

## Verbal Assertiveness

Teresa, 16

Stand firm in your place  
Even when the earth shakes  
Don't let people  
Sway your beliefs

Say "No!" to your temptations  
In life  
Walk away from your fake  
Disguise,

And I promise that you  
Will survive

Don't let yourself feed into  
Malevolence and antipathy,  
But walk away and say goodbye  
To materialistic superficialities

Verbal assertiveness -  
Use your voice,  
Speak loud and proud,  
And to the point.



## Virtue: Verbal Assertiveness

Maddie, 16

Speaking up in a supportive and encouraging manner - what else could it be but Verbal Assertiveness? Speaking up, it is sometimes very hard to find balance between aggression and being barely heard.



I feel it is a very important virtue. Not only does it allow you to stand up and support what is right, but it also allows people to receive encouragement, and be assured of your accountability. Mastering Verbal Assertiveness is very important for good leadership. At Turning Winds Academic Institute, we learn to be good leaders, and while taking a leader's role I find it very helpful to apply this virtue. Verbal Assertiveness is an effective tool to take home and practice using it with peers and family members. It is something you can use in your everyday life to help you become the best person you can be, to help others and to succeed.

## First Campfire

Tyesha, 15



Today was really exciting for me. I experienced my very first campfire. We made s'mores (they made me full ☺) and they were delicious! I am so thrilled that I had the opportunity to feel what the wilderness is all about. Hopefully, I will adjust to the cold weather so that I can really enjoy this journey.

## Swinging Bridge - Let It Go!

Maddie, 16

Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> started like any other day, with a usual morning: breakfast, then reading classical literature, and school. I had just started with my assignments, when suddenly Jake asked David, Brad, Xavier, Chloe, Jordan, and me to line up, go upstairs, dress warm, and take lunch with us. We learned that we were going to Troy, MT, to the Kootenai River Bridge!

We were packed with yummy goodies and excited to see what the day would bring. Filled with music, laughter, and sweets, the ride went by quickly. Once we arrived, boys collected wood and girls fetched water for our hot chocolate. We soon got the fire going, and the delicious lunch consisted of cheeseburgers, chips, and tatter tots was devoured fast. Although the day was cloudy, our smiles of joy brightened the atmosphere, and the sun came out to see how we enjoyed the sticky gooey melt of s'mores for desert.

We adventured to the trail that would take us to our destination, the swinging bridge. Once there, some fears were faced, and although the outing was fun, it had a lot of deeper meaning.

We decided to partake in Jake's tradition of throwing a log over the edge. Chloe and I, we threw a log together. The underlying meaning of this motion was that we are letting go of some things. It felt good to let it go and watch the log floating down the Kootenai River.

Our trip ended with a fun ride back, and a feeling of satisfaction. It was a happy feeling to know how great a day we truly had.

## A Book Review:

Nora, 16

The first French novel I have ever read lies now among my all-time beloved books. It is *Les Misérables*, by Victor Hugo. Loads of terms are used to depict this work of fiction: bravura, witty, theatrical, electrifying. Few authors have the aptitude to capture such emotions and human passions as Hugo. His words literally dance on paper. "One day the air was mild, the Luxembourg was flooded with sunshine and shadow, the sky was as clean as if the angels had washed it in the morning..." (Hugo, 192).

Packed with irony and wit, the dramatic story that Hugo tells us, is about Jean Valjean (one of his many names), a man who is almost always in the wrong place at the wrong time. Readers fall in love with this adventurous character.

My favorite part of the book is of an interaction between two characters, Marius and Cosette, and their numerous taciturn meetings. "Marius and Cosette were in the dark in regard to each other. They did not speak, they were not introduced, they were not acquainted; they saw each other; and, like the stars in the sky separated by millions of leagues, they lived by gazing at each other" (Hugo, 194). What an astounding fixation! Love without language! Hugo persistently flabbergasts me with each work he poured himself into. I encourage those with imaginative wits to pick up *Les Misérables* and find a comfortable chair, since you may be sitting down and reading this novel for quite a while.

## Halloween

Chloe, 15

Halloween,  
Jellybean  
Eat candy 'till your  
face turns green!  
Dress in black  
Like a cat,  
a vampire, witch, or  
even a rat.  
Screams everywhere  
Children to scare!  
So happy for tonight  
I am thankful it's there.



## Weather and Nature

Chloe, 15

Lately, the weather at Turning Winds Academic Institute has been completely unpredictable. This month the temperature varied from 60 degrees warm to twenty degrees cold. It had snow, rain, sleet, and warm sunny weather all in the same day. It is both a blessing and a curse, but it makes my stay here a lot more exciting when I do not know what to expect.

## Special Guest

Maddie, 16

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, on Tuesday, Turning Winds Academic Institute had a very special guest who joined us in the Great Room. During Work Project time, Kea, 17, discovered a baby bird - injured and helpless - on the ground. Taking quick action, Kea brought it to our staff member, Krys. The bird was left in good hands, finding a nest home in an empty corn can, furnished with his own personal heater. It was placed on a nice spot next to our huge fireplace seemed to make the birdie comfortable, no matter that it was hassled with pain from injuries.

Next morning, being offered some bread and melon, our guest shared breakfast with us.

Krys took our bird home, and I hope that the Turning Winds Academic Institute's own little baby bird will recover and it will be able to fly.

## Happiness that we create

Deanna, 13

Happy Halloween to the group, and Happy upcoming Thanksgiving! Remember to be thankful, always! Remember also, that holidays are never a given thing: we must earn them. We create our own happiness! So, in order to properly enjoy festivities we must all be on our best behavior!

