

Dear Mr. Robert Frost,

January 2, 2012

Bullying is a huge problem for adolescents. Because of the threat of getting teased and laughed at, many people try to fit in. Many people would rather bully and tease other people to protect themselves from that same thing. After all, who wants to be that kid sitting alone at lunch? Peer pressure and wanting to do what the "cool" kids are doing are big problems that every adolescent faces.

For me, fitting in is extremely difficult. I am in accelerated classes and when I am not in those classes, I am being taught at home by my mother. So I don't get a lot of time to be in contact with other sixth graders. Last year though, that was all I wanted to do. I wanted to be one of those "cool" kids.

Last summer, my sister entered a poetry contest and before long, my whole family was into poetry. That was when I found your poem "The Road Not Taken." Your words "But I took the one less traveled by And that has made all the difference" meant a lot to me. They spoke to me and told me that being different was okay. Not only is the speaker of the poem going on the different path, he is choosing to take the different path. He is choosing to be the kid who sits along on the bus, studying, while everyone else is joking or gossiping. He is choosing to be different and avoiding those kids who mock and tease others. He is choosing to be above and resist the peer pressure.

As I read those two lines over and over and over, I began to envision myself on life's intersection. I had to choose between changing myself to please others and retaining my individuality and uniqueness to rise above the peer pressure. I realized that I didn't need to make fun of someone because my so-called "friends" were doing it. I didn't need to do anything for anyone. All I needed to do was be myself, and if someone didn't like it, they would have to deal with it.

Mr. Frost, I want to thank you for writing this poem and telling individuals like me to take the road not taken and not to change just to please others. Your words impacted me greatly.

Sincerely,

Joey Feffer