



Voices of young Vermonters on the issues that shape their lives



# YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT



"Hands," by Molly Quavelin, 12, Burlington

## Three friends

"Okay class, I'm Mrs. Willabee.

Let's start our fifth-grade year by introducing our two new students, Sarah and Omar. Sarah is from Israel, and Omar is from Egypt," Mrs. Willabee explained.

*I've always wanted to learn about Egypt,* John thought.

Sarah sat in the seat to John's right, and Omar sat closer to the front.

"Hey," John said quietly.

"Hi," said Sarah in a very small, soft voice.

*I wonder if she has met anyone here yet? Or how hard it must have been to move to a new country?* John wondered. John had so many questions for Sarah stirring around in his brain.

"I bet it is hard to get used to a new country. I can show you around if you would like?"

Sarah said, "Sure, that would be so nice of you."

As the day went on, John showed Sarah where the colored pencils were, where to put your homework when you finished, and everything she would need to know about the classroom. During science class, John and Sarah got paired up with each other to do a packet on atoms because the teacher noticed that he was being so polite to her.

At recess, John and Sarah saw Omar swinging by himself with his head down.

John said, "Omar, can we sit with you? I'm John and this is Sarah."

Omar put his head up and looked at John before he said anything. "Sure." John and Sarah sat on the swings next to him.

*What should I do? Should I ask them about where they came from?* John debated.

"I bet Egypt is a really cool place to live. I have always wanted to learn about Egypt," John said with a smile.

Omar said happily, "It is a really nice place. If there is one place I would recommend going, it is Egypt. I lived in Cairo. We moved here in 2012."

*I am definitely going to ask Omar more questions about Egypt another time,* John thought...

– BRINLEY GANDIN, 12, MENDON

*Excerpted; read complete story at [youngwritersproject.org/node/43312](http://youngwritersproject.org/node/43312)*

## Spirit guardians

A bird, dipping through the sky,  
flying with the breeze,  
plunging through the trees,  
dancing in the leaves,  
watching over me.

A fish, swimming through the water,  
free in the sea, a glistening rainbow  
as it sweeps through the water.  
As I listen to its whispering,  
it keeps watch over me.

A squirrel, scurrying in the underbrush,

swinging from one tree to the next,  
its furry tail streaking out behind it,  
leaping through the air while  
it watches over me.  
We are all different, never the same.  
Why would our spirit guardians be?  
Wouldn't they be different too?  
Always unique, always there  
with you.

– ASHLYNN CARR, 12,  
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

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## My time

I climb the tree to the tippy-top. It is so quiet and peaceful. All I hear is the water rushing and the wind blowing in my hair. I pull out my book and read until the sun goes down.

It feels like it has only been two minutes, but it has been two hours. Time is slower when I am by the tree.

I hear my name being called, and I climb down. I run home. When I get home I tell my mother what happened at the tree, then sit down to our spaghetti dinner.

– ELENA MACIAS, 10,  
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

## Haikus

### Stars

Hot gasses and rocks.  
Shining brighter than the sun.  
Shining down on you.

### River

Shimmering nicely,  
and a strong current of waves.  
Crystal-clear water.

### Steam

Steam is white and hot.  
Rising in the chilly air.  
It is delightful.

– NATALIA TARBELL, 11,  
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

## ABOUT YWP

**HOW TO JOIN:** Young Writers Project (YWP) welcomes teens, ages 13-18, to join our free, online community of writers and visual artists. Youth who are 12 may join YWP with parental permission. Teachers are also invited to join to submit work on behalf of younger students for publication. To join or for more information, go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org).

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