

Video games

BY ZACHARY BOUDREAU
St. Albans Town Educational Center, Grade 4

When I play video games
I feel like my brain is sucked into it.
It feels like nothing,
Absolutely nothing.
But when I fail at a game
I stomp my feet and scream.
So I don't play video games
Much.

The worst sound

BY CHAEZ SKEELS
St. Albans Town Educational Center, Grade 4

Just imagine relaxing, playing with your DS, Wii, or Xbox. You're enjoying the day with a friend. You've just had lunch and have gotten back to your game when you hear a terrifying sound.

Your friend drops his game controller and asks, "What is that frightening sound?"

"Don't panic," you reply. "It's only my sister — she makes the worst screaming sound ever!"

I guess . . .

BY TORI LEGRAND
Fairfield Center School, Grade 8

I guess this is it
Another long road traveled.
I've been here long enough
I'm yet to be unraveled.
Although I've spent a lot of my life here,
Roaming through these halls,
I guess it's time to move on,
Build up and break down
Even more sturdy walls.
I've experienced many things,
Many good, unfortunately, many bad.
And still to think about it
My heart still seems to sting.
I guess I'm finally here
With a cap and gown.
I guess it's really nearing
I'm gonna miss this small-town.
I guess it's time to switch the tassel to the right...
I guess
This is graduation night.

NEXT PROMPTS

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 Friday.

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.
Deadline: Apr. 2.

General. Send your best work in any genre.
Deadline: April 9.

Farming. Do you farm? Have you ever worked on a farm? Visited one? Write about it. Do you know a farmer? Talk to her or him and tell their story. Try not to romanticize. Tell a story that describes the reality of farming today.
Deadline: April 16.

Submit at:

youngwritersproject.org

THIS WEEK: General Writing



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. For 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

The **Vermont Humanities Council** is sponsoring a series of workshops with Vermont authors at YWP. For details go to: youngwritersproject.org.

ALSO: Win a cash award! YWP is partnering with Bookstock, the Green Mountain Festival of Words, to offer five \$100 awards to young writers. **Deadline: May 1.** For writing prompt and guidelines go to youngwritersproject.org.

YEARNING



Sarah Flaherty, Essex High School, Grade 11

The color for kings

BY DEANNA KOLVA | Montgomery Elementary School, Grade 8

The flash of purple was like no other.
I reached out to touch it, though it was not my color.
It was the color for kings
and all sorts of things.
I wanted it so much, the color dazzled my eyes.
Though I knew by saying this I was telling myself lies.
When royalty wore it, everyone bowed down.
And when women wore it, they had it as a beautiful gown.
All I know is that the flash of purple was like no other.
I reached out to touch it, though it was not my color.

Important people

BY OWEN PELKEY
St. Albans Town Educational Center, Grade 4

The two most important people I know are my mom and dad. Without them, I wouldn't be alive. I love my parents no matter what. I know my parents will love me forever. That is why they are the most important people I know.

Ode to purple

BY ETHAN BAKER
Fairfield Center School, Grade 5

Oh purple, you are my favorite color
Oh purple, you are so nice
Oh purple, you remind me of mice
Oh purple, you taste of rice
Purple you are awesome!

VERMONT WRITES DAY

On Tuesday, Feb. 9 students, teachers and staff all over Franklin county stopped what they were doing to write for seven minutes. The suggested prompts were "Afghanistan," "purple" and "I had the surprise of my life when I opened the door ..." Here are a few samples of what students wrote in response.

Paintbrush wonders

BY DANIELLE
Montgomery Elementary School, Grade 8

The paint splashes the page as the paintbrush hits the canvas.
Images run through my head as I picture the portrait in full view.
It moves so smoothly as the array of colors sticks to the sides of the brush.
My fingers can't let go but I don't want to stop either.
The sparkling silver in the upper corner of the easel sends a shiver through my body as I think about why I put it there.
The yellowish, white sun shines in through the open window and I hear birds chirping and the whistling of wind hitting the side of the brick building.
I dip the brush into the red and then swirl the end of the pointed tip into the white.
I mixed the two colors together but the deep pink color really doesn't fit that specific image in my head.
I look at myself in the oval-shaped mirror hanging up on the wall
And think to myself: a real artist paints with the heart and not the mind.
Pink becomes my new favorite color as I paint with long, graceful strokes.
I smile and think I'm done.
I never saw such a deep shade of purple until I noticed the sun on the horizon.
An hour had just passed me by and now the sun is setting
I stop and think
Then suddenly mix all my colors until I've made that specific purple
I don't want to start all over, but I do anyway.
Purple is now my favorite color and my favorite of all.

Surprise

BY EMILEE TEAGUE
St. Albans City School, Grade 6

I had the surprise of my life when I opened the door and saw Taylor Swift standing there. She was holding a box. In the box was some money and signed pictures of herself. She was holding a guitar that had been signed by her.

I was so excited because she was giving the guitar to me. She also gave me front row tickets to her next concert. It was so awesome and ended up being the best night of my life. After that I got to go out to dinner with her. We went to a very expensive restaurant. I got a Taylor swift T-shirt. It was so amazing.

I got to go hang out with her for a day. We went shopping at the mall and hung out with some of her friends. It was the best day of my life.

I wished I could have stayed longer because she was teaching me to play guitar. It was the one she gave me for winning the contest. I really had the time of my life. I would now like to see a Red Sox player show up at my door.