

# Four years & forever

BY RYAN MILLER  
Fairfield Center School, Grade 8

The summer months go by so fast,  
you look back and vacation's passed.  
The months of sun  
and summer fun  
are done.  
Instead a new journey begins,  
a new homestead, a place to fit in.  
First impressions and 400 new peers,  
that's what I'm in for the next four years.  
All through the summer,  
the school year lurks ahead.  
The start of high school won't escape my head.  
It's hard enough picking the right school,  
and I know they tell me that I'll—  
"You'll love it," they say,  
but I'm not sure that's how I'll feel  
on my first day.  
The new kids  
and the new teachers,  
What will it be like?  
Middle school  
or bleaker?  
I'll be there for four long years,  
and slowly my life will start changing gears.  
High school is a time of great change.  
It probably won't be easy,  
but it's a coming of age.  
The coming four years will likely go fast,  
but the memories and lessons I learn will  
last,  
forever.

# Four and me

BY MAKAYLA GRISGRABER  
Swanton Elementary School, Grade 6

Four is a lot of things.  
Forty-four is the number on my basketball  
jersey.  
Four o'clock is the time I go with my dad.  
Four is the number of pencils that I keep in  
my desk.  
Four is the number of best friends I have.  
Four is the number of posters on my wall.  
Four is the number of siblings I have.  
Four is the number of vitamins I take in the  
morning.  
Four is the number of pairs of shoes I have.  
Four is the number of computers at my  
house.

# Four

BY TORI LEGRAND  
Fairfield Center School, Grade 8

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

It started out with four:  
Alexis, Eliza, Kimber and me.  
We did everything together,  
We were as close as close could be.  
We never could be separated  
And we never would shut-up.  
We got yelled at by all the teachers —  
I guess they didn't want to put up with us.  
Then one day,  
Out of the blue,  
One of us left,  
And I remember her words...  
"It's not me, it's you."  
Yes, yes.  
That seems backwards to you.  
I thought the same.  
I didn't think it was me,  
I thought it was you.  
And down it went,  
From four down to three,  
All that was left was  
Three ....



# THIS WEEK: "Faking It" & "Four"

Each week students respond to prompts provided by Young Writers Project. Best work is submitted to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org) by students and teachers from Vermont and New Hampshire. A team of students help select work. For more student writing go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org). Students are welcome to join and share additional work on the site.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

YWP is an independent nonprofit that engages students to write, helps them improve and connects them with authentic audiences for their best work.

YWP runs [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. For more go to [ywpschools.net](http://ywpschools.net).

## AUTHOR FORUMS

With a grant from the **Vermont Humanities Council** YWP is happy to announce a series of in-person and online workshops with Vermont authors.

The first session is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 20 with author **Erik Eskilsen** at Champlain Mill. Online participation follows for two weeks. For more: [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org)

# AMONG THE LEAVES



*Natalie Moffett, Essex High School, Grade 12*

# Four is great!

BY CASSANDRA STENTA  
Swanton Elementary School, Grade 6

Have you ever been in a sticky situation where you have two friends you want to work with, but you have to partner up with just one of them? Well that is one reason why four is a really great number!

For example, when you are in Physical Education, sometimes you have to partner up with someone for an activity, right? When you have two other friends and they both want to be your partner it is very hard to choose between them. When you pick one of your friends to work with, the other usually gets mad or upset with you! This sticky situation could go for both boys and girls at any time.

On the other hand, when there are four friends it is easy to partner up for activities in the classroom and during Unified Arts classes because there are even numbers. Also, your friends will not get so mad because you can have two partner groups that may even be able to work together! That is why I think four is the best number you can have.

# Just say it

BY CARYSSA YATES  
Fairfield Center School, Grade 8

I stand there  
thinking about what to say,  
what to think.  
She loves it,  
me not so much.  
Just say it.  
As she stands there  
in the mirror  
glowing with smiles —  
Just say it.  
We had been there all day  
I yawn and  
listen to my stomach growl —  
Just say it.  
She turns to me,  
"So what do you think?"  
I pause...  
Just say it.  
But I can't.  
She is so happy  
as she continues to ask me again.  
I choke up and say,  
"It's beautiful!"

# A way of life

BY NICHOLAS CARPENTER  
Fairfield Center School, Grade 8

Four corners to a rectangle and square,  
Which is not all that rare.  
Four legs to chairs and tables,  
Without them they wouldn't be stable.  
Four seasons  
For many reasons.  
Four types of precipitation:  
rain, snow, hail and sleet,  
But I prefer a warm heat.  
Compass directions there are four,  
And no more.  
It takes four horseshoes for each game that  
you play,  
Make a ringer and be a winner all day.  
Cards have four suits,  
If play right you can win some loot.  
Four quarters in a game,  
And in the last four digits of your social security  
number.  
Four quarters to a U.S. dollar,  
Give them to a kid and see them holler.  
Four years of high school and college  
To help you get more knowledge.  
Animals with four legs — there are a lot  
And if you look carefully, one you may spot.  
Udders on a cow also come in groups of four,  
And so are my typing fingers that are now sore.  
Four chambers to your heart,  
Without them it wouldn't start. ...  
There are four points on our holy cross,  
With a faith that will not be lost.  
You drive on tar  
With the four wheels of your car.  
Four years of office for each president,  
And if he's good, for four more years the  
White House will be his residence.  
Have you ever found a clover with four  
leaves?  
If you have, good luck you will receive.  
The standard is three,  
But four exceeds!  
There are only four letters in the word four,  
And that we cannot ignore.  
Four surrounds our life in all areas,  
Without the many fours there could be a constant  
strife.  
So as you can see four is a way of life.

## NEXT PROMPT Due Friday

Submit at: [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org)

**Blue.** "It was the most brilliant color blue I'd ever seen..." Work that phrase into a poem or a story.

**Alternate: Photo Prompt.** Write a story about photo to right.  
(For full-sized photo go to: [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org))



# Fake

BY JASMYN BEDARD  
Fairfield Center School, Grade 8

When you don't want to go to school  
you fake being sick.  
When you don't want to talk  
you fake sick.  
When the music teacher says, "Everyone  
sing,"  
you lip sync.  
When your mom says to eat your veggies  
you fake chew and give them to your dog  
When it is silent reading time  
fake it — but make sure your book is not  
upside down.  
When your friends hurt you  
you fake it —  
and then you smile.