but (especially Johnny) have lost innocence—something more valuable than gold.



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- ◉ The poem discusses the various stages of life.
- ◉ The early stage, the innocence of youth is compared to images from nature.
- ◉ The poem's theme that all of life will change helps Pony understand the death of his parents and appreciate the happiness of life he and his brothers had with them
- ◉ Life has changed for the boys have when they become involved in Bob's murder--they are now beginning to lose their innocence
- ◉ The poem comes to symbolize the innocence of Johnny and Ponyboy.
- ◉ Not all of the greasers possess this innocence, and they long for Johnny and Ponyboy to retain theirs.



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- ◉ The poem also foreshadows the end of the fugitive lifestyle that Johnny and Ponyboy experience during their week in Windrixville.
- ◉ The poem creates another bond between Johnny and Ponyboy.
- ◉ Pony confides to Johnny that he couldn't have recited that poem to any of the other gang members, except maybe his brother, Soda.
- ◉ It also foreshadows the eventual end of their friendship.

