Rumors

By Samantha Rose Newell
Brattleboro Union High School, Grade 12

Little giggles,
I really don't care…
Did I hear my name?
Sammy, do not stare…
Look straight ahead,
Just listen really well
What did I do?
When did I yell?
This cannot be me
They are talking about.
I am never really loud,
I don't ever shout …
What the heck is being spread
Throughout this school of lies?
I didn't hurt a soul.
I made no one cry…
I'm modest but I can say
I do a lot of good.
Heck, I help others
MORE than I should.
So what's with the rumors?
How have I hurt you?
I can only change it
if you say the truth.
So if you just lie
Then I have nothing to say.
But just please, shut up,
This isn't the right way.

Fans

By Nina McCarthy
Woodstock Union High School, Grade 12

I hear them cheering and shouting girls' names
They gloat with pride as they point with no shame
Each girl has a number and I hear them giggle
"look at that girl — her butt even wiggles!"
These boys just disgust
They only care about bodies and lust
I hear them taunt the girls with hips
If only they knew how our metabolism dips
They scream and shout, taunting the other team,
"You stink Number 33!" they scream.
One by one they whisper about each girl
If only they knew I was sitting there listening, ready to hurl!

Next Prompts

Get published in the *Reformer*!

Object. Write about one object that defines you – or someone you know. Tell a story about why it is important to you (or them). *Alternate*: **The bus.** Write a story that takes place on a bus. **Due Friday.**

Future prompts; to submit:

youngwritersproject.org

Hero! Boy saves girl from house fire

By Skyla Brooks Harvey | *Dummerston Elementary School, Grade 7*

Eyewitness Ivy McDale said, "Thank God Ryan saved Chloe from that fire! I don't know what I would have done without my BFF!"

Another classmate of Chloe's said, "I would have saved her myself if Ryan hadn't. But whatever, you know?"

Chloe herself only had this to say: "I love Ryan; he's my hero. I would have died without him!"

I slammed down the paper. Did they really put that in the paper? No, they couldn't have! I checked again. "I love Ryan" was still on the page! But ... no! I would have to explain to Ryan in person, make sure he knew they didn't hear me right! Ya..

I saw him walk by. "Ryan! Hey! Wait up!"

He stopped as he saw me and smiled. "Chloe. Hey. 'Sup?"

"About the paper ..."

"No problem. Really Chloe, I love you, too."

My breathing stopped. "You do?" I stammered out.

"Of course, you're my girlfriend. I just wanted you to say it first." He whispered and kissed me, which left me blushing as he walked away.

Ryan loved me. I loved him. Life was perfect. That headline changed my life, forever.

Strange markings in sand at beach

By Evan Newberry
Woodstock Union High School, Grade 10

It started off as a day like any other. Jason Sheppard, a retired fisherman, was walking on the beach outside his house in Maine, when he noticed strange lines cut into the sand, black against the ground.

He followed the lines for a good portion of the morning, and then decided to climb onto his roof for a better look. When he reached his roof, he saw that the lines actually made up a giant symbol. Stunned by the bizarre symbol cut into the sand near his house, Mr. Sheppard stumbled backwards, and fell off of his roof.

Later, when he woke up in the hospital with both legs broken, he told the story to his nurse. Further investigation led to the re-discovery of the lines in the sand. Eventually, it was determined that they made up the Mayan symbol for the Apocalypse. After many tests, it was also established that the lines had been drawn by a group of university students who were visiting the beaches for spring break.

Mr. Sheppard still believes the symbol was created by aliens.

"This is the single greatest discovery in the 21st century, and people are ignoring it!" Sheppard said. "It's proof that aliens are going to attack and they are telling us to leave before the invasion starts!"

A ONE-SENTENCE STORY FROM YOUNGWRITERSPROJECT.ORG

"I doted on her, she fell in love with me, and I, being young and careless, made her regret it."

—BAUERVAPORXIX

Superpower pills now available

By Riley Johnson
Dummerston School, Grade 8

SEPTEMBER 3, 2134: Genetic lab Super Stuff Inc. has finally released to the public its superpower pills! You can now buy the pills in well-known convenience stores in Vermont, Texas and Florida.

Here are the superpowers they provide: Heat vision (side effects may include the runs, sunburned eyes and vomiting); these pills come in habañero flavor. A second "mind-blowing" superpower pill gives mind control (side affects may include loss of vision, spiraling eyes and nose bleeds); it comes in super sour-apple flavor. The third "crushing" super power is super strength (side effects may include rashes, pigheadedness and eating disorders); this one comes in barbecue flavor.

Other superpower pills scheduled to come out soon include: electro shock, which will enable you to shoot electricity through your fingertips (side effects may include electric shock when in contact with water and hair standing on end a lot); it will be in lemon flavor. Invisible pills will allow you to turn invisible (side effects may include not being able to find the pills and chapped lips); the flavor will be watermelon. The last release will be super speed pills. You will be able to run 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 mph (onefrizillion mph); side effects may include nausea, dizziness and weak legs. This will be in raspberry flavor.

All these superpower pills will be available at any gas station or convenience store for $600,123,456,789,000 per pill. So go buy them — NOW!

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**, 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.**

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

Vermont Business Roundtable

This association of chief executives recognize the importance of writing well. Thanks to them, YWP came to be. For more about VBR: **www.vtroundtable.org**

Listening in

By Liz Stoddard
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School, Grade 7

Have you ever felt like there is a guardian angel watching over you? I have. While heading downstairs to get a glass of water (about four years ago), I overheard my mother on the phone. I froze at the top of the stairs.

"You know, when my kids were young I was applying for a job in New York. My dad complained that if I got this job I would be too far away from my kids." There was a pause. I guessed whoever was on the other end was talking to her.

"The reason I brought it up was that the job was for me to work in the Twin Towers." She paused again and my heart started to squeeze. I listened closer.

"Guess what day I was supposed to start to work?" Slight pause. "September 11."

My heart exploded and I ran to my room, forgetting to get a water, and piled my head into my pillow and cried myself asleep.

CHECK OUT YOUNGWRITERSPROJECT.ORG

To share work with other writers around the state, get feedback and read other great stuff.