

# International Journal of Education & the Arts

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### **Teacher: An ode to Elliot Eisner (With apologies to Shakespeare and Robert Frost)**

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Teacher, where are you today?  
Here in this classroom and that one,  
In our textbooks and book chapters:  
In the minds and hearts of those who learned from you:  
A bright star in this now cloudy sky,  
Reminding us to never stop moving forward.

Artist, where are you today?  
In our imagination and our memory.  
Recalling that you may have chosen painting over teaching.  
Yet you chose the academic road  
Giving us ideas and perceptions to play with.  
Making us imagine and deliberate  
About research the arts and education.

Colleague, where are you today?  
Still transforming us through your history and ours

Recalling Shakespeare and Frost.  
So that we do not measure our sorrow by your worth  
Otherwise our grief would be unending.

Friend and mentor, where are you today?  
Here at my computer making me think of what would you have said in that line?  
There in that meeting, waiting for the exact moment to speak,  
At home or at yoga class recalling that life is in itself a work of art.  
Every space filled with your wisdom and wit.  
Connoisseurship and discernment your legacy.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Some ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and you  
Took the one less travelled by, Teacher,  
And that has made all the difference.

#### **About the author**

Valerie J. Janesick, (Ph.D. Michigan State University) is Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa. She teaches classes in Qualitative Research Methods, Curriculum Theory and Inquiry, Ethics and Educational Leadership. She has written numerous articles and books in these areas including her recently completed 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Stretching Exercises for Qualitative Researchers* (2011) which is reorganized around habits of mind and includes new sections on internet inquiry and constructing poetry from interview data. She uses dance and the arts as a metaphor for understanding research, evaluation and assessment. Her book, *Oral History Methods for the Qualitative Researcher: Choreographing the Story* (2010) Guilford Publications, argues for artistic representations of data and oral history as a social justice project. Find her website at: <http://sites.google.com/site/valeriejjanesick>. Correspondence to: [vjanesic@usf.edu](mailto:vjanesic@usf.edu)

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