



Greetings,

As a New Year dawns, there is time for reflection upon the Old Year and all the decisions made. While I am usually not successful at keeping New Year's resolutions, I always look ahead with hope and a determination to improve something about myself.

When visiting classrooms, I talk with the students about how the choices they make affect their future; that they are responsible for themselves. In January we also include activities focusing on tolerance of those different from ourselves. As Americans, we will soon witness an historic event in history when the next President is inaugurated. What better time to discuss tolerance, positive choices and personal goals? I encourage you to talk with your child about a goal he/she may have for 2009 and how he/she might work to achieve it.

The poem below is one example of how important choice can be.

### **The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost**

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.

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