

# The Road Not Taken

By  
Robert Frost



Want to hear this poem being read? Go to:  
<http://www.reelyredd.com/0602roadtravel.htm>

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that, the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
two roads diverged in a wood, and I --  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

There are many levels to Frost's poem. In other words, you may read it and simply hear how he came across a fork in the road and simply chose one path over another however, those of you who might have studied poetry know that sometimes the author suggests another meaning. Often this meaning is not *stated*, but rather *implied*, which means you'll have to interpret this poem on your own.

For some, this poem may be a warning, for others words of encouragement. Still, others may sense the author's remorse or regret. Either way, the *fork in the road* has become *synonymous* with **choice**.

We are all asked to make decisions; some big, some small. We make what we think is the right choice- at the time. Yet, occasionally we will either wish we had made the other choice, or at least wonder what would have happened if I just. . . . "

I want you to think about an important decision you had to make in your life. (I'm not talking about 'What if I ordered the grilled cheese rather than the fish sticks' kind of decision). Now, because of your decision there were definite outcomes- but what would happen if you could go back and reverse this decision or *take the road not taken*?

Write about this decision and state why you chose this particular instance. Tell how your original decision affected the outcome. Then pretend you could go back and change your decision. How would that change things? What would happen differently?

**Bonus:** Reread Frost's poem. Find parts of the poem where he uses the literary devices of *personification*. How about *irony*? Write these sections out and explain your examples.