



## VERMONT WRITES DAY – Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012

Young Writers Project is excited to announce that the annual Vermont Writes Day will be held **Tuesday Feb. 7, 2012** (the birthdays of Charles Dickens, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Sinclair Lewis, by the way). Young Writers Project is encouraging schools across the state to take a moment out of their day to get EVERYONE -- students, teachers, administrators, staff and guests, to take time out of their busy days to write for 7 minutes, to provide each other feedback and to publicly display some of the work. Invited adults and professional writers and artists will also be encouraged to participate.

To make things easier, YWP will provide a Web site at [vermontwritesday.org](http://vermontwritesday.org) that will be open for use on Feb. 7 for people to post their work and give each other comments. (Authors can include their name and school on the form, but that information will NOT be visible to the public. The site will be available for viewing in late January.)

To create audiences for the student work, schools should consider posting the best work in the halls, reserving a space in a common area for kids to read their work, creating podcasts or videocasts of the writing, posting on the school Web sites, reprinting the best in a school newsletter, or doing anything else that will provide the students with additional audience.

YWP thanks dozens of students, teachers and friends who suggested prompts. Here are a few suggested prompt ideas, but writers are free to write about anything they'd like:

**Irene:** Pick a recent moment that reminded you of the impact of Tropical Storm Irene. Share a story.

**Wildest excuse ever:** You've just remembered that a homework assignment is due *in an hour*. Craft the wildest excuse ever that someone would believe.

**First lines:** Choose one and write a story, essay or poem:

“Walking to school yesterday, I discovered the most amazing . . .”

“The first thing I remember . . .”

“It was 7 minutes after midnight. The dog was lying on the grass in the middle of the lawn in front of Mrs. Shears' house . . .”

— *(The opening of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon)*

**Conversation:** Imagine you are meeting someone famous – from present day or the past – describe the encounter. What would you say and do?

*For more information, contact Geoffrey Gevalt, YWP director at [ggevalt@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:ggevalt@youngwritersproject.org) or 802-324-9537 or go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org) or to [vermontwritesday.org](http://vermontwritesday.org) on Feb. 7.*