

thought for today

To My Teenage Son at a Very Difficult Time in His Life,

These times are so difficult for all of us. I have broken my heart over it so many times I cannot begin to count. I wish I could give you some of what I have learned.

At forty-two I went back to talk to "me" at twenty-two. At forty-two I had just made some major life changes so I could be home with you when you were a baby. I wanted to be with you during your milestones. It was my gift to you and to me.

I reflected on how many times I had re-invented my life.

So, I went back in time to talk to me. I had been through so much in my life, more than most, but not as much as some. I had taken "The Road Less Traveled" so many times. It was the theme of my high school graduation. It was the theme of my life.

I wanted to show "her" my wisdom, my assurance, and allay her fears.

I found we didn't understand each other very well. The things she wanted to know were not the things I wanted to tell—kind of like when I try to talk to you now.

The things I wanted to say to her were like so much prose in a text, unreal to her, not invested. The gulf between us was too large.

I tried a different approach. I told her I loved her. She didn't trust it. Learning to love yourself doesn't come early in life. I told her she was pretty. She put me off impatiently.

I looked at her and knew I couldn't save her even one lesson, even one pain. It was her path to walk.

I said, "Good-bye."

Turning to go, I realized there was one thing I could do. I turned back with thumbs up and a smile and said, "You are going to be all right, kid!"

She smiled back at that and waved. If she only

remembers this, it is enough.

So, I say to you now, my son, smiling through my tears at you, "You are going to be all right, kid!"

I love you.

Mom