

## If I could

**By Nick Grubinger**

*Dummerston School, Grade 7*

If I could be up high, past the sky, past the evening sky.

If I could be up there and have the power to move the clouds and the sun.

If I could move everything and know what the people on the surface of the earth thought.

If I could know what they thought, and then weave between them unseen, then,  
Then I would be me.

## The excuse

**By Thaddeus Day**

*Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 5*

My mom wanted me to take out the trash, but I was busy doing something really important; I was playing video games. My mom came back and I hadn't taken out the garbage so I said there were rabid squirrels all around the garbage can. She didn't believe me.

She went to the store and said that if I didn't take out the garbage I would be grounded. I tried to take out the garbage but there were raccoons in the garbage bag. I didn't want to mess with the raccoons because they had eaten one of my chickens. I knew my mom wouldn't believe me so I started thinking of an excuse.

I finally thought of something — and just in time. My mom asked me, “Why didn't you take out the trash?”

I said, “My brother should do it so he can have some responsibility.”

She agreed.

## Wrong button

**By Merrill Woodruff**

*Crossett Brook Middle School, Grade 7*

I pushed the wrong button,  
that's what I'll say  
when my teacher asks me on some random day,

why my homework's not finished,  
why I'm just blabbing away.

That's what I'll say  
when my mom asks me why  
my room is still messy,

why I made my sister cry.  
That's what I'll say

when my friend asks me why  
I blew her off for some cute new guy.

I pushed the wrong button  
that's what I'll say

when anything happens on any given day.

## Super powers

**By Drew M. Wood**

*Dummerston Middle School, Grade 8*

If I get any super powers  
They'll be for justice and for the free.

My powers would be

To save the world

From demons, and bombers and anybody  
in between.

So peace could break free.

If those powers failed at one fails another  
would be

to be able to transform myself into any-  
thing so that I could

Protect the president and the U. S. A.

I'll take the demons down

with justice ... every day.

## Choosing a super

### power

**By Maya Redington**

*Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 6*

As I entered the SUPER store, I walked over to look at all of the different super powers. I glanced at the Elasto Girl power. I guess that that power would be fun sometimes, but just the thought of stretching to super lengths made my skin crawl.

Then I took a look at the Invisibility power. That would be pretty cool, being able to glide through anywhere without anybody knowing... but what's the point of a super power if no one can see you?

After I looked at what seemed to be dozens, of dozens of powers, I wandered to the back of the store. I gazed at the very last power on the shelf, which was the power to melt, and I looked to the very back of the shelf. I found a power called, "Animal Girl." I took it off the wall and examined the description on the back. It read:

Have you ever wanted wondered what animals were thinking? How your dog feels about dry or wet food? Well now you can with this power! With this power, Animal Girl, you can talk to animals and hear what they're saying.

I looked at the cover again, and then thought. I would love this power! I could go to Humane Societies across the world and find out what's bothering depressed pets.

I went to the counter and paid for the power. I left the store thinking. I don't think that I found the right power. I think that my right power found me.

## School powers

**By Ian Knapp**

*Fair Haven Graded School, Grade 7*

*(Excerpt: Full story at [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org))*

... It all started on my thirteenth birthday when I wished I had super powers, just for a short time, just to see what it would be like. That next morning, when I was preparing for school, I felt a little more enthusiastic, a little more upbeat. My birthday wish did come true, and I received super powers.

Turned out the super powers I received were pretty neat. I didn't actually discover I had super powers until later in the day at school. Just before lunch, my friend was being teased in the halls. Some older kids where pushing him around, sticking their tongues out and making wimpy impressions of him. Those bullies were tough looking: tall, strong and just mean. The poor kid was my friend so I decided to stick up for him. When I did those bullies started to tease and pick on me too. I got a bit mad, and the rest just happened so fast I didn't realize what I was doing. One of the bullies pushed me, but when he did, I jumped up into the air, did a back-flip and kicked him right in the head. The cool part about it was that I could flip in the air without even jumping high, because I didn't even hit my head on the ceiling when I did the sweet move!

The other bully was stunned with my skill, and ran away like a big baby, which most bullies are. The other bully that I kicked began to cry, grinding his teeth. He stomped away, cursing himself for getting kicked like that. Everyone he had picked on who was in the area began laughing at him. The friend whom I was sticking up for just looked at me as we began our way to the lunchroom....

## Super powers

**By Dillan Burnett**

*Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 5*

If I could have a super power I would want to fly because I could go anywhere I wanted, whenever I wanted, and get away from my brothers when they are annoying me. I could see my friends and wouldn't have to wait in traffic on the way over.

While I was flying all the houses would look small and the trees would be miniature. The air would feel refreshing and cold when it hit my face. It would wake me up. When I was awake, I could go faster and see more. It would be quiet when I am in the air away from my brothers.



Young Writers Project is an independent nonprofit that engages students to write, helps them get better at it and connects them with authentic audiences for their best work. YWP provides writing prompts for this newspaper series; maintains [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org), a supportive online community for students; trains college mentors to provide students with feedback; and builds *Digital Writing Classrooms* for schools and afterschool programs. For more go to: [ywpschools.net](http://ywpschools.net).

**THANKS:** YWP depends on the generosity of businesses, foundations and individuals to keep going. Today we'd like to offer special thanks to:

**FairPoint  
Communications**

## Super powers

**By Selma Ibrahimovic**

*Spaulding High School, Grade 11*

If I could choose one super power, it would be to fly. If I could fly I would be able to go places without driving or walking. I could fly to places near or far. I could fly to the dearest place in my heart, Bosnia. I would be able to go and see my family there and in other countries in Europe and Australia. I could take breaks from always being on my feet. I would be helping the environment by not driving and polluting the air. There are many things I could do and enjoy if I was able to fly.

## Upcoming Prompts

Get published in the *Reformer!*

**Stuck.** Describe a time when you found yourself in a tight spot. Tell us how you got there and what you did to get out of it. Or write a story about someone who is in a difficult situation. **Alternate: India.** What images come to mind? Write them down and tell us where those images come from? Do you think they are accurate? **Due Friday.**

Future prompts and to submit:

**[youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org)**