



Voices of young  
Vermonters on  
the issues that  
shape their lives



## YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT



“Curious and Calm,” by Abbigail Dayton, 12, Shrewsbury

### SUPPORTING YOUNG WRITERS AND ARTISTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

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## The birch

Beside our house there is a birch. It would look like a regular tree to anybody else, but to people in my family, it represents my grandpa. He loved nature so much that his ashes were thrown into his favorite river.

When we moved, there was the birch, and it stood alone. It was kind of like how Pop stood alone for nature while everybody else stood for electronics.

This is why this birch is so special to me.

– **SAMUEL RUCK, 11,**  
**MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS**

## Red

Red is the sunset over the mountain.

Red is an apple,  
all juicy and ripe.

Red is your cheeks  
when you come inside after a cold day.

– **TIGGER McMICHAEL, 11,**  
**KILLINGTON**

## Flames

As the fire dances,  
it whispers sweet songs of warmth,  
and I gaze in awe.

– **LIZZY JUTRAS, 14, PUTNEY**

### 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).

**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](http://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](mailto:sreid@youngwritersproject.org). (802) 324-9538.

## With hope

Hope is to leave and hope is to stay.  
Hard work is the way  
for hope the next day.  
Hope is what can carry you  
and should not be delayed.  
You will think of hope  
and keep despair at bay.  
Hope is what can steal your pain,  
on that you can rely,  
giving you more to your life  
if you try.  
Hope will give you so many things  
before you die.  
With hope you can be so high  
you may be able to fly.

– **BEX AKIN, 11, SHREWSBURY**

## Eyes open

Future is bright.  
New ideas are blossoming out  
into the world.  
People become blind  
to ideas not theirs,  
not knowing consequences.  
But now eyes  
open. Seeing, mad no more.  
Positive thoughts occurring.  
Light is coming,  
shining bright. We're near—  
Darkness stopping soon.

– **ADELYNNE CIMONETTI, 11,**  
**SHREWSBURY**

## Melted

Snowflakes pile down like  
an invisible force,  
melting on top of those who were under  
the wrath of the clouds.  
All snowflakes are different,  
differing in ways like humans –  
none the same, right?  
That's what we know,  
none the same,  
and if they are,  
we'll never figure that out with how fast  
they disappear before our eyes.  
She floated away before mine,  
drifting off selfishly  
without a goodbye.

– **SHELBY BUSHEE, 12, SHREWSBURY**