"The Oven Bird"

- Note the setting of the poem. Modern literature is often literature of the city.
- Frost did frequently meditate on death in his poems, so the poem is often read as a poem about the latter stages of life.
- Still, the poem can also be read as a commentary on the changed nature of the world and the poet's place in it.

"After Apple-Picking"

- As we have noted before, a poem's title can often give the reader an entry-way into the poem itself. Note the word "After" in the poem's title.
- The many details rendered about the apple harvest are in themselves enjoyed at that level.
- The weariness that is emphasized lead many readers to think that Frost is talking about death. But does the poem actually support that reading?
"Home Burial"

- One of Frost's "narrative poems."
- This poem of a strained and dying marriage reflects the breakdowns of social institutions and the breakdown of love so common in modern literature.
- Note the poem's opening as the husband and wife are physically juxtaposed, emphasizing their separateness and opposition.
- Note as well the differing tones of the characters. What do their tones reveal about their grief?

"Home Burial"

- The poem acts as a kind of mini drama.
- Notice the movement of the poem from exposition, complication, to its climax.
- Central to the poem is the conflict between husband and wife regarding the death of their child.

"Home Burial"

Blind creature; and a while he didn't see.
But at last he murmured, Oh," and again, "O h."

"What is it—what?" she said.

"Just that I see."

"You don't," she challenged. "Tell me what it is." (ll. 16-20)

"Home Burial"

Give me my chance.
I do think, though, you overdo it a little.
What was it brought you up to think it the thing
To take your mother-loss of a first child
So inconsolably—in the face of love. (ll. 63-67)


"Home Burial"

- Readers are often polarized in their defense of either the husband or the wife, but is it that simple?
- Is Frost indeed a terrifying poet?