

Robert Frost

(Poem: 02)

Mending Wall.

Mending Wall is a poem by the American poet Robert Frost. The poem is set in rural New England, where Frost lived at that time. The poem describes how the speaker and a neighbor meet to rebuild a stone wall between their properties - a ritual repeated every spring. This ritual raises some important questions over the poem, as the speaker considers the purpose of borders between people and the value of human work.

Themes:

(Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas

explored in a piece of literature.)
Themes in the poem "Mending Wall" are as follows:

- Borders:

Mending Wall is a poem about 'borders' - the work it takes to maintain them and the way they shape human interactions. The speaker and the speaker's neighbor spend much of the poem rebuilding a wall that divides their properties. As they do so, they debate the function of the wall and how it affects their relationship.

The speaker suggests that the wall is unnecessary, both practically and politically. But the neighbor argues that walls exclude actually

improve relationships, because they allow people to treat each other fairly and prevent conflict. The speaker thus asks the neighbor why they need to continue repairing the wall at all. In response, the neighbor says simply and repeatedly: "Good fences make good neighbors". For the speaker, there's no reason to engage in such preventative measures because there are no conflicts between him and his neighbor. The speaker and his neighbor thus disagree over an issue so fundamental to human society and political thinking.

The poem thus asks its reader to decide for themselves who is right and who is wrong, and to make up their minds about the utility of walls, borders, and

Other political and physical devices that divide people.

Symbols:

- Frost
 - Spring
 - Fences
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- **Frost:** The frost is a mysterious force in "Mending Wall". It acts in powerful and damaging ways, ultimately knocking over large sections of the wall each winter. The things that people make, the poem suggests, are fragile and temporary, when compared to the grand forces of nature, like frost.
 - **Spring:** The spring is a symbol of renewal in this poem. It's time of year when speaker and the neighbor repair wall between their houses.