

I hope we find a cure

BY EVAN DOE
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

I think our environment is wonderful in all seasons. When I go into the woods I know that I'm not alone. I can hear animals all around me.

One time I was in the woods and I heard leaves crackling. I was nervous at first, then I saw a squirrel crawling up a tree and I felt better. I would hate to see our wilderness turn into roads and buildings.

There are some problems. Cars and big trucks make pollution. The atmosphere around us is getting thinner so it gets hotter every year. Ice is getting thinner every year, and some people don't know that. They will drive across the ice with their snow machines and some of them fall in and drown. I hope we find a cure for this situation. If it keeps going on like it is today our future will be terrible.

Right now I think the environment is in pretty good shape. I hope it stays that way.

Help save the earth

BY CALEB BAPP
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

I think about the environment when I walk through the woods and I see trees that are cut down. I think of all the trees in the world that have been cut down, and the bears and any other animals that are homeless or have died because of it. Trees also help us breathe. If I had a million dollars I would be re-planting trees.

So if you are for this earth and all humanity, don't just sit around and do nothing, get up and help to save it.

Saving our planet

BY ANDREAS WAIBEL
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

I think the world is falling apart. Loggers are cutting down trees, and that is a problem. If all the trees are cut down we will have nothing to filter carbon dioxide out of the air.

Cars are making pollution and that is a big problem. It causes the ice to melt on the North Pole and the polar bears have less space to live.

All of the bad stuff we are doing to our planet is really bad. If we keep this up our children may not have a nice life like we do. We have to think fast. If everybody re-uses water bottles, turns off lights to save electricity and carpools, we could save many animals and our planet earth.

Logging

BY JACOB MARSHIA
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

I think logging is good, but after we cut the trees down and it rains, the soil runs into rivers and kills the fish. If logging is going to continue the loggers are going to have to replant the trees they cut down.

On a show I saw loggers used a yarder, and at the end they replanted trees. When they come back in ten years — maybe not the same crew — they will cut them and replant again. The logging crews that use yarders do not make ruts in the ground.



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

Win cash! Young Writers Project is partnering with Bookstock, the Green Mountain Festival of Words, to offer five \$100 awards to young writers. **THE TOPIC:**

Write a story, poem or essay about a vivid memory or experience involving a building — real or imagined. The building can be a character or a setting that is a key part of the plot, mood or theme. 750 words. Due May 1. More at youngwritersproject.org.

SEE NO EVIL



Shannon Mirpanah, Essex High School, Grade 10

Shannon has this to say about her photograph: "I was always interested in the saying, 'See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.' Some people think of it as a religious term as in, 'If we do not hear, see, or speak evil, we ourselves shall be spared all evil.' I myself am a religious person and thought this would be a great topic for a photograph."

Small things

BY SADIE FULLER
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

We could do little things and make a big difference. We could save water. All we would have to do is shut off the faucet while we are brushing our teeth.

We could also save electricity by disconnecting our computers when we are not using them.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Vermont Humanities Council has given YWP a grant to hold in-person and online workshops with Vermont authors. **NEXT UP:**

Phoebe Stone, author of "All the Blue Moons at the Wallace Hotel," will be at YWP's headquarters, **Saturday, May 15. SIGN UP at youngwritersproject.org.** She will continue providing feedback online for several weeks following.

I care about logging

BY PIERRE RAYMOND
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

Logging is good, but some loggers get a little greedy and cut down too many trees. Other loggers cut down the redwoods and there aren't many of those left in the world.

I think we should make a law that loggers can't cut redwoods down, or stop issuing permits to some loggers.

Maybe they should only allow loggers who replant trees to keep logging.

If there were no woods

BY KYLE THOMPSON
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

What I like about our environment is the woods, because animals live there. If we cut the woods down there will be no more homes for animals, and no more homework for kids.

Beauty of the outdoors

BY ALEX LAHUE
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

The land outside is delightful. The colors are pretty. Leaves are starting to fall. Animals are stocking up on food for the winter.

Now it's time to rake leaves into piles, jump into one or two and make a splash of pretty colors. The wind starts to howl.

The first frost is beautiful as can be. The first snow drifts down gently. Lakes are frozen. Time for some sledding and skating.

Lakes are perfect for swimming during summer.

Fields are perfect for frolicking.

Find any tree and climb it.

Lie in the grass and feel the breeze.

We do not need electronics to have fun.

Jump in the mud —

not too hot, not too cold, just right.

Play baseball or football.

Plant a garden

with potatoes, carrots and some peas.

Go into the woods.

Watch some rabbits hop around.

Enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.

Look at the stars.

Our woods

BY JARED HOGABOOM
Berkshire Elementary School, Grade 5

I think that the woods are very good to have because when we go out in the woods in the fall we can see all the colors of the leaves on the trees and on the ground.

Another reason it is good to have woods is that when we go there during the winter we can see snow all over the trees and spot deer tracks in the snow all through the woods.

My third reason why it is good to have woods is in the summer, when it is hot, we can go in the woods and sit under the trees in the shade and watch the deer.

I think that if we cut trees down we should replant some.

NEXT PROMPTS

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. **Due Friday.**

Rain. Tell us a story about your best or worst experience in the rain. **Alternate: Phobias.** Heights, small spaces, thunderstorms, spiders. Do you have a phobia? How do you deal with it? **Deadline: April 30.**

Dreams. Nightmares, happy dreams, day-dreams. Write about a dream you have had. Or, write about your dreams for the future. **Alternate: Poetry.** Write an ode, limerick or a shaped poem. **Deadline: May 7.**

Success. Write about a time you succeeded at something you worked really hard on. **Alternate: Memorial Day.** What does this holiday mean to you? Do you do anything special, or do you just sleep in? **Deadline: May 14.**

Submit at:

youngwritersproject.org