

**15** **Mr. Smith.** “There was something strange about our new teacher, Mr. Smith...” Finish the story. *Alternate: General.* Send us your best writing in any genre. **Due Jan. 13.**

**16** **One wish.** If you had just one wish, what would it be? *Alternate: Wild animal.* You come upon an injured wild animal in the woods. What would you do? What does the animal do? **Due Jan. 20.**

**17** **Mistake.** What was your biggest or most memorable mistake and what did you learn from it? *Alternate: Rhyming poetry.* Submit your best rhyming poem. **Due Jan. 27.**

**18** **My town.** What do you like or dislike about your town? What would you like to change? What makes it special? *Alternate: You win!* Against the odds, you win the lottery – the big one. What will you do with all that money? **Due Feb. 3.**

**19** **Anywhere.** If you could go anywhere, where would it be? Write a story or poem about this place and why it is so special. *Alternate: General.* Send us your best writing in any genre. **Due Feb. 10.**

**20** **Fishbowl.** When you look in, the fish is looking out. What does he see and think? *Alternate: Plugged in.* An extraordinary amount of our time is spent on the Internet and other electronic devices. How does this affect our lives, minds and relationships? **Due Feb. 24.**

**21** **Fictional character.** If you could spend one day with a favorite character from a book, who would it be? *Alternate: Sense of smell.* Do you have a favorite aroma? Or is there a scent that brings back memories for you? **Due Mar. 2.**

**22** **Finish the story.** “I met Emily Bronte walking in the graveyard near her house...” *Alternate: Color.* What color means happiness to you? **Due Mar. 9.**

**23** **An extraordinary person.** Write about someone who has deeply influenced you, whether it be a person close to you or someone you’ve never met. *Alternate: General.* Send us your best writing in any genre. **Due Mar. 16.**



## THIS WEEK: 2012 Writing Prompts

Here it is, young writers! The complete list of prompts for Part II of your 2011-12 school year. Save this page, tape it to the refrigerator, keep it close to your computer or your writing desk — and send us your best work. Thanks to this newspaper and 12 others in Vermont, Young Writers Project writing is published weekly during the school year. Respond to the prompts or send us a favorite piece — on any topic in any genre at any time. Find out more at [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org).

### ABOUT THE PROMPTS

These prompts were gleaned from hundreds of ideas suggested by teachers, students and our staff at YWP.

Post work by starting an account and creating a Newspaper entry on [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org). Deadlines are Friday evenings at midnight. Work is selected and published in your local newspaper within several weeks.

Students are encouraged to send photos and scanned artwork as well. More info on [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org) under CREATE>Images.

### THANKS FROM YWP

YWP is an independent nonprofit that engages students to write, helps them improve and connects them with authentic audiences.

Young Writers Project is supported by the generosity of foundations, businesses and individuals who recognize the power and value of writing well.

Special thanks this week to  
**GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE ROASTERS**



Photos: Flickr archive

**24** **Photo #4.** Write a poem about the photo above. *Alternate: Famous.* One day, you wake up and you are suddenly, inexplicably, famous. What would you do that day? Who would you call first? How would you deal with the attention? **Due Mar 23.**

**25** **Abandoned house.** Covered in vines and cobwebs, this old house once sheltered a family. Who were they? Where did they go? How does the house look now, compared to then? *Alternate: Perfect day.* Describe it. Any season, all or part of the day. **Due Mar 30.**

**26** **Freedom.** Write about what you do to get away from it all and to feel free. *Alternate: Finish the thought.* “I swear, I was going to get there on time when all of a sudden...” **Due April 6.**

**27** **Overheard.** Write a conversation overheard in a crowded elevator or on the commuter train in a large city. *Alternate: Family.* Your family is invited to a big family reunion. Describe the anticipation, the event, the people, how you fit in with this family – or don’t fit in. **Due April 13.**

**28** **Photo #5.** Write about the picture below in any genre. *Alternate: I know you.* Have you ever met someone and felt to your core that you know this person – from another time, another life? Describe the experience. **Due April 27.**



**29** **Alive.** “I feel most alive when...” Finish the thought in two paragraphs. *Alternate: General writing.* Send us your best writing about anything in any genre. **Due May 4.**

**30** **Beauty.** Describe the most beautiful person in the world to you – real or imagined, physically or intellectually, using whatever definition of beauty you choose. *Alternate: Non-Rhyming Poetry.* Submit your best non-rhyming poetry. **Due May 11.**

**31** **Solutions.** If you had the power to solve one problem in your town, the state of Vermont, the United States or the world, what would it be? *Alternate: Green.* Write a poem about the color green. **Due May 18.**



**32** **Photo #6.** What are they chatting about in the picture above? Write the dialogue. *Alternate: Just before.* Write about the moment just before the game starts or the test begins or any other big event in your life. What is going on in your head? **Due May 25.**

**33** **Saying goodbye.** Provide the context. Set the scene. Help the reader understand why it’s so difficult. *Alternate: Into the future.* “In 10 years, I will...” You will what? Make a prediction in three paragraphs or less. **Due June 4.**

### YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT EVENTS

Don’t miss our **YWP Poetry Slam Series** (third Friday of every month) and the **Spoken Word Series** (first Friday of the month) **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**  
*Go to [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org) for more details.*

See you there!