

# Leaf dance

BY NICOLE WINOT  
Leland and Gray Union High School, Grade 8

spin  
feel the color  
think  
believe  
dream  
happy remembrance  
in time to the beat  
dance  
hope  
wonder  
colors that swirl  
colors that dance  
yellow  
red  
orange  
autumn  
breezes that astound  
can you hear it?  
see them dance  
twirling  
whipping  
enchanted  
remember the sun  
remember the water  
remember yourself  
in the time of today  
in time to the dance  
the one of the leaf  
the leaf come to dance

# Cell phone

BY KALSANG DOLKAR  
Lyman C. Hunt Middle School, Grade 7

Blip. Blip. Blip.  
Behind me  
One girl is texting furiously to her B.F.F.  
Not aware of what is going on around her.  
BLIP. BLIP. BLIP.  
More electronic sounds echo to my right,  
Slightly different than before.  
I look to the side  
And see one beady-eyed boy playing a fast-paced  
race car game  
On his iPhone.  
BING!  
Suddenly, to my left  
A girl bursts into tears.  
Surprised, I turn around  
And see a neon-green cellphone in her hands,  
Its bright screen flashing a column of black text.  
I may not have good eyes  
But I can easily read it:  
I HATE YOU FREAK!!!  
The girl's face is cherry red, knuckles bone white,  
as she stands up  
And walks to the restroom.  
As I turn back to my desk  
I hear the sudden sound of glass breaking.  
Actually, it's the exact sound of a cell phone  
Being hurled against the tiles of the restroom  
floor.



# THIS WEEK: “Bullying” & “Cell phones”

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

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

# Bullying

BY TATIANA LOFTUS  
Frances C. Richmond Middle School, Grade 7

I’ve seen it happen  
Because of her bright purple sneakers  
Because of her orange glasses  
Because of the way he walks  
Of the way she talks  
Of his mom  
Of her dad  
Of her brother  
Of his sister  
Although she has the thoughts inside her  
Of how these people make her feel  
She doesn’t have the will power to tell them  
Neither do they  
And why?  
Because they make them crawl into that corner  
With no one by their side  
Except that one good person  
That tells them to hold on for the bumpy ride

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

# Someone

BY MASON McNULTY  
Richmond Middle School, Grade 7

look into someone’s eyes and you can see fear  
their minds running  
running away from what could hurt  
running away from the future  
running away from reality  
running away from someone’s angry fists  
angry feet, hungry to kick someone weaker  
someone scared, someone helpless  
look down at the fingers on your keyboards  
should you say it?  
should you keep it to yourself?  
your eyes burn as they read the truth  
or what someone else thinks is the truth  
*u r a loser*  
*u cant do anything rite*  
*u dont have any friends*  
your fingers touch each letter  
typing out a plea  
please leave me alone  
now all you can do is forget  
try and forget what those people said  
try and remember that people love you  
try and remember that everything will be OK

# The bully

BY EILEEN ROUNDS | Rutland Town Elementary School, Grade 4

One day when I came to school, I’m so into horses that everybody picked on me. I had no way to defend myself. I couldn’t think of anything to say except, “It’s not funny.”

I didn’t know how to stand up to him. I had no way to stand up to him. I felt so sad. I just didn’t want to believe what he was saying about me.

I always feel like I’m invisible to everybody, like I was never born. I tried to stop it myself. But, it didn’t work. I could have asked my friends. And they would stand up for me. Nothing stopped him from wrecking my path.

Finally, I told the teacher. It got worse the next day. He said, “If you dare tell the teacher, I will hunt you down.” I never told her. But he had to be stopped. From now on, if he was bullying anybody, it was me.

# TXT

BY HALEY HARDER  
The Renaissance School, Grade 6

Sarah: y am i here?  
- 2 st8 the long discussed “cell fones in skool” case?

Mrs. Willow: Yes.

Sarah: ovr txt?

Mrs. Willow: Why not?

Sarah: kool.

- so, wat do u want me 2 xplain?

Mrs. Willow: I would like you to explain what the advantages or disadvantages are of having cell phones in school.

Sarah: can i stick w/the pros?

Mrs. Willow: Of course.

Sarah: well, cell fones giv u constant communication 2 ur parents or guardians whenever you need it. also, txtng is a gr8 way 2 talk w/ ur friends silently. all tchrs like silence, rite?

Mrs. Willow: Not necessarily.

Sarah: really? i thot they did. Noiz is 1 of those things that all kids think tchrs hate. say, what do they really hate?

Mrs. Willow: Bad grammar.

Sarah: ahhh. that must really bug u guys.

Mrs. Willow: Sarah, do me a favor. Please look at what you texted in our conversation.

Sarah: Oooh, Bad grammar.

Mrs. Willow: Exactly. That concludes our case today.

Sarah: But, why? (Notice the grammar!)

Mrs. Willow: Texting is making the human race slowly forget that there is a reason for good grammar. People are using abbreviations just so they can say more in less time. There will be no cell phones in school, at least not in this one. I find it disgraceful to use bad grammar in a school where good grammar is one of the focuses. By the way, nice grammar!

Sarah: I see. Oh! It’s dinnertime. Goodbye, Mrs. Willow!

Mrs. Willow: Goodbye Sarah.

## NEXT PROMPTS

**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.**

**General.** Send us your best work, in any genre. This is the last general prompt for this year. Go for it! Send it in!

Submit at:

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