

Everlasting dock

BY ISAAC DAY

Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 6
I ran down the everlasting dock
Wood beneath my bare feet
Warm summer breeze blowing though my long hair
Irritating seagulls flying above me
Orange sunset over the horizon
Lighthouse flashing in the distance
Swirling waves crashing onto the rocks
The everlasting dock wasn't so everlasting anymore
I came to its end.

The missing king

BY SARAH VARNEY

Proctor Elementary School, Grade 2

(Excerpt: Full story at youngwritersproject.org)

... One day, the king went missing! Everyone looked everywhere. In the dining room, in the lobby, the kitchen, even the pet room! But the king was not there.

No one knew that an evil man had stolen the king and his crown. He was called Samuel Evilena Genius. He didn't want the crown, he wanted the money. "Give me all your money," he screamed.

The next day they sent a messenger to go find the king. He came back running. "I found . . ." he began. "I found him." The messenger panicked.

"Where?
"In Pennsylvania!"

"That's almost a mile away," said the queen. "And we have to walk or go on horseback."

"Let's have a vote," said the school-teacher. "All in favor of walking say 'aye.' All in favor of horseback say 'nay.'"

"Nay," said everyone.

"Nay like a horse then. OK, we're off."...

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 selects best work from students throughout Vermont. Students respond to prompts or send their best "general" work. A team of students helps select work for publication in this and eight other newspapers. Visit 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.

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 Geoffrey Gevalt at YWP at 802-324-9537.

YWP NEWS

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 offering a digital writing course in late June.

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

Dream | ALEXIS PALMER | Black River High School, Grade 9

I'm tired of teddy bears,
Little girls with golden curls,
Unicorns and fairy tales,
Of pretending to be witty
Or so very cool.
I love ballet and dream of dancing
But can I even keep a beat?
I love to sing
But the tune won't come.
I would love to be an actress
But believe me
There is no hope of becoming one.
So long I've lived in my own world.
I've tried to be me,
And found not me
But someone else.
So who am I?
No one knows
I cannot even answer this question myself.
Around the corner, there I am
On a white horse,
Riding into the sunset.
No that is not me
But a daydream from a starry-eyed child.
Could that be me
On the stage
Playing the lead role in a musical?
No, another fantasy never to come true.

Pink, frilly gown, lace in her hair and beautiful ballet slippers adorn her feet. The walls turn as music swirls in the air And graceful movements fall into an elegant dance. Roses clutter the stage as the audience applauds the ballerina. Who is that lady? Her head turns to show a smile And that all-too-recognizable twinkle in her eye. It is my face upon that dollish figure. Another dream to pass the day. Does this mean I've failed in some way? Only those who cannot dream see what "reality" is. I can always dream of another day, A day when all my wishes come true. So back I say! To teddy bears, Little girls with golden curls, And unicorns upon a hill. To ballerinas Movie stars White horses And crimson sunsets on the sea. Because all in all, That is really me.

Singing our song | ABIGAIL BLAIR, Christ the King School, Grade 7

I was singing alone, and before long he was singing too. He said, "I've been waiting so long for these words to come out. It's practically all I've been thinking about. So thank you for finding the words

I couldn't find on my own. Now I'm not alone."

I was singing our song, When he came along.

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 youngwritersproject.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 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, Newspaper Series coordinator