

Essay Contest



Creative Arts Competition



Honorable Mention
MJ Hanlon

Rosarian Academy, Grade 7

My situation is very similar to Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken." In his poem Frost speaks about having a choice between two paths. This relates to my scenario when having to choose between two friends' sides in an argument. There wasn't a good side or bad; it was just two people in a very heated standoff.

Two friends might argue about something as silly as two sports teams, but it's not silly to them. Punches were about to be thrown, and a group of friends had to hold the two back.

"There is no way I would ever not fight a Patriots fan!" said one.

"Well you're insane if you think New England is any less than the best team in the league!" yelled the other.

The anti-Patriots fan broke loose and started throwing punches. Things were about to get hectic, but they stopped simultaneously and said, "What do you think?" Unfortunately they were looking right at me.

This is one of the hardest things about friends. Both are two of my good friends, but whoever I don't side with will probably just get up and fight me. They'll think I'm favoring one side, or that I'm not a real friend because I didn't choose their side of the argument. It's insane to start throwing punches about something like the NFL, but I needed to solve the problem.

"Why do you guys want to fight over the Patriots?"

They're really confused by this question. You could tell that they were expecting me to side with one of them instantly, but I wasn't going to be roped into the argument.

"I mean, when somebody starts yelling at you, it makes you look bad if you don't start a fight over it. It makes me feel like I'm weak," explained the anti-Patriots fan.

"Same here," the Patriots fan agreed. "If you back down from a fight, it makes you look like even more of a weakling."

"So you guys weren't really fighting about the NFL, you were just afraid to look bad," I said, smiling. They stared at me in silence.

Sometimes a tiny argument can go so far that you forget what you were fighting about. Have you ever been in a situation where it makes you look bad to back down? When you are asked to resolve an argument between friends that is quickly escalating out of control, maybe it's better to take a step back and remember what brought you to that decision in the first place. By removing the emotions and egos, you can concentrate on the true root of the argument. This makes the resolution so much easier, and maybe you won't even have to choose between friends.

