***Mending Wall*  by Robert Frost**

**Something there is that doesn’t love a wall,**

**That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it**

**And spills the upper boulders in the sun,**

**And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.**

**The work of hunters is another thing: 5**

**I have come after them and made repair**

**Where they have left not one stone on a stone,**

**But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,**

**To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,**

**No one has seen them made or heard them made, 10**

**But at spring mending-time we find them there.**

**I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;**

**And on a day we meet to walk the line**

**And set the wall between us once again.**

**We keep the wall between us as we go. 15**

**To each the boulders that have fallen to each.**

**And some are loaves and some so nearly balls**

**We have to use a spell to make them balance:**

**“Stay where you are until our backs are turned!”**

**We wear our fingers rough with handling them. 20**

**Oh, just another kind of outdoor game,**

**One on a side. It comes to little more:**

**There where it is we do not need the wall:**

**He is all pine and I am apple orchard.**

**My apple trees will never get across 25**

**and eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.**

**He only says, “Good fences make good neighbors.”**

**Spring is mischief in me, and I wonder**

**If I could put a notion in his head:**

**“Why do they make good neighbors? Isn’t it 30**

**Where there are no cows: But here there are no cows.**

**Before I built the wall I’d ask to know**

**What I was walling in or walling out,**

**And to whom I was like to give offense.**

**Something there is that doesn’t love a wall, 35**

**That wants it down.” I could say “Elves” to him,**

**But it’s not elves exactly, and I’d rather**

**He said it for himself. I see him there,**

**Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top**

**In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed. 40**

**He moves in darkness as it seems to me,**

**Not of woods only and the shade of trees.**

**He will not go behind his father’s saying,**

**And he likes having thought of it so well**

**He says again, “Good fences make good neighbors.” 45**