

# Essay Contest



# Creative Arts Competition



# ESSAY

Second Place  
**Aayushi Ranjan**

Don Estridge High Tech Middle School, Grade 6

Life is made of choices and the decisions we make. These choices carve the path to various possibilities which in one way or another impact our life. There are several factors that are involved in decision making. In "The Road Not Taken," Robert Frost talks about how the choices we make affect our life and these choices define who we are.

When I was in third grade I made a decision that changed my life forever. I was being bullied by someone I thought was a friend. Initially I didn't tell parents because I was embarrassed, but eventually I realized I needed to tell them or it wouldn't get better. They asked me to ignore the girl, but that didn't work well. She started to push and shove me to the point where I started getting bruises. Nothing I did was making it better. My mom told me that she wanted attention, and if I stay away from her, she won't bother me. Sadly, she didn't and started spreading rumors about me bullying her. This incident shook my confidence; I didn't want to go to school. I felt embarrassed and just wanted things to go away. I stopped interacting with friends; consequently, my work started getting impacted. Weeks went by and nothing got better. I realized I had two choices: I could either stay silent and be bullied or take the path less taken and stand up to her. Standing up to her won't be easy as she was a popular kid. Nevertheless, I decided I would stand up for myself and fight the bully. But I would do it elegantly by being calm and confident. At first it didn't work but I persisted and my classmates started supporting me. They praised me for my confidence and told me I was doing the right thing. I took that incident as a learning experience and began to teach other kids in my school the value of treating others right. Whether we are kids or adults, we want others to treat us fairly. I realized how big of an issue bullying was and started the fight against it. I joined the Miss Shine program and became an ambassador for the Anti-Bullying campaign. I worked in a series of videos created by the "Stay Strong" group to teach kids about the importance of the golden rule. Using my voice, I can fight against bullying and stand up for those who feel they don't have one.

As it states in "The Road Not Taken," I sometimes wonder what would have happened if I had taken the route taken more often. If I had done nothing to stop the bully, I would have never had the courage to stand up for myself. I would not have seen the importance of having a voice and would have missed opportunities to help others who are suffering. My life has changed based on the decision I took and I am happy I made that choice.

