

My brother cooked for us today

BY EMILY RAY
Shelburne Community School, Grade 6

My brother cooked for us today
We had so much to eat
He started with an appetizer
Baseball bat chips with smelly sock dip
For the main dish we had something no food could beat
Shoelace spaghetti, tennis ball meatballs and fried hair sauce
For a drink he made a crazy concoction so good to sip
It was a perfectly cold, dirty-shirt smoothie with a blue straw
And then we had something you would never toss
Skateboard bread and dirt butter for all
And for dessert, the best part of the meal
Ground-up soccer ball with moss icing to make you reel
And when his creations were passed around the table
My face grew light and turned very, very white

A muffin

BY WARREN OUELLETTE
The Renaissance School, Grade 6

I'm
Simply
Placed in
The baking oven.
Rising from yeast, I
Inflate. I feel the heat
From a burner in the oven.
I feel completely hot and just
Before I am burned...DING! The timer
Stops, and the oven stops giving heat, and
The oven door opens. A tray with a large stick
Attached to it, takes me out of the oven.
I'm taken across a kitchen and placed
On a white table to cool down. Soon
A black haired lady enters the shop.
She quickly talks to the chef who
Made me. I am picked up and
Placed in a bag. I'm carried
Away, wondering what my
Journey will be from here.

Summer

BY BRITTANY COUTERMARSH
Benson Village School, Grade 8

Warm outside
Cool inside
Go swimming
Have fun fishing
Boat rides
Ride four-wheelers
After the hay gets cut
Camp out in a tent
In the field or backyard
Just keep busy
Or just hang around

THIS WEEK: General writing



Each week, Young Writers Project receives several hundred submissions from students all over the state. With the help of some anonymous students we select the best for publication here and in eight other newspapers. This week, students submitted their best general writing. To read more, go to 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 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 or contact YWP at 802-324-9537.

TEACHERS NOTE

Sign-up underway for **2010/2011 Schools Project writing program**: Digital training, classroom Web site, ongoing mentoring, lesson plans. Spaces limited. Contact Geoffrey Gevalt, 324-9537.

Summer Master's Course: YWP and National Writing Project are offering a Digital Writing course in late June.

YWP Master's Practicum: Yearlong Digital Learning course (St. Michael's credits). See digitalteachers.net.

Companion

BY JESSE STRIKER | Williston Central School, Grade 7

The most loyal companion,
Anybody could hope to have
Willing to do anything for me.
So warm and soft
The perfect combination
For a cold night and thin blankets.
Our time together was fun,
Filled with teachings and games
So it was really no surprise time passed so quickly.
I didn't seem to notice,
That while I was still aging at a crawl,
Not even in my prime,
He had long since passed his.

He lost the color that had made him look wild,
Replaced by shades faded with time,
Our walks in which we both felt free became less frequent,
Until he rarely moved except to eat or drink.
And despite all of this,
It didn't truly sink in until he was already gone.
My heart ached,
And I wondered how it had happened,
Why it had happened.
He had been my closest friend,
And now I didn't have him with me anymore.
What is love?

Fast and furious

BY NINA LAM | Camels Hump Middle School, Grade 7

Days pass
Slowly
Time creeps,
Inches,
Softly along
Unknown
On deathly
Feet
It slides
Through
The door
Of
My open heart.
And
Before I
Can
Even blink,
I'm
Caught fast

In
Razor claws.
Hostage,
I squirm,
Try
To break
Free
Of the trap
I have
Led
Myself into
Unwillingly.
But once
Done
There's no
Going back.
I'm stuck
Fast
And furious.

Dear Readers,

We hope you've enjoyed reading of students' hopes, fears and opinions on this space during the school year. Today marks the end of this year's Young Writers Project Newspaper Series in which we published the work of 1,000 students whose work was selected from a total of 7,500 submissions.

Thanks to the published students; their effort added to our lives. We know how much it meant; as one teacher wrote us:

"My student is more than thrilled to have her piece published in a newspaper. This was a goal she set back in September of this school year and how great to have her dream come true! ... This is a powerful way to invest in students in our state."

Thanks to students who weren't published but kept trying. Success never comes easy; strong writing skills will help you gain confidence, learn and succeed.

Thanks to this newspaper and the other eight papers that recognize the importance of giving voice to young people by publishing student work each week.

Thanks to those who generously supported YWP's work: We are a small nonprofit that depends on individuals, corporations and foundations. (To donate go to youngwriterproject.org and click "Support" for more info.)

Special thanks to major donors including: FairPoint Communications, Physician's Computer Company, Northfield Savings Bank, KeyBank, TagNewMedia, Chittenden Bank, Darkside Snowboards; foundations that include A.D. Henderson, Bay and Paul, Metz Family, Admiral Nelson and Vermont Humanities Council; and individuals such as John Canning, Stephen Kiernan, Dave Demers, Susan Cross, Chris Bohjalian and many others.

YWP is indebted to students at Castleton State College and UVM who provided feedback to many young writers.

Thanks to the teachers; each community school has many dedicated, talented teachers who do so much for students.

Thanks to our partners in The Schools Project, a comprehensive writing program that mentors teachers and provides private online classrooms to be used as part of the regular curriculum. This program is having a tremendous impact.

Over the summer, check out YWP's main Web sites: youngwritersproject.org, ywpschools.net and digitalteachers.net to learn more about our work and to see more student writing. Thanks again, readers, for being the audience that so validates these kids' ideas.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Gevalt, YWP founder and director

Lee McIsaac, YWP Newspaper Series coordinator

MORE GREAT STUDENT WRITING AT
YOUNGWRITERSPROJECT.ORG