

# Circles

BY JULIA HANCOCK-SONG

Home School, Grade 8

Praying is hard

When you don't know who you're praying to

When you don't know what you want

Pain becomes a routine

Praying is hard

When you don't know what to ask for

Make a wish

This second

Think fast

Life is far from perfect

But what do I really want back?

Someone is watching me

I know

I feel

Some deity

I hope

And not some stalker

My complete inability

To figure out the world

Rattles me

Though no one else seems to try

It's my questioning

Constant questioning

Of traditions

Plans

Theories

All wrong

All distant

All unstable

Wishing is hard

When you don't know what you're wishing for

When you just want to lie in the grass

And cry

Because this feels like a movie

Someone must be watching me

I know

I feel

I'm praying

To no one

Praying

For nothing

I know I need to build my own life

Pain becomes a routine

Living becomes a habit

Silence becomes water

Shadow becomes shadow.

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## Loss of mind

BY RACHEL BAGINSKI

Charlotte Central School, Grade 8

Memories stretching forever

glass droplets of life

touched by few

mourned by others

something lost, never to be regained

carefully arranged

or randomly scattered

none are alike

only in our dreams are we together.

## THIS WEEK: Dreams & poetry



Each week, Young Writers Project receives submissions from students all over the state. We select the best for publication here and in eight other newspapers. This week, students submitted writing in response to the prompts, “dreams” and “poetry.” For more go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org), a safe, civil online 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.

YWP runs [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org) and **The Schools Project**, a comprehensive online classroom and training solution for teachers to integrate digital technology into their curriculum. **Teachers interested in signing up or renewing**, go to [ywpschools.net](http://ywpschools.net) or contact YWP at 802-324-9537.

### YWP NEWS

THANKS to **Physician's Computer Company** of Winooski which has supported YWP in many ways.

THANKS also to **Northfield Savings Bank** for a grant to YWP to expand its Digital Storytelling Project and to **KeyBank** for supporting YWP's summer program with Upward Bound.

TEACHERS: Sign up for Digital Writing Course by YWP and National Writing Project in late June. See [digitalteachers.net](http://digitalteachers.net) for more.

## Hope

BY JORDAN MASCITTI

Williamstown Middle School, Grade 7

Hope is found in the hearts

of wishful little boys and girls.

It's the dream they dream

all through the night.

Hope is the ambition

that is found within the heart.

The greatest desire, the

biggest want.

Hope is a powerful thing,

and it is to be respected.

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## Dream

BY MIRELA MUJIC

Spaulding High School, Grade 11

My dream is to go to college. It is also my biggest priority. I never really thought that I would go to college, so I never really tried in school.

Now that I am a year from graduating high school I realize that it is still very hard for me to go to college — just because of the decisions I've made and it's not like my family has the money for me to go to college anyway.

So one day I was talking to my mom and she told me not to give up. I went into my room and thought it over. I came to a conclusion and promised myself that I am not only not going to give up for my mom, but for myself as well. I am determined and ready to take on anything to achieve this goal for both of us.

## Dreams

BY KAITLYN MESLER

Spaulding High School, Grade 11

The dreams that we've had

The dreams that will be.

In those dreams of the future

Oh, what a world we can see.

Candycane forests

And a peppermint breeze

Honeycombed castles

Created by bees.

While the unicorns prance

The pink bears will dance

And protecting the castle

Is the Black Knight with a lance.

Caramelized shores

And a deep purple ocean.

Add some cute little fish

Now it's a tasty, little potion.

Cotton-candy clouds

Floating in a green sky.

In this place where people stay together

And true love is not a lie.

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## The man from South Dali

BY MAGGIE NOWLAN

Main Street Middle School, Grade 6

There once was a man from South Dali

who ate only waffles and farfalle

He tried them together,

it scarred him forever,

and now he eats only tamales.

## Memorial Day

### Not just another day . . .

BY KATHERINE GAGNE

Spaulding High School, Grade 10

On Memorial Day, we celebrate veterans of all wars that the United States has fought in. We also recognize the work they did and the sacrifices they made for our country. We honor those who have served, and those who are currently serving in the armed forces.

Memorial Day is not just another day. It is a day when we gather to honor and show respect to those who have given their lives for us and for our country. Memorial Day commemorates all of the men and women who have given up so much to keep us safe.

To me, Memorial Day is not just another day that I get to sleep in, or that I get off in the school year. Memorial Day is much more than that to me. That day in May is when I get to honor and recognize family members and friends who have served in the military. I show my respect to the family members who died while serving their country. I remember those who are over in Iraq and Afghanistan putting their lives on the line to keep my family safe from harm. I pray for all soldiers, even the ones I have never met. I pray for them to return home safely.

Memorial Day is a day where we should all come together and pray for the men and women serving in our armed forces, so they can come home safely. Memorial Day is just another ordinary day to some people. But to people like me, Memorial Day is so much more. It is a day when we can remember and never forget what the soldiers have done for this country. And for us.

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## War

BY NATHANIEL CHRISTOPHER BABCOCK

Lamoille Union Middle School, Grade 8

At the camp

Below the ground

In a bunker

Near the lines

On the ground

Among the dead

Into a coffin

Under the flag

For war's price

The soldier paid