



Voices of young Vermonters on the issues that shape their lives



YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT



"By the Lake," by Charlie Gaito, 12, Burlington

Dear future me

Dear future me,

Don't worry, all things will happen if they are meant to. Stop comparing the past to the present. You left it behind for a reason, so go forward confidently into the future you are developing right now.

Keep smiling... those small worries and concerns will be forgotten in only a year's time. Be grateful for each small blessing in a day. Even when it seems like things are falling apart, it takes the destruction of all the old to build the new.

Tell the people in your life you love them. It doesn't matter how many people you have in your life – love the ones you have. Be grateful they were placed in your atmosphere, and seek out the knowledge and truths you were meant to learn from them... even if you only learn not to be like them.

Invest in moments and memories, not things. It's not wrong to have a nice house, a nice car, and nice clothes, as long as it's the memories you make in that house and the trips you take in that car and where you go with those clothes that you hold onto.

Above all, strive to be yourself. Find out who you really are and be that person! Never stand on someone else's ground, on who they are. Build your own hill to stand on and look around at the roots you have put down to be who you are.

Love yourself now. Not for who you should be in 10 years, or you, 10 pounds lighter. Not for the better job you'll have or better place you'll be someday. Love you for who you are now, in each and every moment, and live with no regrets. The choices are yours.

Sincerely,
Future me

– LEANNA DEWEY, 15, RANDOLPH

Autumn

A haiku

Leaves are falling down.
Very pretty foliage.
The air is crisp, cool.

– TIGGER McMICHAEL, 11,
KILLINGTON

Flamingo

As the blazing, orange sun sets, the sky mimicking the color and the water mimicking the sky, a flamingo stands still watching, waiting for someone to come, someone to watch and admire him.

– LINNÉA CÔTÉ, 12, SHREWSBURY

Smell the love

I walk into the nearly empty diner and am hit by the strong smell of love. Waiting and waiting 'til I hear your voice behind me. Small chatter fills the room. Look there, I've spotted you.

– JENNAFYR PATTERSON, 14,
CUTTINGSVILLE

Enchanted walk

We walked for what felt like days along a beautiful dirt road lined with trees with leaves like fire and rocks almost as pretty as gemstones. There were stones and pebbles along the road that made a satisfying crunch as we walked. It really was a lovely walk we were on. I knew we had not really been walking for days, but I don't walk that often and this was a 2-mile-long trail.

My focus turned back to the beauty of the walk. I looked around. A little past the trees was a river, a beautiful, shining, glowing, crystalline river. I kept looking around. The satisfying crunch coming from under my feet suddenly sounded even more satisfying. I looked down. There were no longer pebbles or stones under my feet, but crystals. The fiery red and orange trees seemed to grow more and more fiery as we walked. The crystals that were now under my feet became shinier and starrier.

I decided to say to my family, "Is it just me, or does this place seem enchanted?"

Suddenly, as I asked that question, we came to a gemstone with words carved into it: "You have found the magic! Now listen very closely, and from now on, be careful what you wish for!"

– BREE SARANDREA, 10, KILLINGTON

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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