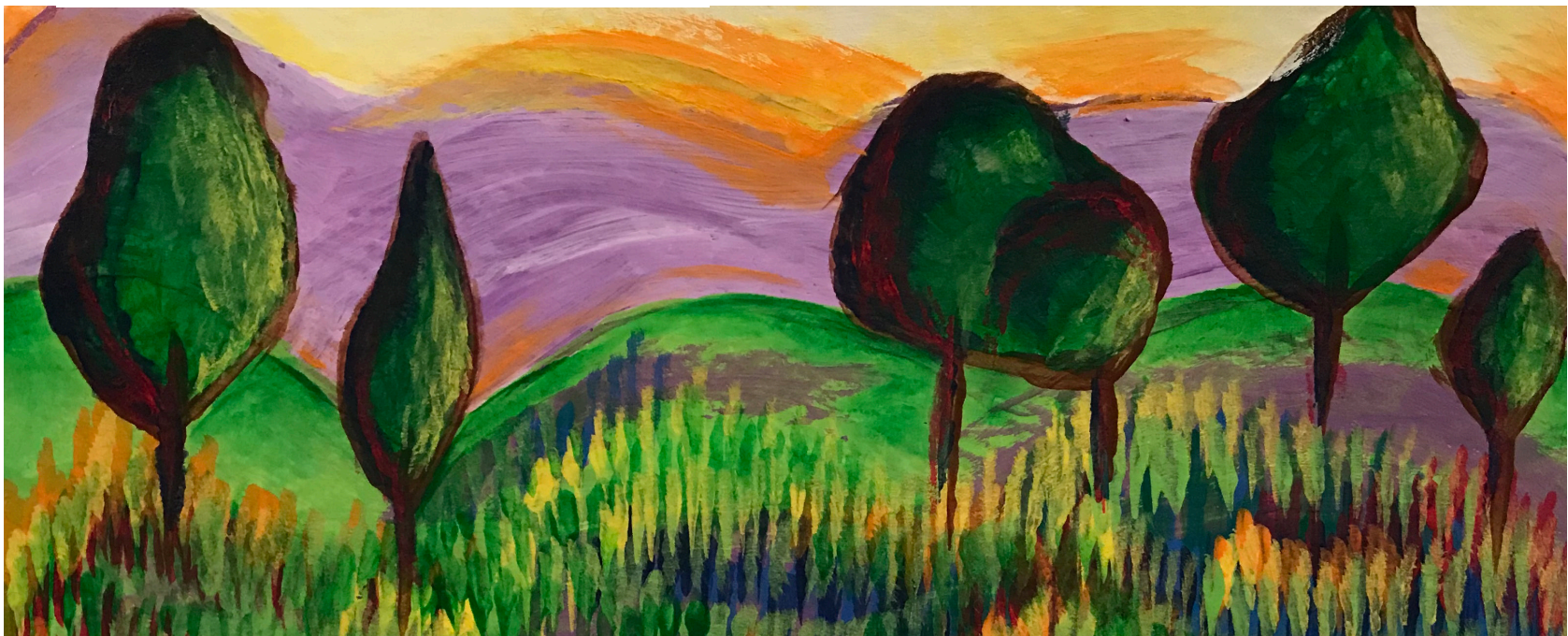




Young Writers Project is a creative online community of teen writers and visual artists, based in Burlington since 2006. This weekly page will feature the best work from hundreds of submissions to our website, youngwritersproject.org, in response to our challenges, which are listed here this week. We invite all youth, ages 13-18, to join us. It's free and fun!



“Vermont fields,” by Eloise Silver Van Meter, 17, Fairlee

1 Light: Write a poem or story that includes this line or your own variation: “The tiny lights along the edge of the cabin framed our faces in pale yellow light.” *Due Sept. 10*

2 Summer: How was your summer? Focus on one happy, surprising, unusual or stand-out moment and describe it in words or images. *Due Sept. 10*

3 First Grade: Do you remember your first day of first grade? Were you scared? Deliriously excited? What was your teacher like? *Due Sept. 17*

4 Folklore: Think of a cautionary tale you were told when you were younger. Was it wise or ridiculous? Did it make a lasting impression on you? Write about it. *Due Sept. 17*

5 Photo-Colors: In the color wheel, there are two sides – warm and cool. In this challenge, you’ll take photos that represent both sides. Post them as a slideshow! *Due Sept. 24*

6 Sunrise: Emily Dickinson’s poem, “I’ll tell you how the Sun rose,” is full of color and life. Read the poem, watch the sun rise, describe what you see and experience in words or photos. *Due Sept. 24*

7 Possession: If you could keep only one of your possessions, which one would it be? Describe it. Explain why it is important to you. *Due Sept. 24*

8 Heavens: Write your own myth about the creation of our solar system: the stars, the moon, the sun, the planets. Be as whimsical or serious as you wish. *Due Oct. 1*

9 Cheeseburger: All your billionaire friends are interested in space travel, but you, you’re obsessed with crafting the world’s best cheeseburger. Tell the story. *Due Oct. 1*

10 Photo-B/W: Black and white photography, with its shades and contrasts, can create a mood unlike anything seen in color photos. Experiment with the drama of black and white. *Due Oct. 1*

11 Magnificent: Begin or end a story with this thought: “She had never seen anything so magnificent in her life.” *Due Oct. 8*

12 Taste: If you could eat something inedible, like an object or a memory or a feeling, what would it taste like? *Due Oct. 8*

13 Guess: Sometimes a photograph suggests something else is going on, making you guess what the big picture is really about. Create your own mystery photo. *Due Oct. 15*

WEEKLY CHALLENGES

Go to youngwritersproject.org for full list.

14 Skirts: “Turquoise Water Behind Him,” by Maureen Pilkington, begins with the sentence, “It was October, but Mar-go was still wearing short summer skirts.” Continue your own story from here. *Due Oct. 15*

15 Photo-Outside: Take your camera outside, observe your surroundings, and take photos – up close, far away, Mother Nature, city sidewalks ... whatever you see, wherever you are. Post your photos in a slideshow. *Due Oct. 22*

16 Dancer: Write a story about an aspiring dancer who always gets stuck with the background role in shows. Describe what that feels like and how to come to a resolution. *Due Oct. 22*

17 Objects: Chilean poet Pablo Neruda wrote many odes to ordinary, often overlooked objects. Depict an everyday object in your life through a form of art (writing, photography, painting, etc.). For inspiration, read Neruda’s “Ode to a Large Tuna in the Market.” *Due Oct. 22*

18 Ghosts: Write a short story about a group of ghosts who go from abandoned house to abandoned house, staying in each one until it is sold or falls apart. What is life like for this band of squatter ghosts? *Due Oct. 29*

19 Melted Lines: Use this phrase, or a variation, in a poem or story, “She found hope between the buttery, melted lines of her grilled cheese.” *Due Oct. 29*

20 Action: Hard to pull off, but so rewarding! Action shots make compelling art. In photos or illustrations, try to capture action. *Due Nov. 5*

21 Afterlife: Emily Dickinson wrote, “A death-blow is a life-blow to some / Who, till they died, did not alive become.” Write about a character who finally learns to live in the afterlife. *Due Nov. 5*

22 New Word: Create a new word and describe it. Explain its meaning, origin, why it’s useful, how you could use it. *Due Nov. 5*

23 Winter: Describe the approach of winter using as many sensory and descriptive details as you can. Love it or hate it? Show us why in words, photos, or illustrations. *Due Nov. 19*

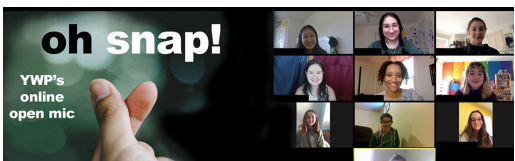
24 Cat Person: What does it mean to be a cat person or a dog person? Are these unfair stereotypes? Have you ever been labeled as one or the other? *Due Nov. 19*

25 Thanks: Write an ode to someone who makes you feel grateful. What is it about them that sparks your gratitude? *Due Nov. 26*

26 Watercolor: Whether or not you think of yourself as an artist, give watercolors a try! Find a palette of watercolors, a paintbrush, some paper, a jar of water, and get to work. *Due Nov. 26*

27 Window: Paint or photograph the view from your window, including the window frame to give your composition an interesting near-far perspective. *Due Dec. 3*

YWP NEWS & EVENTS



SEPT. 18, 1 PM – Teens, join us for YWP’s first online open mic of the year!



SEPT. 23, 6:30 - 8 PM – YWP writing party with Poet Reuben Jackson and Writing Coach Alex Muck. Sign up!

All events are FREE for YWP members. For information and to sign up for these and all YWP events, go to: youngwritersproject.org.

SPECIAL THANKS THIS WEEK

NORSAGA FUND

HOW TO SUPPORT YWP

Young Writers Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies solely on grants and donations for support.

If you enjoy this weekly feature, please consider donating online at youngwritersproject.org/support. Or mail your gift to YWP, 47 Maple St., Suite 216, Burlington, VT 05401.

Contact: Susan Reid, Executive Director, sreid@youngwritersproject.org; (802) 324-9538.

THANK YOU!