**How does the poet use the extended metaphor to express a message?**

In “A Road Not Taken” Robert Frost uses a fork in the road to represent the many difficult choices in your life and how no one choice is better than another, but you must live with the choice you make. The speaker in the poem is a man walking in the woods who comes to a fork in the road. The poem begins with “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, / And sorry I could not travel both” (1-2) The fork in the road is a metaphor for how in life there are different “paths” you can take. Each “path” is a different decision that will change the direction of your life. However, just like the speaker you must choose because you cannot travel two roads at the same time. When the speaker goes to pick a road, he looks down one but is unable to see where it leads because “it bent in the undergrowth” (5). Without an idea of where the roads go it is hard to say which will be the better choice. All choices create a similar problem. We can predict where a decision will lead us, but we can never know for sure. As the speaker continues to try to make a decision, he says at first says that one road looks like it has been more lightly traveled. However, he later admits that people passing through “had worn them really about the same, / And both that morning equally lay / In leaves no step had trodden black” (10-12). Both roads are equally covered in leaves, and none of those leaves have been walked on enough to turn them black, so the two roads have been almost equally traveled. Therefore, neither road is better than the other just like no path in life is necessarily better than the other. Once the speaker does choose a road, he thinks about taking the other road another day, but he knows “how way leads on to way, / I doubted if I should ever come back” (14-15) The speaker knows that one road may lead to another, which will make it harder and harder to ever get back to road he did not take. In life one decision will lead to another, and those decisions will affect the course of your life. You cannot go back and time and change your decisions, so sometimes in life it will become impossible to travel certain “roads.” In the years to come, the speaker says that he will tell about his decision, “with a sigh” (16). The sigh suggests that the speaker may feel some regret that he never got to travel the “road not taken.” However, he says, “I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference” (19-20). Earlier in the poem it was clear neither road had been less traveled. The speaker though changes the way he remembers the roads so that he can feel that he made the right decision and took a road that “made all the difference.” In life, you must also accept your choices the way the speaker did and find some way to live with them.

In “A Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost, the message of the poem is that there are many choices in your life; no once choice is better than another, but you must live with the choice you make. The speaker in the poem is a man walking in the woods who comes to a fork in the road. The poem begins with “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, / And sorry I could not travel both” (1-2) The fork in the road is a metaphor for how in life there are different “paths” you can take. Each “path” is a different decision that will change the direction of your life. However, you must choose because you cannot travel two roads at the same time. When the speaker goes to choose a road, he says, “both that morning equally lay / In leaves no step had trodden back” (11-12). Both roads are equally covered in leaves, and so both have been equally traveled. Neither road is better than the other just like no path in life is necessarily better than the other. Once the speaker does choose a road, he thinks about taking the other road another day, but he knows “how way leads on to way, / I doubted if I should ever come back” (14-15) The speaker knows that one road may lead to another, which will make it harder and harder to ever get back to road he did not take. In life one decision will lead to another, and those decisions will affect the course of your life. You cannot go back and time and change your decisions, so sometimes in life it will become impossible to travel certain “roads.” In the years to come, the speaker says that he will tell about his decision, “with a sigh” (16). The sigh suggests that the speaker may feel some regret that he never got to travel the “road not taken.” However, he says, “I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference” (19-20). Earlier in the poem it was clear neither road had been less traveled. The speaker though changes the way he remembers the roads so that he can feel that he made the right decision and took a road that “made all the difference.” In life, you must also accept your choices the way the speaker did and find some way to live with them.