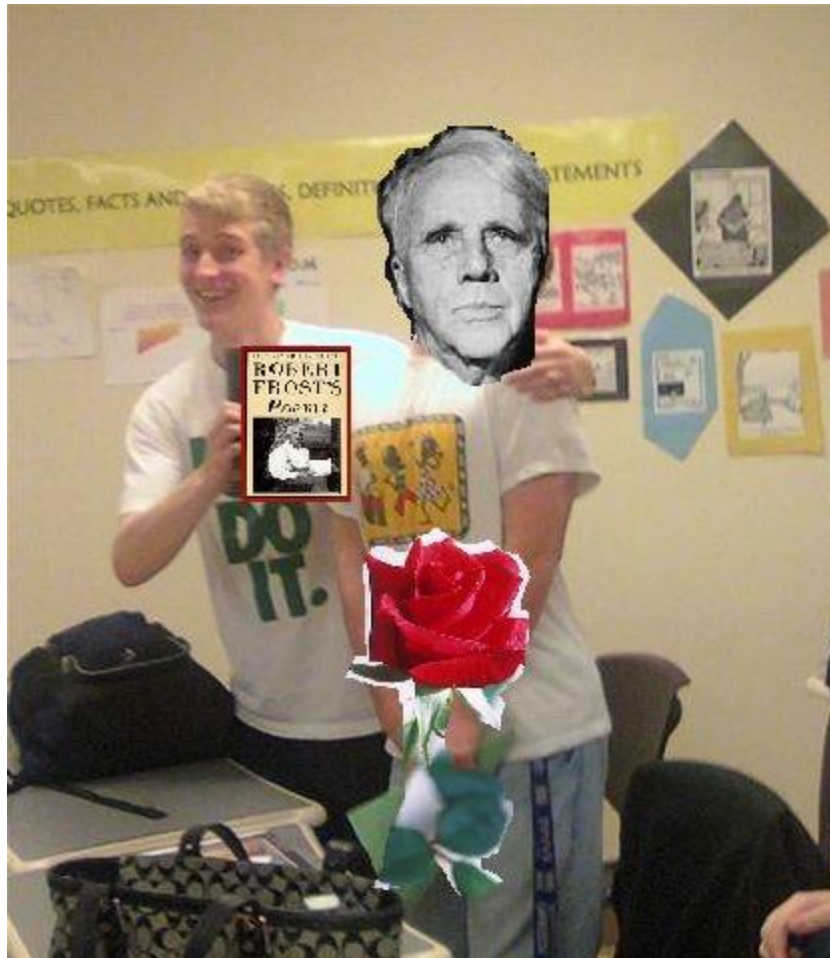


**Patrick Elisa Wells**  
**And dear friend,**  
**Roberto Frost**



**A Rose for Patrick..**

# Robert Frost



Born Robert Lee Frost on March 26, 1874 in San Francisco, California to William Prescott Frost Jr. Isabelle Moodie. His parents had Scottish and England descent. His father died in 1885, and he and his mother moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts under the patronage of Robert's grandfather. There his mother joined the Swedenborgian church where he was baptised, but he left the church in his adulthood. Frost graduated from Lawrence High School in 1892. It was there that he published his first poems, "La Noche Triste," and "The Song of the Wave," in the school's magazine. He then met and fell in love with fellow student Elinor Miriam White. The year of his graduation, he became engaged to Elinor. He attended Dartmouth College instead of Harvard because it was cheaper. He was there just long enough to be accepted into the Theta Delta Chi fraternity. He was so bored by college life that he left at the end of his first semester. Frost tries to convince Elinor to marry him before returning to St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, but fails. After leaving college, he returned home to teach and to work at various jobs including delivering newspapers and factory labor. Truly not enjoying these jobs at all, he felt his true calling as a poet. A year later, he learns that The Independent will publish his poem "My Butterfly: An Elegy" and would pay him \$15. He once again tried to convince Elinor to marry him at once. He took Elinor a copy of his collection of poems *Twilight*, but her cool reception discouraged him and led him to destroy his own copy and return home. Depressed, he decided to go the Dismal Swamp on the Virginia-North Carolina border. He traveled by train and boat to Norfolk, Virginia, and walked for miles into the swamp at night. He began his return journey by hopping freight cars from Elizabeth City to Baltimore and arrived in Lawrence in November. For 1895 he worked as a reporter in Lawrence for Daily American and Sentinel. He finally marries Elinor in December and his son was born a year later. He decided to return to his education in 1897 and borrowed money from grandfather to enter Harvard as a freshman. Two years later, he withdrew from Harvard to support his growing family. His daughter Lesley was born on April 28. Shortly after, he learns that his mother has advanced. In the year 1900, his son Elliot dies of cholera in July and Elinor suffered from severe depression. Frost's health declines, and his Mother died of cancer on November 2. In 1912 Frost sailed with his family to live in Great Britain. His first book of poetry, *A Boy's Will*, was published the next year. Frost wrote some of his best work while in England. As World War I began, Frost returned to America in 1915. He bought a farm in New Hampshire, where he launched a career of writing, teaching, and lecturing. For forty two years, from 1921 to 1963, Frost spent almost every summer and fall teaching at the Bread Loaf School of

English of Middlebury College, in Vermont. The Alumni Directory of Harvard indicates Frost received an honorary degree there. He also received honorary degrees from Bates College and Oxford and Cambridge universities; and he was the first person to receive two honorary degrees from Dartmouth College. During his lifetime the Robert Frost Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia, and the main library of Amherst College were named after him. Frost was 86 when he spoke and performed a reading of his poetry at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy on January 20, 1961. Two years later, on January 29, 1963, he died, in Boston, of complications from prostate surgery. He was buried in Bennington, Vermont. His epitaph reads, "I had a lover's quarrel with the world." Frost's poems are mentioned in the "Anthology of Modern American Poetry", where they note that his sometimes charmingly tone and writing actually presents pessimistic and menacing undertones which often are not recognized. Some of his more famous works are "After Apple-Picking", "Acquainted With the Night", "Dedication", "Directive", "Fire and Ice", "Once By The Pacific", "Out, Out-", "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening", and of course his infamous poem, "The Road Not Taken".

