



Mickey Mouse found dead!

By **Evan Hoffman** | CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADE 8

DISNEYLAND — Popular cartoon character Mickey Mouse was found dead Tuesday morning in his backyard pool. Police suspect he was killed by the Mafia because he was found with his feet encased in concrete blocks. The calling card of local Mafia kingpin, Tony the Tiger, was found at the scene. Mickey Mouse was known to have had some dealings with Tony in the past.

"He was a quiet man," said local resident Larry.

Curly and Moe agreed. "It's hard to believe he was involved in such shady stuff," they said.

Memorial services will be held Friday.

Gone

By **Haley Aylward**

CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADE 8

I couldn't help but listen. I just knew something was wrong. I crept down the stairs and peeked through the railing. I was extra quiet so I wouldn't get caught sneaking out of my room at bedtime. I could hear my mom's voice echoing from the kitchen. All of a sudden, a loud gasp. My jaw dropped even though I was clueless about what they were talking about.

"Is she alright?" my mom asked in fear. My heart started beating faster and I could feel my head throbbing. Sweat dripped down my face.

"I can't believe she's gone." I could see my mom's head drop to the counter. At that point I stopped fussing about whom I had lost and quietly made my way up the staircase to my bed. I didn't need it in words to know someone I loved was gone. That night I stayed up wondering who it could have been. I cried every time I thought about it.

A few days later I found myself sitting on a church bench at my best friend's

funeral. I couldn't believe four days ago we had been sitting in the old oak tree in the backyard, reminding each other we would always be there for one another. As I walked out the church doors I looked up at the sky. It started to pour. I know she is still here for me, and reminds me to live everyday like it's my last.

Amazing dog does tricks

By **Maddy Pletzer**

BARRE TOWN SCHOOL, GRADE 4

This amazing yellow lab is Maddy's dog. Her name is Lexi. She is the best dog ever! She is almost six years old and loves to swim. When she is let out of the house, up to the pond she goes.

Lexi does some cool tricks! She will roll over and sit, lie down and some other things. But she will only do a trick if she knows she is going to get a treat. The most amazing trick she does is to never stop playing fetch. When Maddy throws the ball once she makes her throw it ten, maybe even twenty more times — possibly all day! Maddy loves Lexi!

Listening in

By **Timothy Schein**

HARWOOD UNION HIGH SCHOOL, GRADE 12

Listening in
to a conversation
to the crickets chirping at night
to the birds singing in the morning
to the tractors rumbling on the road
to the church bells ringing on Sunday morning

listening in
to my brother watching TV
to my mom cooking dinner
to the screams and shouts of parents at the soccer game
and the whistle of the referee
making a good call

the cool air tells the leaves to change color
fall harvest is here for the taking
with the sounds of school kids
making their way toward another year
just another year starting up again

What are they saying?

By **Lauren Alexander**

CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADE 8

By the locker
stands the heartbreaking boy
and the crushed, naive girl.
She has that look on her face,
like she just wants to run away and hide forever.
"I'm sorry but, uh, I think we should just be friends,"
he says coldly.

At the middle table in the cafeteria
sit the gossiping girls
doing what they do best:
Flipping their hair
and applying that bright, pink lip gloss that
makes them feel
so cool.

"Oh my gosh! I know right?
She is so annoying.
And by the way, have you seen her shirt?
Ha! why would anyone wear that?"

On the field of soccer goals
are the dedicated players.
"C'mon, turn and shoot! Shoot!!!"
Running,
beads of sweat forming on their noses.
That anxious feeling in their stomachs
as they put everything they have left in them
into scoring that winning goal.

And in the hallway
are all the friends,
talking as fast as they can before class.
"Yeah I know,
I miss summer too,
but it's over
and school is here."
"What did you get for problem 7?"
"I think I lost my homework."
"We had homework?"



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YWP depends on the generosity of businesses, foundations and individuals. Special thanks to:

Vermont Business Roundtable

Vocal spikes

By **Megan Perry**

CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADE 8

"Look at her."
"She's so fat."
"Funny to watch in P.E."

The comments I hear that I know are about me have usually been like these. People mock and insult me when they think I can't hear.

Snide comments come from behind your back and not to your face. If you say something, others repeat it in a mocking voice. Any action you make is monitored just so someone can make their friends laugh.

The words and comments linger in your head for hours, days, weeks or even years. They are so harsh that people start to doubt themselves, pity themselves and even kill themselves or others. It's all because of these hurtful, not-so-silent killers.

I know that I will try to stop back-stabbing and insulting people when I think they can't hear. At least I'll try to stop killing with vocal spikes.

Next Prompt

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.**

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