

Chilly

By LAURA CASSETY

Main Street Middle School, Grade 7

I am a winter explorer
Traipsing through a frozen wood
The going isn't pleasant
Snow-stung cheeks
Wet mittens
Itchy hat
An insolent boot becomes detached
But the foot won't slow down
Now wet foot and mittens
Snow crystals scrape against the bare leg
Drawing red
I put the wet foot
Back in the bad boot
This explorer is done for the day

Cold

By CERESE SANBORN

Spaulding High School, Grade 11

Breathing is ragged
Puffs of steam.
Your skin is raw
From windburn.
Prickling in your hands
From the snow.
Cold trickling down your back
From a friend's joke.
Walk inside,
Feel the burn.
Fire blazing,
Skin warming.
Now the cold
Is gone.

NEXT PROMPTS

General. Send your best work in any genre. **Due Friday.**

Pocket. You have found something strange in your pocket. Describe it to someone who has no sight. Tell the story of how it got there. **Alternate: My Town.** Tell us a story or anecdote that reveals something about your community — why you like it (or don't), what it stands for, what it's known for. **Due Mar. 26.**

Bullying. Have you been the recipient? What did it do to you? Have you ever bullied anyone? Why? **Alternate: Cell phones.** Make the case that cell phones should be allowed or should not be allowed in school. **Due Apr. 2.**

Submit at:

youngwritersproject.org



THIS WEEK: "Cold" & "Rules"

Each week students respond to prompts provided by Young Writers Project. Best work is submitted to youngwritersproject.org by students and teachers from Vermont and New Hampshire. A team of students help select work. To read more student writing go to 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 — 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.

YWP NEWS

Vermont Humanities Council

YWP is sponsoring a series of workshops with Vermont authors at YWP.

Author **Erik Esckilsen** will lead the first session March 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Champlain Mill in Winooski. Online participation follows.

ALSO: Win a cash award! Writing challenge! For more about contest and forums go to youngwritersproject.org

Cold weather

By AVA COCHRAN

Eden Central School, Grade 3

I love cold sometimes because you can go ice skating and skiing and you can do all sorts of things. In the winter it is easy to find deer beds and animal tracks. In the winter I also like to see icicles that look like frozen waterfalls. I see ice jams in the river.

It can be a pain to dress in a lot of clothes. Sometimes it is too cold to go outside. When I do go outside when the temperature is very cold my cheeks puff up. I like it here in Vermont.

Freezing

By EMMA RIVERS

Crossett Brook Middle School, Grade 8

Freezing
standing in the field
alone,
nobody to hug you and keep you warm.
The harsh wind whips against your cheeks,
turning them red and making them sting.
You trudge through the snow with your heavy boots.
You hate it now,
but once you get home,
open the door
and feel the warmth wrap around you
tightly until you can feel your toes and
finger tips again,
you know that freezing outside
was worth every minute.

Cold is better

By DYLAN MASON

Spaulding High School/Barre Technical Center, Grade 12

Everyone I know always says they hate the cold. They say that you have to bundle up and shovel and clean off the car.

Everyone hates the cold, but it's a lot better than the heat of a summer day. When you get cold you can throw on more clothes and bundle up.

When it's hot, what can you do? You can't really do anything. You can only take off so many layers of clothes. You can put an air conditioner in the window but that's going to cause you to be hotter in the long run.

If you were inside and cold you wouldn't have to do too much — just to go over to the thermostat and turn it up. In the summer you can go swimming or soak in the pool, but in the winter you can go in the hot tub, 'cause no one goes into a hot tub in the summer — too hot. Therefore winter is definitely ten times better.

Even the views are better — you've got green and white on the trees. In summer you just have green, and it's dry and boring.

So the cold winters are the real blessings in disguise. That's why Vermont winters are special to all of us.

A JOURNEY TO RWANDA

A group of 14 students from **Harwood Union High School** went to Rwanda in February as part of a service learning project. To prepare for their trip, several took part in a course on Rwanda at the school. Here is a poem inspired by a survivor of the 1994 genocide they met.

To see what the students wrote from Rwanda, as well as their images and podcasts, go to:

rwanda.ywpschools.net.

The blue sweater

By SABRINA STEDMAN, Grade 12

One sweater
One difference
Is all it takes
She was jogging
Under the African sun
Lost in thought
Foreign land under her feet
Missing the security of home
Everything was new
A familiar thing
A blue sweater
A memory from childhood
A once-loved possession
Given to Goodwill
Donated by a boy in Africa
Her sweater?
Could it be?
A decade later?
Thousands of miles away?
Yes, the tag with her name on it
One American woman
One African boy
Getting warmth
from the same sweater
A miracle
Hundreds of ports
Hundreds of countries
Hundreds of people in need
Yet this sweater
Found its way to this boy
Who wore it this day
At the exact time
When she passed
Small gestures help
One person
Can make a difference
She learned this that day
She made it her mission
To improve lives
To understand the needs
Of people
To impart her wisdom
To others
Through her stories
The blue sweater gives hope.