



Nial Alwash, Grade 6
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Los Angeles

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” Robert Frost

Dear Mr. Robert Frost,

When I read your poem “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” it takes me back in time to when I was much younger and my mom read it to me. Back then, I thought it was a story about Santa Claus delivering toys, and having a long way to go, but I soon realized that it was about life. There are commitments to make but one can also get distracted. It relates to my life because I have many things to do but I always stop and think or relax.

When I go to Yosemite or somewhere where it snows and is peaceful, your poem keeps repeating itself in my head. All of the words in your poem are illustrated here, almost like a picture book. When I see the trees in Yosemite huddled close together and stretching as far into the distance as I can see, it reminds me of the words “The woods are lovely, dark and deep.”

In a book and CD that I have, I can listen to you read your poem and follow along with my eyes. When you read it your voice is so calm and I feel happy when I listen to that recording. Your calmness makes me accept that one cannot achieve everything in life.

I sometimes read your poem to my younger sister, Nora. She thinks that the poem is about adventures in the woods and she loves to fall asleep reciting from memory the last two lines, “And miles to go before I sleep...And miles to go before I sleep.” As she gets older, like me, she will discover the true meaning of the poem.

Mr. Frost, you have affected my life in many different ways. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Nial Alwash

My name is Nial and I am 11 years old. I enjoy playing sports like baseball, football, soccer, and basketball. I also play the clarinet and piano. But my favorite pastime is reading; a good book or poem teaches me a new thing or makes me laugh, cry, or simply relax. I hope to become an engineer in the future.