

# Country girl

BY KATHERINE GAGNE  
Spaulding High School, Grade 10  
Wakin' up before the crack of dawn.  
Go for a quick walk around  
this sleepy little town.  
When I get home,  
I put my blue jeans on.  
Tuck in my shirt,  
listen to a country song.  
Wishin' life was just like way back then.  
Well here I go again.

*Chorus:*  
People stare at me,  
I don't care!  
Whatever the reason,  
They have to stare.  
Unlike them, I do not have to hide  
Who I am down deep inside.  
I'm happy bein' who I am.  
A country girl in the 21st century.

I don't get how  
my friends like to dress.  
Their clothes are a wreck  
and their hair is a mess.  
I tuck in my shirt  
and my hat's on straight.  
In my own opinion  
I think I look great.  
Who cares what they have to say?  
I'm happy bein' me this way.

*Repeat Chorus*  
So judge me if you really want to.  
But don't get mad if I judge you.  
We're who we are, that's who we'll be.  
Even though that's hard to believe.  
I try to tell my friends about this.  
That keepin' their real life  
hidden is a mess.  
They don't believe me,  
I say, "We'll see."  
Unlike them, I'm happy bein' me.  
An' I make sure it's easy to see.

*Repeat Chorus*  
I am a country girl.  
Livin' in the 21st century.

# Recipe for the first day of spring

BY AUSTIN HOYT  
Crossett Brook Middle School, Grade 7

Two quarts of overflowing rivers  
Fifteen patches of green  
to dot the white ground  
Ten cups of mud everywhere  
Six handfuls of flowers  
peeking through the slushy snow  
One ton of icicles  
drip, drip, dripping  
from the eaves.



# THIS WEEK: General writing

Each week Young Writers Project selects best work from students throughout Vermont. Students respond to prompts provided by YWP or send their best "general" work. A team of students helps select work for publication in this and eight other newspapers. For more go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org), a civil community of young writers.

## 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

**Win cash!** YWP is partnering with Bookstock, the Green Mountain Festival of Words, to offer five \$100 awards to young writers. **Due: May 1.** Topic and guidelines at [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org).

**ALSO: Phoebe Stone**, author of "All the Blue Moons at the Wallace Hotel," will lead a writing workshop at YWP's headquarters, **Sat., May 15. SIGN UP** at [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org).

# The right to bear arms

BY BEN ALBURY | Northfield High School, Grade 10

I had the surprise of my life when I opened the door and found a pack of wild bears lounging in my backyard. Just as I was starting to grasp that the bears were in fact real, I was met with another doozie of a surprise. Standing amongst the bears was none other than former president, Bill Clinton. He was dressed in full battle armor and carried the ax of Thor, the god of thunder.

"B-B-B-Bill..." I stuttered.

"Yeah, it's me Boss," said the former president, "Don't think I don't know that you have been prospecting on my land."

"I did no such thing!" I replied hotly.

"Save it! I know a no-good, filthy liar when I see one," he shot back, "Don't let it happen again or I will harness all the powers of the earth and rain hell upon thee with my deadly grizzly force."

With that the former president leaped atop the largest bear, spurred its flanks and led his battalion off into the fog.

# The last day of school Recipe for 4-wheeling

BY KEENAN GREENWOOD  
Crossett Brook Middle School, Grade 7

Three gallons of screaming kids  
Ten gallons of the hot sun  
One teaspoon of field day  
One pint of adrenaline  
Rushing through your body  
Until the bell rings  
That's where the rampage begins  
The school ends when the buses leave.

BY JACKSON FROBEL  
Crossett Brook Middle School, Grade 7

3 tons of Polaris 600  
8 gallons of sloppy mud  
9 dozen rednecks  
1 pint of country music  
A dash of hunting stories  
And 7 bucketfuls of sloppy mud on all four tires.

## NEXT PROMPT

**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 April 23.**

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

# Lorrie-Ann is home

BY EMILY RICHARDS  
Berlin Elementary School, Grade 5

I walked in the woods  
the animals moved  
they cracked and hooted  
until I was scared.  
The bats circled me.  
They squeaked  
I squirmed.  
I looked  
and I looked  
Nobody around.  
The eyes looked at me  
and I looked at the eyes.  
They moved closer  
and soon I felt fur on my knee.  
A bark and a howl  
That sealed it.  
Lorrie-Ann was home.  
My pet,  
my dog,  
my animal.  
Lorrie-Ann is home.

# Riding in Vermont

BY CATHERINE HAYES  
Crossett Brook Middle School, Grade 7

One horse  
One saddle  
Five cups of carrots  
One of each of the following:  
a helmet, a pair of gloves  
a pair of boots, and some riding pants  
Add a bit and some reins  
four different brushes  
three cups of sweat  
A pint of warm summer breeze  
Two quarts of sun  
Finally,  
add  
a dash of each:  
compassion, love, commitment  
strong will, and strength  
Mix it all together  
and you've got a day of horseback riding  
in Vermont.

MORE GREAT STUDENT WRITING AT  
[YOUNGWRITERSPROJECT.ORG](http://YOUNGWRITERSPROJECT.ORG)

# Haiku

BY ISAAC MEARS  
Maine Street Middle School, Grade 6

A car driving fast  
so fast it goes back in time  
cave men destroy it