

What math is about

By Audrey Houle

Colchester Middle School, Grade 7

Do you know what math is about?
Numbers, symbols, it's time to shout!
Do you know what fun is about?
Mathematics, operations, brains, relations!
It is about learning, success, gaining
knowledge, communicating, feeling good
about yourself, and estimating.
Math is fun if you make it.
Just have the right teacher, and you'll be
making history.
You will be a great mathematician, and
there will be no competition!
Even if you don't turn out to be a good
mathematician you still need and can feel
the courage, heart, soul and love for math!
It is all what you do, so have a good laugh!

School

By Peter Bowley

Edmunds Middle School, Grade 7

I don't like school. I almost never have.
I find it boring, humiliating and difficult
at times. But school has good things, too. I
have a few memories of things at school
that made me happy, things that made me
want to go to school once in a while.

Focusing on the positive, you can see
your friends at school, there are fun classes
and there's lots to accomplish. All this
time you're still being educated, getting
ready for your future. It's a great thing to
learn. But the best thing about school is
how you feel about what you've done,
your accomplishments. This year, I've
been feeling great. I made Singing
Districts and have always loved to sing.

Now I have a chance. I also made the
honor roll, which makes me proud about
how I'm doing. I work hard all the time,
and I think I deserve that. I got one of the
leads in a play and still love acting. Being
up there and shining makes me happy.

I love singing my heart out and hearing
people say they loved it. I remember clearly
standing in my music teacher's room,
auditioning my hardest for Districts. My
heart quickened and I grew nervous, but I
love that feeling sometimes. And I can't
forget the play. I can still remember standing
on the stage acting, using what a lot of
people believe is my gift.

I'll always remember the things I've
done and how I'm growing. I've noticed
that the things I love doing are coming to
me now. It's all because of school. So,
maybe the next time I approach that tan,
brick building with the American flag
waving and the windows reflecting the
light, I'll enter with a more positive attitude
than I've had in a while.

Tug of war

By Oonagh Cavanagh | Browns River Middle School, Grade 7

Feet sliding across the gym floor
Hands burning from the rope
Face twisted into hard concentration
Chants rise from the almost empty
bleachers
for everyone's in the game
Four-way tug of war
at Browns River
Basically craziness
that's what it boils down to
Been tugging for ten minutes
The faces of the other teams
provide some kind of motivation
The team on my left
has almost achieved victory
We pull harder to prevent the win
I'm wishing I'd taken my friend's advice
and spit on the bottom of my sneakers
"It makes them stick,"
That's what she'd said
Friction might be nice

I thought
Suddenly
the team across from us began to pull
with
extreme force
I fixed my eyes on the orange knot
that united our four strings
It was hovering about an inch away from
where it needed to be
for them to win
With one large jerk
the knot shifted into the winning position
The ropes were dropped
cheers erupted from the few in the
bleachers
The connection was suddenly over
I was sad not because we'd lost
but because it was over
96 hands had been on the same rope at
the same time
temporarily bonding us.

The best school ever

By Brandon Tierney

Vergennes Elementary School, Grade 3

VUES is the best school ever! I play
four square with my friend, Cam. Wade is
good, and everybody is good at four
square.

In Language Arts we are reading
"Gooseberry Park." In it there is a character
named Gwendolyn, and in our class we
have a pet hermit crab named Gwendolyn!
I like our school.

My math world

By Jacob Toro

Berlin Elementary School, Grade 6

Math is so amazing. I love how it
makes you think and there is almost
always a right answer. I like to explain
how I do my work, and talk with others
about problems and answers. When I am
in math class it is like I am in my own
mathematical world, with numbers and
equations, figuring out the answers to
problems. I look at the numbers all
around me and I figure out the answers.
When I'm in my math world it's like no
one is there but me, and that's just the
way I like it!

My favorite part of math is algebra,
because I get to use negatives, positives,
variables and different mathematical
expressions to figure out the answer. I really
like algebra because I get to go below 0,
and I get to multiply, divide, subtract, and
add them together to get answers.

I like math to be challenging, so that I
really have to think about the problem
and explain how I got my answer. If the
work in math is easy it isn't fun and it
doesn't take me that long to do, but if the
work is challenging I have to think hard to
find my answer. If the work is challenging
and I get a good grade, I know that I had
to think and I earned that grade.

Math can sometimes be hard, but if
you try your best and really think, you can
almost always find the answer to a math
problem.

Next Prompts

Lost. Tell a story about losing something
or getting lost. Write a story or poem
about how you feel or how someone else
felt because of a loss. *Alternate:* **Utopia.**
What does your utopia look like? Provide
images if you'd like. **Due Friday.**

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
finds themselves 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 the images are accurate? **Deadline:**
Jan. 8

Submit at:

youngwritersproject.org



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. For more: ywpschools.net.

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My old teacher

By Ryan Kelley

Otter Valley Union High School, Grade 9

"You don't miss something until you don't have it anymore." Well last year my teacher retired after many years of changing kid's lives. On Tuesdays we always read the paper and looked at the Young Writers Project prompts. And he would tell us to keep submitting our work into the paper. A lot of my classmates got in and if you didn't that week he would keep telling you to keep on writing.

Well now he is retired and I hope he still reads the paper so he can see that I got in just for him. So this one is for you Mr. Fish, my old teacher.

Literacy

By Chelsey Horner

Mettawee Community School, Grade 6

School is something that I love about life
Literacy is something that I love and am
good at

Write a story about a cat

Read a story about a bat

Read a story about a mystery

At the end it can be solved

Read a story about a boy, teacher, poems
and a special dog

Yes, it's "Love That Dog"

My 6th grade teacher supports us for the
stuff we do

And I want to thank her

I cherish every moment I have in school