

Sun-kissed

Happiness is when I go to the beach.
I feel the cool ocean breeze,
the tide rolling in and out.
I feel the hot, golden sand
working its way into my sandals,
the sun beating down
on my sun-kissed back.
Going for a swim in the cool saltwater
feels so nice
on a hot, sunny day...
Happiness is the feeling
of catching a wave,
hanging out with friends,
and enjoying the day.
This is what happiness looks like to me.

– EDA MAE FIORETTI, 11,
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

Golden loyalty

When golden retrievers are young,
they might bite.
But once you teach them,
they're loyal, alright.
They love running through the fields,
sprinting in all their fluffy glory.
When hunting, they hear the gunshot
and bring what falls from the sky.
When a golden hears yelling
and the crackle of fire,
it charges into situations
that are quite dire.
Even the reddest stars pale
in comparison to their shining manes.
This is why few animals
have the loyalty of a golden retriever.

– SAMUEL RUCK, 11,
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

Pet peeve

One of my pet peeves
is people getting bullied.
So, I help them too.

– BRAYDON MARS, 11,
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

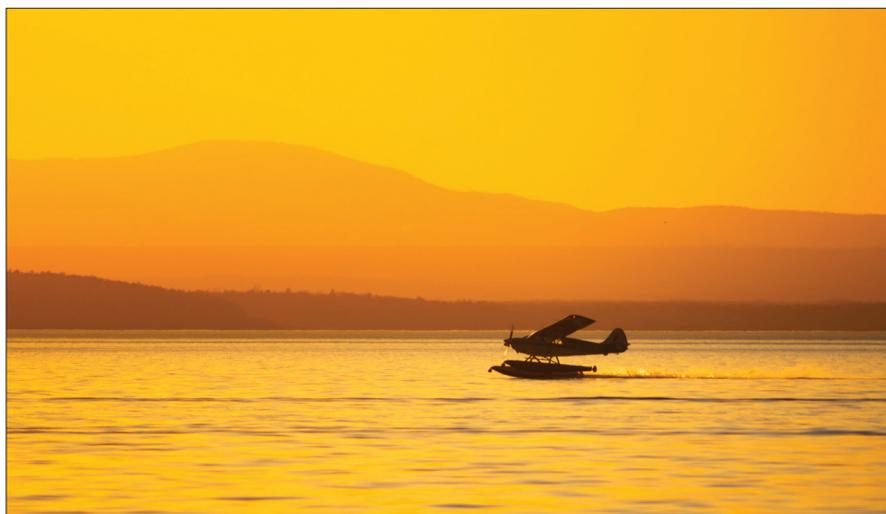
Horse heaven

What make me happy are horses.
They give me joy and smiles.
I hug them and they try.
In a horse's heart I can feel
something good and something real.
Gelding or mare, I don't care –
I would ride my horses anywhere!

– MARLEA PARKER, 10,
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS



YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT



"It Was All Yellow," by Lauren McCabe, 16, South Burlington

Happy warmth

Happiness is...
a cool wind blowing through your hair
that sets a warm, comforting chill down
your back, and the sweet, fresh scent
of nature.
Happiness is like the warmth of a
mother's touch or your grandma's
cookies.
Happiness is like a reminder
of what is most dear to you, to
help keep your true self close.
Happiness is like the sun's warmth
on your face after a gray, rainy day.

– SIERRA SEIDLER, 12, SHREWSBURY

Sunny days

Happiness is...
someone who cares about you.
Someone who loves you.
A nice, sunny day.
A good book at night.
Ice cream on a hot summer day.
A bright, sunny day to swim in the lake.
Animals that keep me calm and happy.
Doing art,
singing,
and many different things
keep me laughing and smiling.

– ADARA CATELLIER, 11,
SHREWSBURY

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Voices of young
Vermonters on
the issues that
shape their lives

What is sacrifice?

Soldiers have given and still give
their time and their lives. That is a
sacrifice – when you give something to
someone and don't expect something
back, or when you do that for your
country. It doesn't matter if you are
small, big, or anything in between.
If you give something up, that is a
sacrifice. It can be your toys, your time,
or your snacks. What you give doesn't
have to be big. It can be small. Sacrifice
is helping your country, or anyone else
in need.

Why do we only have one day for
those who give their lives, but a whole
month to celebrate other important
communities? Veterans sacrifice so
much, and what do they get in return?
They sometimes get little pay and
they sometimes lose their homes.
Some soldiers even have to miss their
children's births. What happens if World
War III breaks out? How many people
are going to want to fight for us if they
get little pay and have a high chance of
never getting to see their family? ...

– NATALIA TARBELL, 11,
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

Excerpted; read complete op-ed at
youngwritersproject.org/node/44689

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.

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