

# Passion

BY SASKIA BAILEY-DE BRUIJN  
Brattleboro Area Middle School, Grade 7

Passion  
What do you do to me?  
You change my mind  
And those of the people around me  
Why so much?  
Why so many?  
Why so hard?  
Stop changing my mind  
Messing with me  
You have done a lot  
But watch out  
Don't go bad...

# Dear Anne Frank

BY BASUNDHARA MUKHERJEE  
Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School, Grade 8  
The only common thing between you and I is that we've both shed tears at this very spot. We've gazed out the window at the flowing canals, which are now only lined with tourism boats. We've brushed against these walls, on which now the whole world's handprint is layered over yours. My footsteps are blanketed over yours, and those of thousands of others.

The feel of the marks that Otto and Edith made, displaying the progress of your growth, makes me realize that you were once a child like me. I examine it as if to really study it and such a small thing like that brings so much pain to me. Our eyes connect in the sixty-five year old pictures hung up in ancient frames, your innocence soaking into me. I gaze up at the rusty attic, covered by plastic boards, and imagine you gazing back down upon us. The cramped staircases were the same ones you used to go to and from the levels. The rooms were the same ones you sat in, writing the journal that you didn't know would make you one of the most famous people in our world.

When you hid here, the wood floors weren't glossy and there weren't televisions in every corner of every room. When you hid here, there weren't people at the door accumulating money as a means of living and a gift store at every exit. When you hid here, you didn't have the luxury of standing outside in Amsterdam on a beautiful day, admiring the sun and the splendor of the city.

I strive to steer clear of the television screens that explain your last days in Bergen-Belsen because if I did, a little part of me would die too. I can't help but feel upset that out of hundreds of people who have roamed these floors, only a small percent understand. To those people, it's not just a house; it's memories that have been disseminated throughout a building. It's memories that have changed not only individual lives, but the whole entire world.

During this whole visit, there's one thing I've realized. Even after months of studying you and getting to know you, it didn't hurt badly when I entered the Annex. It was when I left, I looked back, and tears started streaming down my face.



# THIS WEEK: General Writing

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).

## YWP NEWS

With a grant from the **Vermont Humanities Council** YWP is holding a series of workshops with Vermont authors.

Author **Erik Eskilsen** will lead the first session on March 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Champlain Mill in Winooski. Online participation follows for two weeks.

**ALSO: Win a cash award!** Writing challenge! For more about the contest and the forums go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org)

# BARE ESSENTIALS



*Martin Harrison, Essex High School, Grade*

# Determination

BY ELLA BANKERT | Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 5

To me the most important word is determination. You need determination to do your best. I need determination when I am trying out for a soccer team. Determination is never giving up, to

keeping going, no matter what. I need to keep going when I am in a race, never giving up. Determination is important to have when you are doing something challenging.

# More than a bedroom

BY ELIZABETH LIVINGSTON  
Burlington High School, Grade 12

As I walk in my room  
I see clutter and mess,  
But I feel at home  
Nonetheless.  
I see all the papers,  
The folders, the pictures,  
The drawings, the books,  
The cards and the notes.  
My freshman yearbook,  
What memories it holds,  
Of times I was sad  
And times I was bold.  
A drawing of Pooh Bear  
Taped up on my wall  
Reminds me of battles  
Both large and small.  
My big blue bike  
Leaning 'gainst the wall  
Reminds me of summers  
With friends, not alone.  
The rosary hanging  
From my bedroom door's knob  
Reminds me of losses  
And closeness to God.  
Sheet music on  
My music stand  
Reminds me of  
A lifelong love.  
As I take this trip  
Down Memory Lane,  
I remember the people  
Who have had a lasting impact.  
The chorus teacher,  
Rarely upset,  
The choir members,  
Always so kind,  
The friends who have guided me  
Down the rocky road of life.  
As I sleep in my bedroom,  
So stuffed full of mem'ries,  
I feel safe in my bed  
In what's more  
Than a bedroom.

## NEXT PROMPTS

**Avoidance.** What do you avoid? Tell a story about a time when you avoided something.

**Alternate: Intolerance.** In your life have you seen intolerance or prejudice or discrimination? Write about intolerance; tell a story about your own experience or observation.

**Due Friday.**

**General.** Send your best work on anything.  
**Deadline: Mar. 19.**

**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. **Deadline: Mar. 26**

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