

Lovers lost

By REBECCA VALLEY
BFA St. Albans, Grade 10

Perhaps we just fell apart,
left for too long in an attic ripe with air
grown stale.

Dolls in a cardboard box fading to gray.

But we still savor every memory,
morphed into something beautiful
despite any petty human concern.

Simple beings, lost in love.

And no matter our struggle
to find the greatest happiness,
to prepare the brightest future,
we will prevail.

You've taught me to want the simplest of
things.

I only wish to hold your hand.

“The Full Belly Bowl”

By MASON MASHTARE
St. Albans Town Education Center, Grade 4

Have you ever read the book “The Full
Belly Bowl?” It is written by Jim Aylesworth.
It's about an old man who gets a bowl. It's
called a full belly bowl.

One day, he was eating stew and the stew
would not get out of the bowl so he figured
out it was magical. The next day, he got an
idea to put pennies in the bowl. He put one
penny in the bowl but came out with two pen-
nies. Then he did it more and more. Soon he
became rich and forgot the meaning of hunger.
Then one day he came back to his house and
found a bunch of mice. He thought of an idea.
He put his cat, Angelina, in the bowl. Soon the
cat multiplied into many cats. The cats chased
all the mice out of the house. Finally, he lived
with all of his cats happily ever after.

I think the old man was nice before he got
the full belly bowl. I think so because he got
a fox away from a wee, small man. He also
nursed the man to health. He also said his cat
Angelina was the sweetest in the whole world.

I think the man was nice after he smashed
the bowl, too. I think so because he said all
of his cats were the nicest in the whole world.
He also kept all of the cats instead of killing
them. He did not get greedy because he did
not have a lot of money.

Sometimes people get greedy when they get
lots of money. A lot of millionaires do. The
full belly bowl man is a good example of how
we should be.

The photo album

By AMELIA PARENT
Sheldon School, Grade 8

As I flip through the pages
I see all of the happiness in life fade in and out
a birthday bash, vacations, a lost loved one.
The memories never end when I am looking at
the book.

I am there again, at the age of five, twelve
then before you know it along comes sixteen.
I look at the past and see how everything has
changed.

My life once was easy as riding a bike, then
out of nowhere it became difficult,
with drama everywhere I looked.

Now it's not so easy.
It's scary, like I'm leaving everything behind.
The book becomes thicker and thicker with
each year that passes
but now as I look through it, the laminated
pages are diminishing.

The memories feel closer now that I've looked
through it again but there is no space left.
I guess a new book needs to be born,
a new chapter in my life, with new tears and
laughs to go along with it.



THIS WEEK: General writing

Each week Young Writers Project selects best work
from students throughout Vermont. This week — stu-
dents' general writing — is the last of this school year;
this feature will return in the fall. A team of students
has helped select work for publication in this and eight
other newspapers. For more: youngwritersproject.org,
a civil community of young writers.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

YWP is an independent nonprofit that
engages students to write, helps them im-
prove and connects them with authentic
audiences for their best work.

YWP runs youngwritersproject.org
and **The Schools Project**, a compre-
hensive online classroom and training solu-
tion for teachers to integrate digital tech-
nology into their classrooms. **Teachers
interested in signing up or renewing,**
go to ywpschools.net or contact Geoffrey
Gevalt at 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 offering a
Digital Writing course (UVM credits) in
late June.

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

LEAN TO LEFT, PLEASE



Samuel Philips, Essex High School, Grade 11

verano

By KATY TURNER | BFA St. Albans, Grade 11

So we stopped speaking in metaphors, stopped pretending to be these cryptic phantoms
without roots or chains or pretty bindings to hold us, keep us. New songs by artists who are
nostalgia in its purest form — *saudade*, a word we cannot, will not translate and will repeat
inside our chapsticked lips and polished, rearranged teeth until you feel the need to say it
as well. We are manipulative beings. Beautiful, intelligent people who are really fools and
really scared that the stage after transparency does not exist.

And so summer is nostalgia, too. Homesickness for a place that isn't home. Worse than
anything. Worse than anything you know because it is highlighted each and every year.
Amplified. I mean I'm not doing that workshop or attending that camp because I have to
completely bask in, pity myself for these feelings. Right? You know. You do know. Some-
one asked me who I like and I responded that I'm in love with so many people, I can hardly
keep track. Truly, it's getting out of hand. The boy with the jawline got expelled and moved
back to Montreal; through the lovely grapevine I've learned that he's been arrested. God, I
love him.

Summer is music? Summer is music. And Rail City rain. And I don't know what else
because it always depresses the hell out of me. The happiest time of the year, they say, the
most lively, spirited bunch of a mess of months — and yet hindsight paints it with nothing
but sad strokes. Sad. Underrated word. Sad, not medicated and not tragically doomed. Sort
of, but we have so many connotations for so many things. That will be the death of us. But
I'll never abandon it.

Summer's connotations: things end so they can begin. No? Maybe. Beirut and buttons and
cotton dresses, dusty parks in Montreal and leather lace-up Oxfords on our tattooed feet.

I've decided I can't meet any of you because I don't want you to be real. So that's that.

Dear Readers,

In the last year, student writing in this space
has covered the range of emotions — dreams
and sorrow, angst and joy, stress and pride.
Students have written about Afghanistan
and having super powers, ghosts and grand
parents, farming and bullying. Their work has
given you a glimpse into our young citizens'
minds, how they fret, laugh and create.

This marks the end of this year's Young Writers
Project Newspaper Series. Thanks are in order.

We start with the students. This year YWP
received over 7,500 submissions from stu-
dents in 300 VT (and part of NH) schools.

Thanks to the students for submitting work,
this takes courage. While writing well helps
students gain confidence, learn and succeed,
it's not easy to post work for review.

We published work of over 1,000 students
this year; thanks to the band of anonymous
students who helped us select each week.

Thanks to those students who were *not*
selected but who keep trying. Thanks to those
who were published; we know how much it
means to you. Here's a reaction we received
from a teacher of a published student:

*“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! ... What a wonderful way to motivate
students ... This is a powerful way to invest in
students in our state.”*

Thanks to this newspaper and its publisher,
Emerson Lynn, and to his brother, Angelo,
who publishes the *Addison Independent*; to-
gether they run the *Colchester Sun* and *Essex
Reporter*. They understand the value of giving
voice to students. So do leaders of the other
newspapers who support this project each
week: *Burlington Free Press*, *Times-Argus*,
Rutland Herald, *Brattleboro Reformer* and
The Valley News.

Young Writers Project is a small nonprofit
that depends on the generosity of many. We
received donations this year that ranged
from \$2.50 from a grandmother in Kansas to
\$30,000 corporate or foundation grants.

Special thanks to major donors who include:
FairPoint Communications, Bay and Paul
Foundations, A.D. Henderson Foundation,
Admiral Nelson Foundation, Vermont Hu-
manities Council, Northfield Savings Bank,
KeyBank, Chittenden Bank, Metz Family
Foundation, John Canning, Stephen Kier-
nan, Dave Demers, Douglas Beagley, Alysia
Perkinson, Chris Bohjalian, TagNewMedia,
Physician's Computer Co. and many others.

YWP is indebted to hundreds of students at
Castleton State College and UVM who pro-
vided feedback to many young writers.

Thanks to the teachers; it's good to know
that each community school has many dedi-
cated, talented teachers who do much to help
students learn and find voice. YWP is privi-
leged to work with them.

Thanks to schools that have helped us
develop The Schools Project, a compre-
hensive writing program that involves mentoring
teachers and private online classrooms for
teachers and students to use as part of the
regular curriculum. This program is having
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. You won't see student work here
until this fall, but thousands of students will
continue to write and offer each other support
on youngwritersproject.org all summer.

Thanks again, readers, for being the audi-
ence that so validates these kids' ideas.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Gevalt

YWP founder and director

Lee McIsaac

YWP Newspaper Series coordinator