

Essay Contest



Creative Arts Competition



First Place

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Supporting the popular opinion may be the safe and easy route to take, but is it the right one? I took the road less traveled by making the decision to publicly claim my support for a friend rather than going along with what the popular crowd was saying.

I was confronted with an ethical dilemma when I was in the fourth grade. Some of my classmates spread rumors about a friend of mine. My friend claimed one version of story to be true and the crowd, viewed as the popular people in school, presented an opposing story. A decision to support the crowd's story would have been easy and would have bought me favor in their eyes. On the other hand, a decision to support my friend would have been far more difficult in that it would isolate me from the popular crowd, yet it would be the principled choice to make.

Who knew making a decision could be so tough. Why wouldn't I support my friend and her position? We had been friends since pre-school, and I cared about her and believed in her version of the story. However, I was conflicted because I knew that if I did not support the popular version of the story, I would be an outcast. If I did support the favored story, I would most likely lose my relationship with my friend because I betrayed her trust. After painful consideration, I chose to support my friend.

My choice to believe my friend was the good and ethical decision. Although I lost a number of acquaintances, the bond between my friend and I grew stronger because I stood by her side. I took a risk doing the ethical thing in believing in her but I knew, somewhere in my heart, that I had made the right choice. In the end it does not matter how many friends one has, rather the tight bonds that are shared with a few good friends.

Although it may have seemed better to follow the crowd and play it safe, I stuck by my friend. I may have lost a few acquaintances along the way, but I built a stronger bond with a true friend. Similar to the quote by Robert Frost, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." I took the road less traveled by supporting my friend and turning away from the temptation to take the easy path. Frost does not articulate if his decision was beneficial or not, but mine certainly made a difference for the better.

