

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*



YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT

FALL WRITING AND ART CHALLENGES

These challenges are designed by Young Writers Project (YWP) to inspire youth to write and create visual art for publication each month in this newspaper, and in YWP’s digital magazine and annual anthology. YWP is an online creative community based in Burlington since 2006. To respond to these challenges, please join the YWP community at youngwritersproject.org.



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*

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

15 Photo-Outside: Bring your camera outside, observe your surroundings, and start taking photos – up close, far away, Mother Nature, city sidewalks... whatever you see, wherever you are. *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*

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.

HOW TO SUPPORT: Young Writers Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies solely on grants and donations for support. If you enjoy this monthly 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.

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