

The Road not taken



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.

[Robert Frost](#)

Discuss the poem in a small group.

Use the following questions to guide your discussion

- What, in your view, is Robert Frost saying about making choices?
- Robert Frost describes the less travelled path in life 'grassy' and 'wanting wear.'
- What do these images suggest to you about the choices we generally make?
- In what ways does this image reflect your own experience?
- What were some of the consequences for you when you followed a more travelled path?
- How did these experiences compare to times when you went your own way?
- What factors influenced your decision?
- What difference did it make in the long run do you think?

Follow up

Choose one of the following

- A Describe, illustrate or present the process of decision making using an image other than a path.
- B Identify what you would consider one of your most fundamental beliefs about making decisions. Design a bumper sticker that reflects this belief.
- C Write a 'Choose Your Own Adventure' story that deals with an adolescent problem. Write two different endings: one that represents the well travelled path and one that represents the less travelled path.
- D Draw a time line of critical decisions that are facing you. Draw a decision making tree that tracks one of the important decisions that follows a 'less travelled' and a 'well travelled' outcome. Compare the course of events. In what ways might your life be different?