

## [More Words to Think About: The Road Not Taken](#)

By [Cordell Parvin](#) on April 26th, 2013

I received a very nice response to my poetry post last Friday, so I decided to post another one.

There was a time when I was a young adult thinking about my future and the decisions I needed to make. I would eventually go into the United States Air Force. Should I go to law school first? Instead, should I plan to become a teacher and coach?



My dad took me aside and we had a really wonderful father-son chat. He told me about the [Robert Frost](#) poem: [The Road Not Taken](#). He told me the point of the poem is I would not know whether I took the right path until I was old and could look back and reflect on the path I had taken. He told me this would be true with most decisions in life I would make.

He was right and now many, many years later I can reflect on the paths I have taken over my career and life. If you are not familiar with the poem, it is one that is frequently misunderstood. Read it and then read it a second time. Then take a look at the links below to see a couple of analyses.

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

I enjoyed reading: [Robert Frost's Tricky Poem "The Road Not Taken."](#) This is the part of the analysis that my dad was pointing out to me.

...But a close reading of the poem proves otherwise. It does not moralize about choice; it simply says that choice is inevitable, but you never know what your choice will mean until you have lived it.

I also found the summary and analysis in [Robert Frost's Early Poems](#) helpful and interesting.

Do you have a poem, song or quote that inspires you? If so, I invite you to send me a draft guest post for my poetry blogs.

# Cordell Parvin Blog

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**Cordell M. Parvin** built a national construction practice during his 35 years practicing law. At Jenkins & Gilchrist, Mr. Parvin was the Construction Law Practice Group Leader and was also responsible for the firm's attorney development practice. While there he taught client development and created a coaching program for junior partners. In 2005, Mr. Parvin left the firm and started Cordell Parvin LLC. He now works with lawyers and law firms on career development and planning and client development. He is the co-author of ***Say Ciao to Chow Mein: Conquering Career Burnout*** and other books for lawyers. To learn more visit his Web site, [www.cordellparvin.com](http://www.cordellparvin.com) or contact him at [cparvin@cordellparvin.com](mailto:cparvin@cordellparvin.com).