

# Morning

By JULIEN LeCLAIR-KATIMS  
Edmunds Middle School, Grade 7

“Wake up.”  
“Five more minutes.”  
Sleep.  
“Wake up.”  
“Five more minutes.”  
“NO!”  
Stretch, yawn,  
Look at clock.  
6:30  
Fall back asleep.  
“GET UP!”  
Wave arms in the air.  
“I AM up.”  
“NO, you are still in bed.”  
“But I’m UP.”  
“Get up out of bed...NOW!”  
“Three more minutes.”  
“No.”  
“Two more minutes.”  
“No.”  
“One more minute.”  
“No.”  
“Thirty more seconds.”  
“NO.”  
“Three more seconds.”  
“OK.”

...  
...  
“UP!”  
“NOOOOO”  
“YESSSSSS”  
“NO”  
...  
...  
“NOW!!!!”  
.....  
JULIENNN!!!!!!!!!!!!  
What? Huh? Oh, yeah...fine.

# Avoidance

By ELOISE HIGGINS  
Woodstock Union High School, Grade 12

The email has been sitting  
In my inbox for a while now.  
I don’t want to look at it  
So I leave it as unread  
And feel jittery every time  
I log on and see that there is (1 UNREAD  
MESSAGE)  
Maybe it won’t be there tomorrow  
I tell myself.  
Tomorrow comes and goes  
And still the email is waiting.  
I think that it was sent  
Just for this purpose,  
To make my nerves barbed wire with  
An electric current strong enough  
To knock out a full-grown elephant.  
It tortures me with possibilities,  
Bad and good.  
I finally give in,  
Click on the bold blue letters  
And inside the email was...



## THIS WEEK: “Avoidance” and “General”

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. Vermont students are welcome to join and share their writing.

## 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

Vermont Humanities Council has given a grant to YWP to hold 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](http://youngwritersproject.org)**. She will continue providing online feedback for several weeks following.

## Avoiding tomatoes

By NATHAN GABORIAULT  
Rick Marcotte Central School, Grade 5

I avoid eating tomatoes. I do it by searching my food and picking them out.

I avoid eating tomatoes because maybe, just maybe, the seeds are made of small bits of toes. That could be why they call them tomatoes. They are also gooey on the inside.

I once went to a restaurant and ordered a taco salad. I forgot to look for tomatoes. When I was eating I ate a small chunk of tomato. I had to swallow it against my will. I dug out all the tomatoes and gave them to my mom.

Another story is when I was at my neighbor’s house and she had a garden. She had tomatoes so I asked my mom if I could try one to see if I liked them now. My mom said, “Nathan, you can only have one if you don’t spit it out.”

I didn’t listen to my mom and I plopped one in my mouth. When I bit into it the gooey inside squirted into my mouth and I spit it out instantly. I ended up not telling my mom that I hadn’t listened to her.

## Kaleidosplosion

By JENNIFER IRELAND  
Shelburne Community School, Grade 4

Kaleidosplosion  
Colors twinkling,  
Twirling every which way.  
The colors seem so happy and gay.  
They seem to explode  
In a colorful overload.  
They zing  
Around and make me want to sing.

## One step at a time

By PACEY O. GILBERT  
Rick Marcotte Central School, Grade 5

We all walk through the world  
one step at a time.

Not all of us make it to the end  
but we remember those who died.

All the people around us, our families —  
Everyone has a purpose in life.  
Whether it is to heal, to build, to help or  
to even train, we all have a purpose in life.  
We need to slow down our steps  
to see all the good things in the world  
as we walk through it  
one step at a time.

## Pudding

By CHLOE HUTT VATER  
Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 6

The one thing I try to avoid is going to the grocery store. Every time my mom and I walk past the pudding aisle, I beg her for pudding cups. I try to sound desperate, but she always says no and just keeps walking. I ask again, but it doesn’t work.

She tells me I can get the pudding mix in the box instead. What she doesn’t get is that part of the enjoyment of the pudding is the actual pudding cup. When I try to explain that, she thinks I am just being lazy. I’m not being lazy; it is pretty hard to make the pudding. I mean first you have to read the directions, which is something I am not good at. Next I have to find the milk, and I usually spill it everywhere. I end up having little-to-no milk left for the pudding and no pudding cups.

This whole thing wouldn’t have happened if I had avoided the grocery store.

# Footprints in the snow

By MEGHAN LAVOIE  
Rice Memorial High School, Grade 9

As snowflakes  
traveled  
down,  
awaiting  
the moment  
they’d kiss  
earth  
for the very  
first time,  
an 80-year-old  
soul  
rose  
into the January  
sky.  
But before  
he left,  
he made  
footprints in the snow.  
The cloudless sky  
stopped snowing,  
and the footprints  
remained forever,  
frozen in the sidewalk.

## Snow

By ZACHARY LOITER  
Shelburne Community School, Grade 4

Softly drifting from the sky  
Quieter than a firefly  
Softer than a downy pillow  
And as it falls through the night spreading a  
blanket clean and  
White it whispers  
*Goodnight,*  
*Goodnight.*

## NEXT PROMPTS

**DUE FRIDAY: General.** Send us your best writing about anything.

**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 23.**

**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.**

Submit at:

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