Stopping by Woods

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village, though;   
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.  
  
My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.  
  
He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.  
  
The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

(Robert Frost)

“Stopping by Woods” is a poetry written by Robert Frost. Just consider the title the intelligent reader may expect the poem describes woods.

Considering the layout, the intelligent reader understands the text is a poem made up four stanzas. Each stanzas is composed by four lines, indeed the poem is organized into four quatrains. The rhyme scheme is AABA-BBCB-CCDC-DDDD.

Considering the denotative level, the intelligent reader understands that the poet finds inspiration from a personal memory. The first quatrain begins with a indirect question. The word “these” makes the reader realize that the speaking voice is near the wood in question. After that the poet tells that there is a village near there. In the second quatrain the intelligent reader understands that the poet is not alone because he refers to a horse. The intelligent reader understands that the speaking voice spends a lot of time with the horse because he is able to read the horse’s mind, indeed in the next verses the speaking voice continues to read the mind of the horse. In the third quatrain the speaking voice continues to speak with the horse. In the fourth quatrain the poet returns to tell about the wood.

Taking into consideration the connotative level, the intelligent reader understands that in the first quatrain there is the personification of the wood. The adjective “queer” in line five and the word “shake” in line nine underlines the relationship between the speaking voice and the horse.

In short, the poet wants to describe his own personal experience and the feeling who has tried.