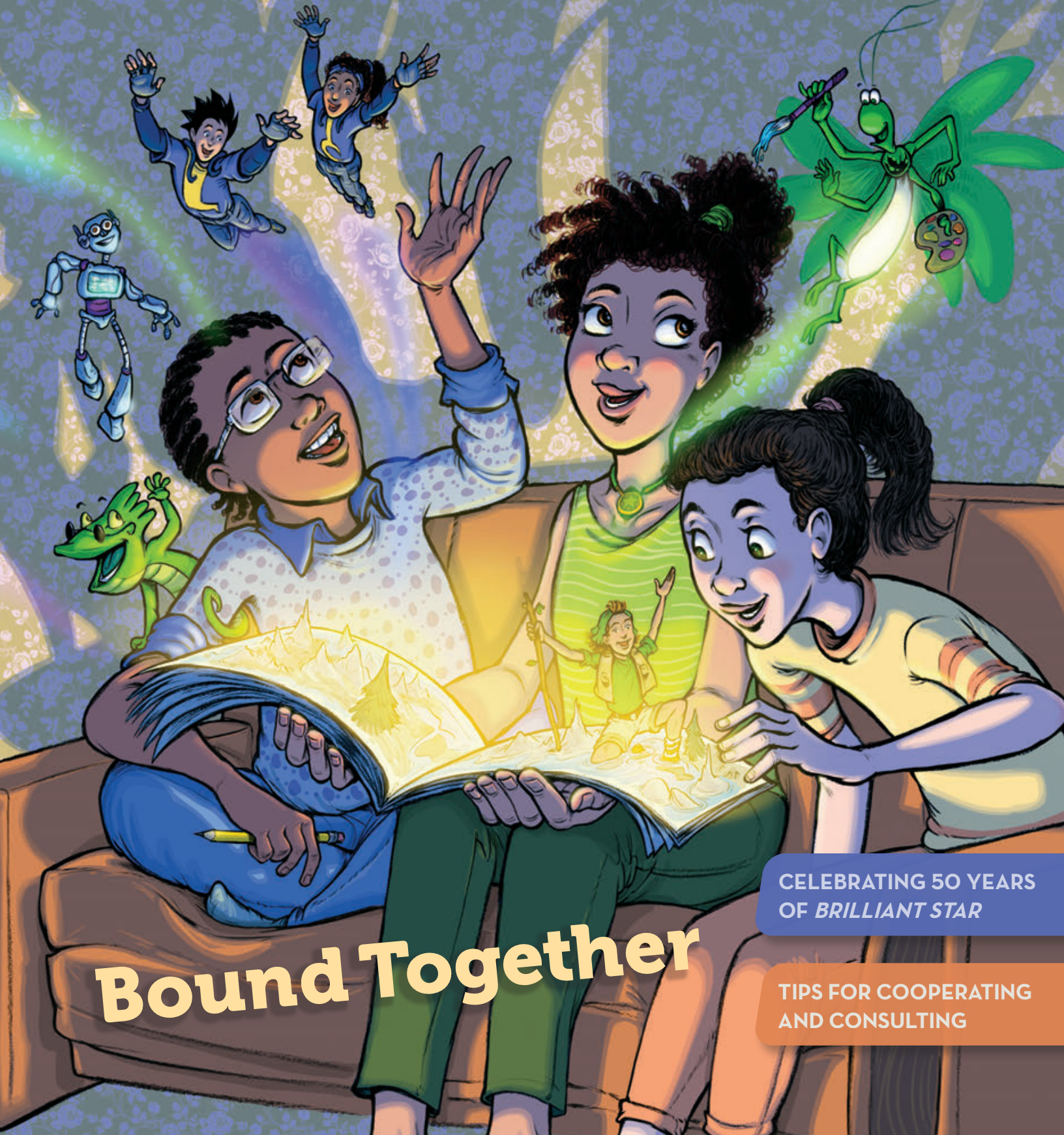


A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

# Brilliant Star

[www.brilliantstarmagazine.org](http://www.brilliantstarmagazine.org)

VOL. 50 NO. 5



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
OF *BRILLIANT STAR*

TIPS FOR COOPERATING  
AND CONSULTING

## Bound Together



# Brilliant Star

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**Brilliant Star** empowers kids to explore their roles as world citizens. Inspired by the principles of peace and unity in the Bahá'í Faith, we encourage readers to use their virtues to make the world a better place.

The Bahá'í Faith is the second most widespread religion in the world, with over five million Bahá'ís. It was founded by the Prophet Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and all religions come from one God. Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

Today, Bahá'ís work to bring love and justice to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

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Cooperation is always in tune.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Put on a party hat and grab a balloon, because it's *Brilliant Star's* 50th birthday!

For the past five decades, diverse artists, writers, photographers, editors, and friends have worked together to bring *Brilliant Star* to life for kids around the world. Like any big project, it takes a lot of teamwork, unity, and consultation.

In this special issue, join us in celebrating 50 years of joyful collaboration. Dive behind the scenes to see how a magazine is created. Then fly by Nur's Nook and make a mini zine of your own. Explore how your interests can be keys to unlocking creative magic. Discover how a growth mindset can help you soar. Quiz yourself on your cooperation skills. And get to know Brian Leopard, a law professor who helped with the earliest version of *Brilliant Star* when he was a kid.

It's awesome to be a part of the lives of our readers. Thank you for being shining lights in the global *Brilliant Star* community!

LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ☆



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# CREATING Brilliant Star

**Y**ay! It's time to celebrate Brilliant Star's 50th birthday! My family has enjoyed the magazine's stories, interviews, and activities for generations, and I really love doing the crafts.

Just like a firefly goes through stages as it grows, making Brilliant Star has stages, too. Each stage takes cooperation

and consultation. Amazing collaborators like you, from around the world, help make each issue shine. The team loves each other and their work. And they really love to hear from readers.

As you check out the stages, fill in the **MISSING LETTERS** below to discover how the magazine comes to life for *you*!



## 1 ANNUAL MEETING



The team gathers to consult about themes for future issues. They also learn together and build on their unity and **TEA \_ \_ O \_ K**.

## 2 BRAINSTORMING & RESEARCH



The team finds **I \_ SPIR \_ TIO \_** everywhere, from nature, people, sacred writings, libraries, and their travels. Creating content involves diverse contributors across the globe. Assignments for writing, activities, interviews, illustration, and photography are given out.

## 3 WRITING & EDITING



Writers **\_ XP \_ OR \_** their topics and write drafts of manuscripts. They work with editors to bounce drafts back and forth like tennis balls. Final versions are approved and flowed into page designs.

## 4 ART & PAGE DESIGN



Artists design the pages with colors, graphics, and fonts that make them pop. They draw **SKE \_ C \_ ES**, make photos, and create puzzles, mazes, and other magic.

## 5 REFINE & FINISH PAGES



The **AC \_ IVI \_ IES** are tested and refined. Then artists ink and color the sketches by hand or digitally. Finished art and photos are reviewed, revised, and flowed into the final pages.



## 6 PROOFING



The team reviews pages closely, like **DE\_ \_ EC\_ \_ IVES** hunting for clues. If they spot mistakes, the pages get fixed and proofed again.

## 7 PREPRESS & PRODUCTION



Design files, images, fonts, and proofs are finalized and sent to the printing company. Final proofs are made for editors to **A\_ \_ \_ ROVE**.

## 8 PRINTING



The magazines are printed on a giant printing press. The editor-in-chief works with the company to make sure the **\_ \_ UALI\_ \_ Y** and color look great.

## 9 WEBSITE PUBLISHING



Brilliant Star Online is updated with content from the new issue, and with content just for the website. In the Luminous Library, a **TRE\_ \_ S\_ \_ RY** of past issues can be found. Explore Brilliant Star's world at: [www.brilliantstarmagazine.org](http://www.brilliantstarmagazine.org)

## 10 MAILING AROUND THE WORLD



The mail house puts the magazines in envelopes and addresses them. The next stop is the post office, where they start their journey to you, our **\_ \_ EA\_ \_ E\_ \_ S** around the globe.

## 11 FUN ARRIVES!



Brilliant Star is delivered to your **M\_ \_ ILBO\_ \_ !**



# Life of the Báb: Transforming Máh-Kú

## The Life of the Báb

The highlighted  
area marks the time  
in which this story  
takes place.

### 1819 October 20

Birth of the Báb  
in Shiráz, Iran

### 1842 August

Marries Khadíjih Bagum

### 1843

Birth of their son,  
Ahmad, who soon dies

### 1844 May 23

Declares Divine Mission  
as Prophet-Founder of  
the Bábí Faith

### 1844 December

Announces His station  
while on pilgrimage in  
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

### 1847 July

Imprisonment in the  
fortress of Máh-Kú  
(The Open Mountain)

### 1848 April 10

Transfer to the  
fortress of Chihriq  
(The Grievous  
Mountain)

### 1848 July

Declares His mission  
to leaders in Tabriz,  
Iran, and is punished  
with the bastinado

### 1850 July 9

The Báb is martyred  
in Tabriz, Iran.

In the rugged, remote mountains of northwestern Persia (now Iran), the Báb was imprisoned in the castle of Máh-Kú with two companions. His cell had mud walls, and He had no lamp at night. He wasn't allowed to have visitors.

The sháh's prime minister had convinced him to send the Báb to this isolated spot, hoping to stop the spread of His faith. But the castle guards were immediately touched by the Báb's extraordinary character. They told nearby villagers about His loving and gentle manner. People began to gather beneath the castle every day to catch a glimpse of Him and ask for His blessings.

'Alí Khán, the officer in charge of the castle, tried to follow the prime minister's orders to keep everyone away from the Báb. Then he had a profound experience that changed everything.

One morning, 'Alí Khán was riding toward town when he saw the Báb praying by the river. He decided to scold Him for leaving His prison, but was suddenly seized with fear of interrupting His prayers. Instead, 'Alí Khán rode to the castle to yell at the guards for letting Him out. But when he arrived, the castle gates were locked and the Báb was in His cell!

'Alí Khán was bewildered and trembling as he approached the Báb. The Báb explained that 'Alí Khán's vision was a divine gift. "What you have witnessed is true and undeniable . . ." He said. "God . . . has willed to reveal to your eyes the Truth."

From that moment on, 'Alí Khán was devoted to the Báb. He allowed



On the outskirts of the village of Máh-Kú, the castle where the Báb was imprisoned stood beneath a rocky overhang, which blocked it from starlight.

visitors to meet with Him, and brought Him the best fruits he could find. In His nine months at Máh-Kú, the Báb revealed about 8,000 holy verses. As He dictated His writings, His voice rang out, echoing through the mountains and touching the hearts of the townspeople.

In the summer and fall of 1847, a steady stream of the Báb's followers, known as Bábís, came to Máh-Kú to see Him. But the winter brought such cold that when He washed His face, water droplets turned to ice on His skin.

The prime minister had spies in the area. They reported the Báb's many visitors and 'Alí Khán's devotion to Him. In response, the prime minister ordered the Báb to be sent to an even more remote prison called Chihriq.

By the time the Báb left in April 1848, the people of Máh-Kú had been transformed. Though the Báb was in prison for the rest of His life, nothing could stop the irresistible power of His spirit and His Bábí Faith.



# CONSULTATION ROCKS!

"If ye be aware of a certain truth, if ye possess a jewel, of which others are deprived, share it with them in a language of utmost kindness and goodwill." —Bahá'u'lláh

**A** dusty rock may seem dull and boring when it's on the ground or buried below. But if you dig up a stone that's rare and super durable, a bit of polishing can reveal a beautiful gem. Ideas can be like that, too. You might think an idea is ordinary, but when people consult about it and buff it up, the result can be brilliant! Consulting is like mining for treasures of truth.

Everyone joins together in a spirit of love and friendship to solve a problem or make a decision. You share your thoughts with humility and treat others with respect.

When you consult, offer your idea, and then let it go. If the group doesn't agree, try to keep an open mind, instead of arguing that you know best. By focusing on what works for everyone, you can discover jewels of unity.

My friends are sharing tips for sparkling consultation. Unscramble a word in each one.

1 I SPEAK AND ACT WITH (OCNFINDTEEC)

AS WELL AS RESPECT.



Assertive  
Amethyst

2 I KEEP MY (LOCO)

, EVEN  
IF WE DISAGREE.



Calm  
Carnelian

3 I (FFRED)

MY IDEA, BUT  
DON'T PUSH FOR IT.



Detached  
Diamond

4 I LIKE TO EXPLORE NEW  
IDEAS AND (SOONTIP)



Open-Minded  
Opal

5 I PAY CLOSE (TANTOTIEN)

TO WHAT THE SPEAKER SAYS.



Listening  
Lapis

6 I GIVE PEOPLE  
TIME TO (SPEXERS)

THEMSELVES.



Patient  
Peridot

7 I USE (COYUREST)

AND TREAT OTHERS THE  
WAY I LIKE TO BE TREATED.



Respectful  
Ruby

8 I SPEAK WITH (THYSEON)

AND ACCURACY.



Truthful  
Topaz

9 I LOOK FOR (STOSLUNIO)

THAT CAN HELP EVERYONE.



Just  
Jade



# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Companions in Exile

## The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted  
area marks the time  
in which this story  
takes place.

### 1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh  
in Tihrán, Iran

### 1844

Recognizes the Báb as  
a new Messenger of God

### 1852

Imprisonment in the  
"Black Pit" of Tihrán

### 1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq.  
From 1854–1856, He  
goes into the mountains  
to pray in solitude.

### 1863 April

Declares Divine Mission  
as Prophet-Founder  
of the Bahá'í Faith

### 1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople  
(Istanbul), then Adrianople  
(Edirne), Turkey. Begins  
writing letters to kings  
and rulers in 1867,  
urging world unity

### 1868

Last exile, to prison-  
city of 'Akká, Israel

### 1877

Finally free to live in  
countryside homes  
of Mazra'ih and then  
Bahjí, outside 'Akká

### 1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes  
away at Bahjí.

At noon on May 3, 1863, Bahá'u'lláh mounted His red roan stallion and set out from Baghdád for Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). He was being banished once again because of His faith. The people of Baghdád who had grown to love Him crowded His path, eager to see Him one last time. With tears streaming down their cheeks, many raced forward to touch His stirrups and bow their heads to Him.

Bahá'u'lláh was joined by 54 family members and friends. They were overjoyed to stay close to Him, even in exile. They traveled with mules and horses and were escorted by a mounted guard of 10 soldiers. Officials and villagers from nearby towns rushed to greet Him along the way.

It was a long and exhausting journey that lasted over three months. But the exiles worked together to ease the hardships and lift each other's spirits. Some people sang songs and chanted prayers. Others served coffee, water, and tea. Some pitched the tents at night or cared for the animals.

At 19 years old, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the eldest son of Bahá'u'lláh, was generous and eager to be helpful. He often rode ahead to prepare the campsite. When supplies ran low, he traveled to nearby towns at night to find food. Each day, he rode by his father's side.

Two friends, Áqá Ridá and Mirzá Mahmúd, were especially devoted. They prepared and served all the meals and looked out for everyone's comfort. The group traveled long distances every day, sometimes up to 30 miles (48 km).



Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, was a young man during the journey to Constantinople. He offered valuable service to his father and their companions.

If the heat became too intense, they would stop to rest, then hike through the night. When they reached camp, many would fall asleep from exhaustion. Yet Áqá Ridá and Mirzá Mahmúd would still make food. After everyone ate and went to sleep, these two men stayed awake, cleaning up from the meal.

Áqá Ridá and Mirzá Mahmúd made the entire journey on foot, often chanting prayers as they went. Sometimes they were so tired that they slept while walking! But they were devoted to Bahá'u'lláh and His mission of peace.

'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "They served with rare faithfulness. Indeed no human being had the fortitude to bear cheerfully all this heavy labor. But . . . they performed all these services with greatest happiness."\*



“We love to see you at all times consorting in amity and concord within the paradise of My good-pleasure, and to inhale from your acts the fragrance of friendliness and unity...” —Bahá'u'lláh

These friends stayed with Bahá'u'lláh for the rest of their lives, serving with radiance and love.

After 110 days, Bahá'u'lláh and His companions finally reached the Black Sea and boarded a ship to Constantinople (now Istanbul). From that city, Bahá'u'lláh wrote to Sultán 'Abdu'l-Azíz, the ruler of the Ottoman Empire, proclaiming His divine mission. The text of that communication is unknown.

In the years to come, He would write to leaders around the world, announcing His station as a Messenger of God and urging them to establish global peace. Bahá'u'lláh inspired people from many walks of life to embrace His message of love and justice.



Constantinople (now Istanbul), shown in this 19th century photograph, was Bahá'u'lláh's home for just four months before He was exiled yet again.

Find 18 words related to the cooperation among Bahá'u'lláh's followers on their long journey.  
Search up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.

Cheerful

Detached

Dedicated

Devoted

Eager

Faithful

Fortitude

Friendship

Generous

M	A	U	C	H	E	E	R	F	U	L	Y	A	E	I
F	S	X	K	A	D	N	A	S	N	A	U	C	D	F
P	I	H	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	X	I	O	U	A
T	G	E	E	M	E	K	T	E	U	F	S	K	T	I
N	E	N	C	V	E	T	C	A	I	I	U	R	I	T
A	A	R	I	M	O	I	A	R	C	L	Q	L	T	H
I	G	L	Z	P	V	L	C	C	C	I	Z	I	R	F
D	E	H	O	R	L	A	G	P	H	O	D	R	O	U
A	R	B	E	L	S	E	A	F	R	E	C	E	F	L
R	T	S	O	C	N	O	H	H	S	A	D	Z	D	E
E	M	Y	D	E	T	O	V	E	D	X	Y	Z	H	P
J	A	G	R	J	O	Y	F	U	L	Q	J	E	P	H
L	Q	O	Y	T	I	N	U	A	V	C	E	F	R	K
L	U	D	K	R	A	E	C	M	H	P	R	Q	Q	N
S	Y	Q	E	M	V	B	E	Z	A	O	J	M	M	R

Helping

Joyful

Love

Loyal

Prayer

Radiant

Sacrifice

Service

Unity



# Make Your Own Mini Zine

“Let us cooperate in love and through spiritual reciprocity enjoy eternal happiness and peace.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

I'm so excited about **Brilliant Star's** 50th birthday! Over the last 50 years, friends around the world have worked together to create about 300 issues of this fun magazine.

For a cool way to celebrate, let's make homemade mini magazines (zines). Like the **Brilliant Star** team, we can consult and brainstorm about a theme for each zine, such

as friendship or helping the environment. Mine is about arts and crafts! We can create covers and put activities, stories, or puzzles on the pages.

Follow the steps below to make mini zines with your friends. Work together on one, or ask everyone to make their own. Have fun trading or sharing them. I'd love to see your amazing zines, too!

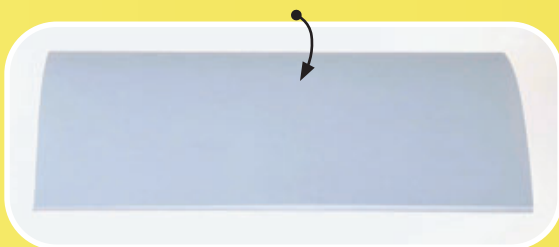
MAKE A MINI ZINE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!



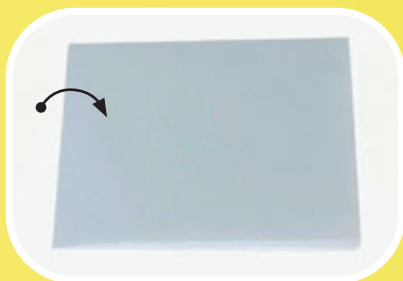
## You'll Need

- one piece of 8 ½" x 11" (21.6 x 27.9 cm) paper
- scissors
- 8 pieces of 2 ¾" x 4 ¼" (7 x 10.8 cm) paper
- markers
- glue stick
- optional: decorative paper, printouts, photos and photocopies

- 1 Fold larger paper in half so long edges meet.



- 2 Fold paper in half so short edges meet.



- 3 Fold it in half again so short edges meet.

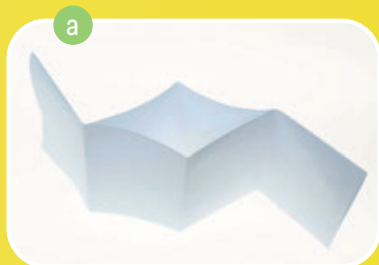




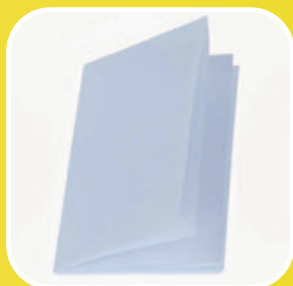
- 4 Open paper and fold so short edges meet. From folded edge, cut along center crease and stop at intersecting crease.



- 5 (a) Open paper and refold as in Step 1. Push short ends of paper toward each other so opening forms a diamond shape in paper's center. (b) Continue pushing paper ends toward each other until diamond closes to form a plus sign shape.



- 6 Fold each section of plus sign together, so zine is closed along left edge for its spine, and on bottom edge of back cover. Press zine flat to reinforce creases.



- 7 On smaller papers, create cover and zine pages about your topic. Draw pictures and write text, or glue on pieces of decorative paper, printouts, photocopies, or photos.\*



- 8 Glue a finished page to each folded zine page.



- 9 Unfold zine. With marker, add lines along outer edges to help you when duplicating your zine.



MAKE PHOTO-COPIES OF ZINE AT 95% OF ITS SIZE. OR SCAN IT INTO A COMPUTER, OR PHOTOGRAPH IT TAPED FLAT.

PRINT OUT COPIES. CUT ZINES OUT USING LINES AS GUIDES. PUT ZINE'S COVER RIGHT-SIDE UP ON EACH COPY.

FOLLOW STEPS 1-6. NOW THEY'RE READY TO TRADE OR SHARE!



Nur's  
craft  
tips



# Are YOU Cooperative?

“The supreme need of humanity is cooperation and reciprocity.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

**C**ompetition can be fun in sports, friendly games, or science fairs. But sometimes it’s a good idea to balance your competitive drive with cooperation.

School projects or service activities are often more rewarding when a group works together. It’s a great feeling to be part of a team that gets along. We can use our strengths,

learn new things, and get a lot more done.

When you’re working with others, encourage everyone instead of trying to outshine them. Listen carefully and tell people when you like their ideas. Build unity and enthusiasm in your group by being cheerful and positive. When we cooperate with joy, everyone feels like a winner.

**How are your cooperation skills? Circle your answers, then add up your points.**



1. In a service project, I try to help everyone find a way to pitch in.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

2. I take turns sharing ideas, so others have a chance to talk.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

3. I’m curious and willing to learn new things from others.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

4. When solving a problem, I look for solutions that help everyone.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

5. I’m a good sport when a game or event doesn’t go the way I want it to.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

6. If I have chores I don’t like, I still do my best to help my family.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

7. I encourage others if they’re having a tough time.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

8. I try to be humble and compliment people when they do well.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

9. In a discussion, I listen with respect and give the speaker my full attention.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

10. I try to imagine other people’s points of view.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

11. If my team disagrees, I stay calm and help find a solution.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

12. When our group is successful, I share the credit with my teammates.  
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



## MY SCORE

**36–28 POINTS** You’re a champion of cooperation. Your teamwork skills can inspire others. Keep it up!

**27–20 POINTS** You’re on the path to cooperation. Pick a new skill from the quiz to practice with others.

**19–12 POINTS** You can build your cooperation skills. Start by trying some ideas from the quiz.



# EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

"All the members of this endless universe are linked one to another." —Bahá'í Writings

WE  
ARE  
ONE

## EARTH-SAVING TIP

### Moderate at Meals

When you eat out, only take the number of plates, utensils, and napkins that you really need. Those extras waste resources and add trash to landfills.

## WOW, REALLY?

Aomori, in northern Japan, is the world's snowiest big city. It gets about 26 feet (7.9 m) of snow a year—enough to bury a two-story house.



## OUR CONNECTIONS

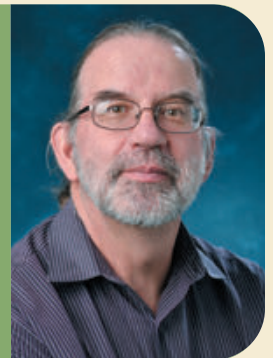
Did you know that there's no land at the North Pole? It's sea ice—a giant mass of ice that floats on the Arctic Ocean, even in summer. Arctic ice influences ocean currents and how heat is distributed in the world. But sea ice is decreasing due to warming

in the Arctic—and that impacts our global climate. Sea ice is critical for indigenous people and wildlife, such as polar bears and seals. Many countries cooperate to study the Arctic.



## PROTECTING OUR PLANET

**Dr. Mark Serreze**, an Arctic climate scientist, is director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Colorado. He studies rising temperatures and the rapidly melting Arctic ice and says, "What the Arctic is telling us is that climate change is not some vague threat somewhere out in the future . . . but is rather already here, and here in a big way."



## WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Once home to the Vikings, this chain of 18 remote islands sits between Iceland and Norway. Sheep roam the rugged land and cliffs. Over half of the electricity comes from renewable sources—water, wind, and tides. *Unscramble the letters to find the name:*

**RAFEOLASSDIN**



## AMAZING ANIMALS



These white animals blend in with their snowy surroundings. Two layers of fur help them stay warm. Like all of their kind, they live in packs, form strong bonds, and cooperate to raise pups. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

**ROTILOE**





"The acquisition of sciences and the perfection of arts are considered acts of worship." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

NATURE  
HELPS MY  
IMAGINATION  
GROW!



## EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY

**H**ave you ever tried to think of creative ideas, but felt stuck? This happened the other day when I was trying to write a poem about a red-tailed hawk. So I put down my pencil and went for a hike.

Lots of times, being in nature fills me with a sense of awe. The outdoors inspires me to be curious and try new things. Nature also helps me focus on the present moment. I love looking up at giant cedar

trees. They really help me imagine things from a different perspective!

Teaming up with others can spark creativity, too. I like to brainstorm with my family. They help me come up with lots of cool ideas, and it's fun to see what we can discover together!

What ways do you like to be creative? Check out these activities and let your imagination run wild.

## SPARK IMAGINATION

START DATE:

Invite friends and family to see how many of these creative activities you can do in two weeks. Add your own ideas, too.

END DATE:

- ☐ Find inspiration at a museum or in books at the library.
- ☐ Invent three games you could play with sidewalk chalk.
- ☐ Keep a notebook by your bed to write or draw your dreams.
- ☐ Write a story or a play about what our world will be like in 20 years.
- ☐ Find an everyday item and try to list 50 different uses for it.
- ☐ Listen to music, and sketch or write ideas that pop up.
- ☐ Draw something without looking at your hand for five minutes.
- ☐ Pick a song you love and sing it with new lyrics.



- ☐ Create nature art with leaves, stones, twigs, and flowers you find on the ground.
- ☐ Experiment with a new type of art—sculpting, weaving, game design—there are tons of options.
- ☐ Draw three cool inventions you'd love to see in the future.
- ☐ Mix soap solutions and see which one makes the best bubbles.
- ☐ Gather five objects that aren't instruments and create music.

- ☐ Ask each family member to pretend to be a fictional character while you talk at dinner.
- ☐ Create a backyard obstacle course and race through it with friends.
- ☐ Write a letter to yourself from a favorite pet or animal.
- ☐ Invent your own holiday with decorations and activities, and celebrate it with your family.
- ☐ Write a joyful word for each letter of the alphabet.
- ☐ Add your own ideas:

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# ✧ Be as Waves of One Sea ✧

**W**hen a group has a problem to solve, consulting in a spirit of friendship is a great place to start. Just as waves in the sea move together in a single direction, people can move in unity with consultation.

But waves can get rough. If you face stormy seas during consultation, stay calm. Turn to your faith and pray for help.

The advice below from the Bahá'í writings can inspire harmony. It was written for Local Spiritual Assemblies—groups of nine people elected to guide a Bahá'í community—but it can work for anyone.

Do you have a group project at school? First, reach out to your team with kindness. Next, talk and listen with courtesy and an open mind. With practice and prayer, solutions can flow smoothly.

READ THIS QUOTE, THEN CHECK OUT THE HIGHLIGHTED WORDS BELOW.

**T**he first condition is absolute love and **harmony** . . . They must be wholly free from **estrangement** and must **manifest** in themselves the Unity of God, for they are the waves of one sea, the drops of one river, the stars of one heaven, the rays of one sun, the trees of one orchard, the flowers of one garden. Should harmony of thought and absolute unity be non-existent, that gathering shall be dispersed and that assembly be brought to naught . . . They must, when coming together, turn their faces to the Kingdom on high and ask aid from the **Realm of Glory**. They must then proceed with the utmost **devotion**, courtesy, **dignity**, care and **moderation** to express their views. —'Abdu'l-Bahá

DRAW A LINE FROM EACH WORD TO ITS DEFINITION.

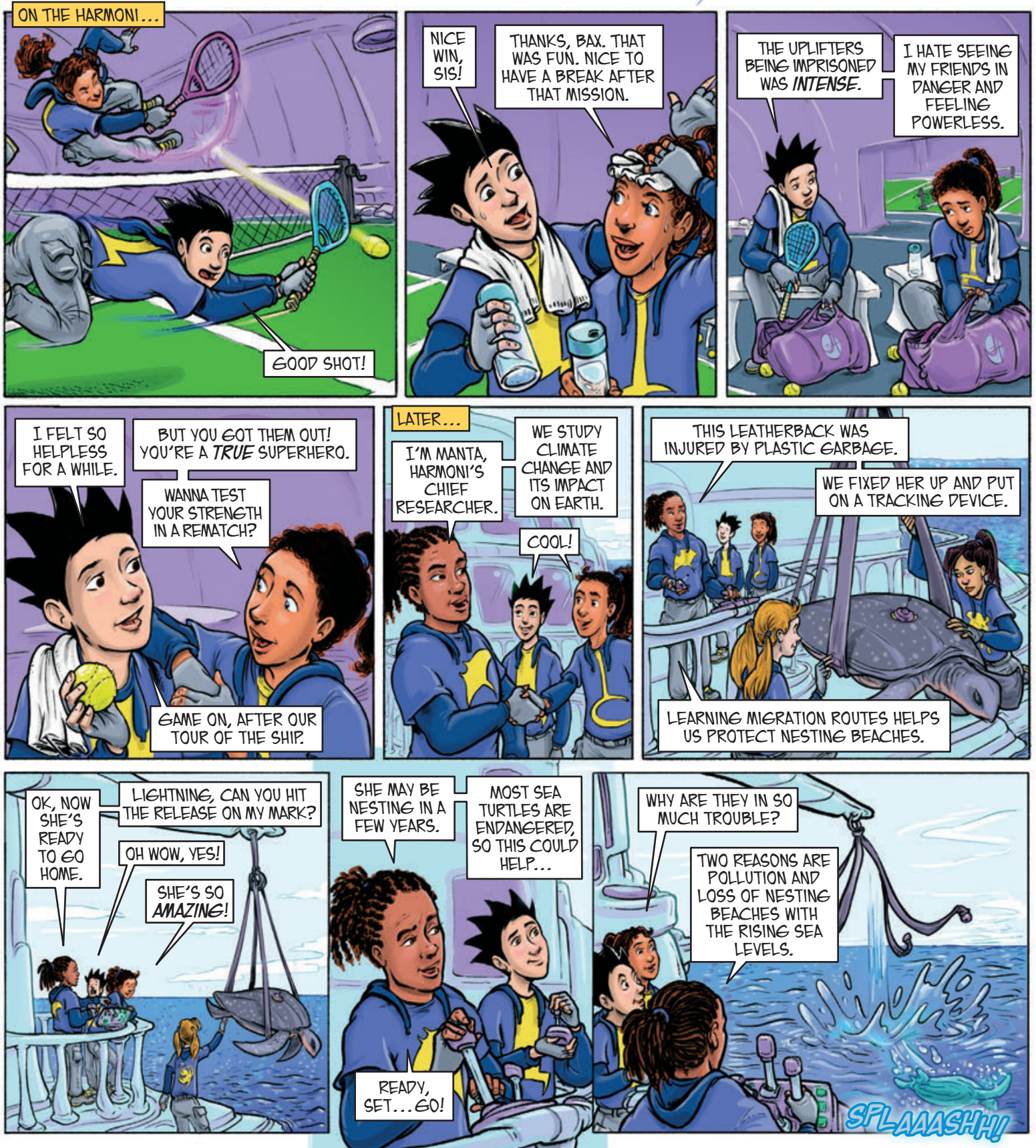
- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Harmony        | A. Show plainly, prove        |
| 2. Estrangement   | B. Agreement or calm          |
| 3. Manifest       | C. Holy Kingdom               |
| 4. Realm of Glory | D. Respect, nobility          |
| 5. Devotion       | E. Lack of friendliness       |
| 6. Dignity        | F. Balance, avoiding extremes |
| 7. Moderation     | G. Love and dedication        |

What are two things that help with consultation? \_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to bring love and unity to a group? \_\_\_\_\_

THEN WRITE YOUR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS.







THE TOUR CONTINUES...

THIS IS A ZERO WASTE, ECO-FRIENDLY VESSEL.

WE STUDY SEAWATER AND TRACK OCEAN TEMPERATURES AND CURRENTS.

WE'VE ALSO DISCOVERED NEW SPECIES. BUT MANY MORE ARE GOING EXTINCT FROM WARMING OCEANS.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HUGE. HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

IN MANY PLACES, EACH PERSON PRODUCES TONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES A YEAR. CHANGING OUR HABITS CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT.

LIKE RECYCLING OR RIDING BIKES TO GET AROUND.

WE CAN ALL LEARN THE FACTS AND TAKE ACTION!

YOU SOUND UPEAT.

I HAVE FAITH PEOPLE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS THAT ARE FAIR TO ALL CREATURES.

HERE'S THE SONAR ROOM, WHERE WE MAKE MAPS OF THE SEAFLOOR.

POSSIBLE SHIPWRECK, CAPTAIN.

FULL STOP.

IS IT REGISTERED?

SHIPWRECKS CAN LEAK TOXINS. WE HAVE TO CHECK IT.

NO, MA'AM.

WAIT. I FEEL A STRONG ELECTRICAL CURRENT.

YOU MEAN FROM THAT OLD SHIPWRECK?

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S ACTIVE, NOT OLD.

MANTA, TAKE THEM IN THE MINISUB AND CHECK IT OUT.

IT'S OK, BAX. TAKE YOUR TIME.

IT'S...JUST...SUCH A SMALL SPACE.

HARMONI, WE ARE REACHING A HUNDRED METERS, OVER—

FEELS SO TIGHT IN HERE.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?



# RADIANT STARS

## Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world!  
How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

### Atisha K.

Age: 11

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be:  
**A photographer and a traveler**

This career interests me because:  
**My mom is a photographer, and I like taking pictures with her and helping her. I like to travel a lot, so that is why I want to travel to many places.**

Virtues I admire most:  
**Kindness, caring, friendliness**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Junior youth classes, going to Bosch Bahá'í School [in California]**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Moscow, Russia**

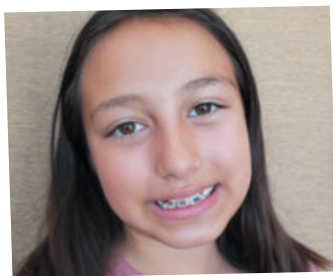
A hero or role model:  
**My parents . . .**

I like to help people by:  
**Volunteering in service**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:  
**By their different cultures and virtues they [write about] . . .**

My wish for other *Brilliant Star* readers:  
**Try and enjoy *Brilliant Star* just like how much I like it.**

In 50 years, I hope:  
**The world will be a happy place for all people and living things and so pretty . . .**



### Nick L.

Age: 13

I live in: **Georgia, U.S.**

I want to be:  
**A genetic engineer**

This career interests me because:  
**It . . . will leave a positive impact on not only the environment, but also humanity.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**I like to do activities with my junior youth group and celebrate Ayyám-i-Há\* . . .**

Favorite animal:  
**Owls. My dad and I like to observe them . . .**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**The Bahá'í holy lands in Israel**

I like to help people by:  
**Encouraging them to not give up**



A hero or role model:  
**My dad**

Cooperation is important because:  
**If the world could unite, . . . then many troubles . . . would be solved.**

When team members disagree, it helps to:  
**Give everybody [a] turn to share their idea . . .**

My wish for other *Brilliant Star* readers:  
**To encourage their . . . friends to learn more about the Bahá'í Faith**



### Fazal M.

Age: 12

I live in: **Illinois, U.S.**

I want to be:  
**Author/illustrator**

This career interests me because:  
**I like to write and draw.**

Virtue I admire most:  
**Truthfulness**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Service projects**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Hawaii**

In 50 years, I hope:  
**At least 20% of Earth is Bahá'í**

A favorite food:  
**Apples and pears**

A hero or role model:  
**Mírzá Abu'l-Fadl (I am named after this Bahá'í scholar and teacher.)**

I like to help people by:  
**Making people laugh**

Cooperation is important because:  
**Humankind needs to cooperate to move forward.**

What helps me work well with others:  
**When we can all come to an agreement, even through debate**

When team members disagree, it helps to:  
**Come up with a compromise**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:  
**The artwork and the creativity**

## Elsa B.

Age: 12

I live in: **Kansas, U.S.**

I want to be: **A chef**

This career interests me because:

**I love making food for people to enjoy.**

Virtue I admire most: **Courage**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Bahá'í seasonal schools and service projects**

A favorite food: **Char kway teow with shrimp (a Malaysian noodle dish)**

A hero or role model: **Malala Yousafzai**

Cooperation is important because:

**People need to cooperate if we're going to get this world out of the mess that we've created.**

What helps me work well with others:

**Finding common ground with them**

When team members disagree, it helps to: **Be a mediator. Listen to both sides and find where the problem is.**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:

**To draw a lot more**

In 50 years, I hope: **That the world will have achieved peace ... [and] found solutions to climate change**



## Iulia S.

Age: 9

I live in: **Michigan, U.S.**

I want to be:

**I want to do search-and-rescue for animals, and be a veterinarian ... a singer, and a dancer.**

This career interests me because:

**I love animals and I love to do ropes courses. My talents are to sing and dance.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **I like going to Bahá'í summer schools ...**

Cooperation is important because:

**So many things are so hard for just one person to accomplish ... When you have more than one brain, or more than two hands ... it's easier ...**

A hero or role model:

**My grandma and grandpa, and my parents**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:

**I really like looking at the comics and the stories about other kids. Reading their stories makes me see what it looks like to stand for what is right.**

My wish for other *Brilliant Star* readers:

**Get involved with *Brilliant Star*, and use it to help other people.**



**"God has crowned you with honor and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!"** — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

## Jian M.

Age: 12

I live in: **Beijing, China**

I want to be: **A designer**

This career interests me because:

**I like exploring different designs, sketching, and designing logos.**

Virtue I admire most: **Truthfulness**

Hobbies or sports: **Soccer, tennis, and making Chinese tea (there are many steps ... I feel it is close to meditation ...)**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth group and junior youth camps**

A hero or role model: **Piero Mazzacane, the first Bahá'í in Bari, Italy**

Favorite animal or pet: **My dog, Aria**

Place I'd love to visit: **Antarctica**



Cooperation is important because:

**We can accomplish so much more if everyone ... is unified. For example, we would be able to work faster to fix global warming because no one would keep others from achieving the goal.**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:

**I enjoy reading the different biographies of people ... They inspire [me] to strengthen my character.**

My wish for other *Brilliant Star* readers:

**That all continue to grow spiritually**

## How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7-14, go to [www.brilliantstarmagazine.org](http://www.brilliantstarmagazine.org). From the top menu, choose "Discover." Then click "Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer," and fill out the form. Or e-mail us at [brilliant@usbnc.org](mailto:brilliant@usbnc.org). Include your name, age, birth date, mailing address, and phone number.
2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign.
3. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed form, along with at least two good-quality, close-up photographs of your smiling face. Photos should be in sharp focus and show your eyes clearly. Please don't send color copies, low-resolution digital images, or copyright-protected images (like school portraits).



## Kabir A.

Age: 9

I live in:  
**Massachusetts, U.S.**

I want to be:  
**Information technologist**

This career interests me because:  
**I'm good at it and there is something new to learn every day.**

Virtue I admire most:  
**Kindness**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Children's classes and holy day celebrations**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Google headquarters in Mountain View, California**

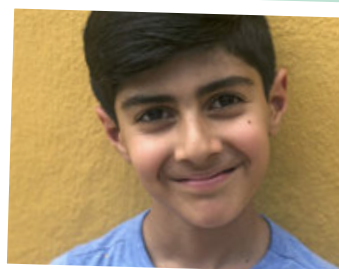
A hero or role model:  
**My dad**

I like to help people by:  
**Including others**

When team members disagree, it helps to:  
**Give everyone a chance to explain why they feel that way.**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:  
**The stories of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh inspired me to stand up for what I believe.**

My wish for other *Brilliant Star* readers:  
**To share the stories and facts they have learned from *Brilliant Star* with others**



## Athena S.

Age: 8

I live in: **Washington, U.S.**

I want to be: **Teacher**

This career interests me because:  
**I want to help educate students in the best possible way.**

Virtue I admire most:  
**Kindness**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Children's classes and Bahá'í celebrations**

Favorite animal:  
**Kitten**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Japan, to see the cherry blossoms**

A hero or role model:  
**My sister**

I like to help people by:  
**Being respectful and kind**



Cooperation is important because:  
**It helps people to get along with one another.**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:  
**To learn more about Bahá'í history**

My wish for other *Brilliant Star* readers:  
**To do a service project inspired by this issue . . .**

In 50 years, I hope:  
**That the "unity" ice cream flavors\* will be available to help bring about more unity . . .**

## Neusha S.

Age: 8

I live in:  
**Pennsylvania, U.S.**

I want to be: **An engineer**

This career interests me because:  
**I like building and taking things apart.**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Reading, writing, making friendship bracelets**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Children's class in our local library**

A hero or role model:  
**My parents**

I like to help people by:  
**Visiting senior centers and also serving at animal shelters**

When team members disagree, it helps to:  
**Try to include others' opinions, consult with each other, and maybe combine . . . ideas . . .**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:  
**I enjoy reading about other children . . .**

My wish for other *Brilliant Star* readers:  
**To spread the word about this wonderful magazine and share it with others, too!**

In 50 years, I hope:  
**People [will] stop polluting and care more for the environment so our home, Planet Earth, can last longer.**



## Arian S.

Age: 8

I live in:  
**British Columbia, Canada**

I want to be: **An architect**

This career interests me because:  
**I like to build and design unique structures with my LEGO [sets].**

Virtue I admire most:  
**Helpfulness**

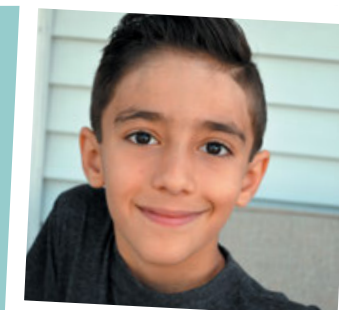
Hobbies or sports:  
**Soccer**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Children's classes**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Islands in Hawaii that I haven't been to yet**

A hero or role model:  
**My dad**

I like to help people by:  
**Helping them with school subjects**



What helps me work well with others:  
**To be cooperative by listening to others and sharing [my] ideas as well. Also, respecting . . . differences.**

How *Brilliant Star* has inspired me:  
**To learn more about Bahá'í role models and heroes**

In 50 years, I hope:  
**We will have [a] clean environment full of thriving rainforests. Also that all people live in peace and harmony.**





# Creative Magic



"Arts, crafts and sciences uplift the world of being, and are conducive to its exaltation." —Bahá'u'lláh

Let's make art to celebrate **Brilliant Star's** 50th birthday this year! Our team of artists and writers loves working together to create the magazine and the website. We all started exploring the arts when we were kids—from writing stories to drawing amazing worlds. Being creative is so fun and fulfilling, we decided to do it for **Brilliant Star**. When we consult

and cooperate with each other, ideas *really* come alive.

If you enjoy art, you may want to use it in *your* service projects or future career, too! Pay attention to the things you love to do and the ideas that spark your imagination. Those are clues that can help you choose a career that inspires you. When you unleash your creative talents, you can truly make magic!



BRUSHES OF BEAUTY



CURIOUS CAMERA



GLITTER OF GRATITUDE



IMAGINATIVE INK



JOYFUL JAR



LAPTOP OF LOVE



PERSEVERING PENCILS

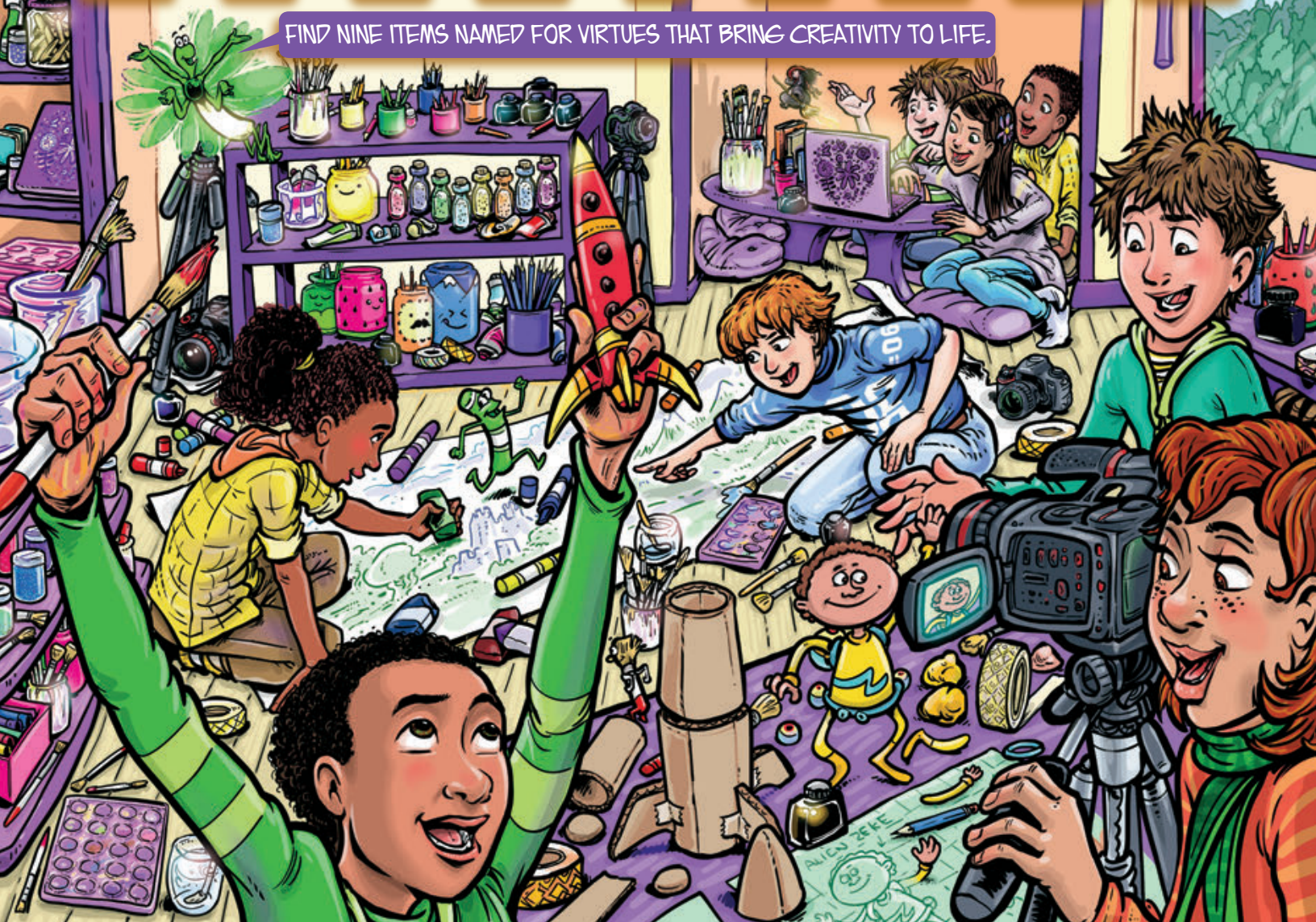


TAPE OF TEAMWORK



WATERCOLORS OF WONDER

FIND NINE ITEMS NAMED FOR VIRTUES THAT BRING CREATIVITY TO LIFE.







## ASK A SPACE SCIENTIST

Our universe is full of mysteries, and some of the most mind-boggling are in space. Curious kids asked questions, and we sent them to two Bahá'í space scientists. Have questions about space? Send them to [brilliant@usbnc.org](mailto:brilliant@usbnc.org) (with your name and age).

### How does being a Bahá'í make you see your work differently? — Kian, age 10

Hi, Kian,

For me personally, I think that as you grow spiritually, the way you work and the satisfaction you receive from work changes. You go from wanting to be the one who comes up with the answer to a problem, to wanting to encourage others and to contribute to the answer as part of a team.

Using principles of Bahá'í consultation at work is a big help. The Bahá'í writings say consultation gives us “insight into things” and enables us “to delve into questions which are unknown.” Through consultation, “the right solution will certainly be revealed.”

By cooperating and consulting, your work goals are less about satisfying your own ego—seeking recognition or impressing others with your position or education.

Instead, you're more focused on having your work make a positive contribution to the world. When you look at your work this way, you are not only getting self-satisfaction, but you are helping others, and you are worshipping God. — Steve



Global cooperation is seen on the International Space Station, which has had 239 visitors from 19 countries. The crew for Expedition 61 (above) was from the U.S., Russia, and Italy.

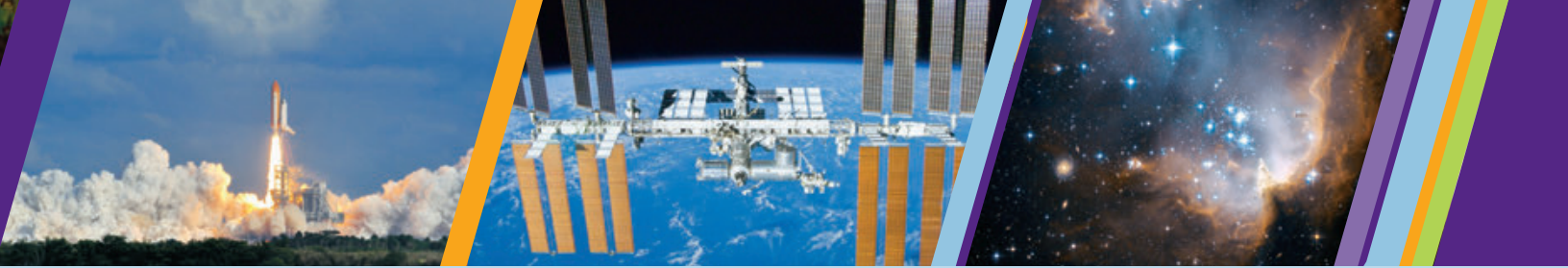
## BACH IN TIME

During the 1969 Apollo 11 mission, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin used the lunar module, called Eagle, to land on the moon for the first time. Michael Collins stayed in space, becoming the first person to orbit the moon alone. He piloted the command module, called:

- A) Eagle's Nest
- B) Enterprise
- C) Millennium Falcon
- D) Columbia



Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin



## How was the moon formed? — Sophia, age 13

Hi, Sophia,  
Our best hypothesis for the origin of the Moon is a giant impact. Earth formed about 4.5 billion years ago from dust, ice, and gas around the newborn Sun. Less than 100 million years later, an object the size of Mars hit Earth head-on. The impact was so huge that it destroyed the impacting object, ejected a large amount of material into an orbiting ring of molten rock, and temporarily enveloped the Earth in an atmosphere of vaporized rock.

Over the next century, the orbiting rock cooled. Eventually, its gravity pulled together the various pieces and assembled the Moon into a molten body. Over time, the Moon cooled. After countless asteroid and comet impacts, it became the dry, airless, cratered body we know today. Through tidal interactions with the Earth, its spin slowed until it became tidally locked after about 100 million years, with one side always facing Earth and the other side always facing away. It also increased its orbital distance to appear 15 times smaller in our sky. And it slowed Earth's rotation from an initial five-hour day to the 24-hour day we currently enjoy. —George



The far side of the moon (never seen from Earth) has many more craters than the near side. In this highlighted image, areas above 17,000 ft (5,182 m) are red, and those below -4,000 ft (-1,219 m) are blue.



**STEVE SCOTTI** is *Brilliant Star's* STEM Education Advisor and a Distinguished Research Associate at NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, U.S. His background is in developing lighter, stronger materials and structures for aircraft and spacecraft. Watching the first astronaut launched into space inspired his interest in space exploration, and he enjoys sharing his enthusiasm about science and space with kids.



**GEORGE HATCHER** was an avionics engineer at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, U.S., from 2004–2017. He worked on electrical systems of the space shuttle and uncrewed rockets. He also studied planetary science at the University of Central Florida. Working in avionics was a dream come true for George. He's aspired to be an astronaut since he was three. He's one of 100 finalists in the Mars One Project, which aims to create a human settlement on Mars.

## COSMIC QUIZ

Due to its changing position, the moon goes through phases where we see different amounts of sunlight reflected from the surface. If it's just a sliver, we call it a crescent moon. When it's a half circle, astronomers call it a quarter moon. Between the quarter moon and full moon, it's called:

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| A) Balloon       | C) Gibbous  |
| B) Three-quarter | D) Football |





# Dr. Brian Lepard



**F**ire! Imagine waking up in the middle of the night to find a big wooden cross on fire in your yard! Brian Lepard was about five years old when that happened. People in his all-white neighborhood wanted Brian's family to stop hosting race unity gatherings with African American friends, so they threatened them by burning the cross. But his parents weren't intimidated. They just kept going.

This experience fueled Brian's passion to work for social justice. Inspired by Bahá'í principles of peace, he got a bachelor's degree in international affairs at Princeton University. Later, he did human rights work for the Bahá'í International Community in New York, often focusing on supporting Bahá'ís in Iran who are persecuted for their faith. In 1989, he earned a degree from Yale Law School. Today, Brian teaches law at the University of Nebraska. He's written three books and travels the world speaking about the Bahá'í Faith and human rights. Brian and his wife, Jenina, live in Nebraska.

**Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?**

A: Playing in the fields near my apartment building in Amherst, Massachusetts . . . There were these wild raspberries that we would pick, and there was a swamp there too, with lots of frogs and little animals . . .

**Q: What was the most challenging experience for you as a kid?**

A: I got good grades in school, so [other kids] would taunt me . . . I really tried to reflect on how to respond as a Bahá'í, and I talked to my parents about it . . . I tried really hard to not let it bother me and to understand that this was their problem . . . Fortunately . . . I had a small circle of really good friends . . .



**Left:** At about age 10, Brian enjoyed helping his parents assemble *Child's Way* magazine. **Right:** Brian (about age 13) formed a friendship with Stanwood Cobb, an educator, author, and frequent speaker at Bahá'í conferences.



**Q: Your parents, David and Mildred, launched *Child's Way* magazine, which became *Brilliant Star*. What inspired them?**

A: They were very, very involved with Bahá'í children's education . . . They taught children's classes at Bahá'í summer schools . . . They created what I believe was the first album of Bahá'í children's songs . . . I think it all grew out of an effort to really develop engaging educational materials for Bahá'í children . . . that were also hands-on and involved lots of activities and projects . . .

## Questions and Answers with an Inspirational Bahá'í



Brian and his family wore t-shirts with messages about social justice to a community picnic (left to right: son Brandon, wife Jenina, son Justin, and Justin's wife, Alexis).

### Q: How did your parents produce *Child's Way*?

A: It was a very low-budget operation . . . My parents on an IBM Selectric typewriter would type up the text and . . . I would help cut out pieces of paper with the typewritten text, and we would glue it onto the bigger form paper to create the pages of the magazine.

### Q: This issue of *Brilliant Star* addresses Bahá'í consultation. What's important to know?

A: What's unique about Bahá'í consultation is that . . . we approach the whole process with the goal of finding a better understanding of the truth or the best thing to do . . . [not] as an opportunity to convince others that what we already think is the right way . . . Our goal is to . . . learn from others in a spirit and attitude of humility . . . It's so important that once a decision is reached, everybody try to implement it in a unified way . . .



Brian achieved his dream to teach both international law and tax law. In a contest (left), Brian's students voted for him to teach in a Luke Skywalker costume.



### Q: What are some things kids can do to increase cooperation?

A: One thing . . . we can *all* do is reach out to people . . . of a different race or religion or nationality or ethnicity, and find some projects we can work on with them . . . Not only does that build cooperation, but it also helps break down prejudices and helps promote true unity . . . Those projects . . . might be helping a child with special needs . . . or if you see someone being bullied, you and some friends get together and say we're going to befriend that person . . . Bahá'í consultation relates directly to that, because one of the ways that cooperation breaks down is when we feel like we're not being heard or appreciated . . .

### Q: We're celebrating *Brilliant Star's* 50th birthday. Why do kids need a magazine that encourages them to be world citizens?

A: There are so many forces in our society that are trying to pull people apart . . . I think a magazine like this reminds us of what our goals are as Bahá'ís—to try to achieve unity and heal all wounds based on prejudice. And promote consultation and cooperation . . . For me, working on all those projects, all the arts, all the crafts that are in the magazine and reading those inspiring stories . . . really made the Faith come alive for me as a child and really helped me internalize these Bahá'í values . . .



# Future Stargazer:

(Your Name) \_\_\_\_\_

**W**hat do you dream of doing someday? Are you amazed by space, animals, or computers? Maybe you love drawing, music, or inventing. What skills will you use to help the world?

In each issue, **Brilliant Star** interviews a Stargazer—someone with a cool career and a spirit of service to humanity.

We all have qualities and talents that we can let shine. When we develop them and use them in uplifting ways, we're like shining stars.

Draw your portrait or  
attach your photo.

Draw who or what  
makes you happy.

What are your favorite things to do for fun?

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What career are you excited about, and why?

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What's a challenge you've learned from?

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What's one of your favorite memories?

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What's something cool you've accomplished?

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What can you do now to prepare yourself for  
your future career?

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What's one thing you can do to make the world  
better today?

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What places in the world would you love to visit?

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Draw yourself working in your dream career.



# Elfland Harmony

Listening to an orchestra can feel magical. Musicians play different instruments while working together to create enchanting music. But what if they all played their own tune, without listening to the others? It would cause clamor and chaos!

Working in unity with a group can be tricky at times. Different opinions can make it hard to agree. But when

shared with kindness, ideas can blend harmoniously. It helps to remember that each person has unique talents to contribute. Listen with an open mind and attentive ears to people's suggestions. If you don't agree, that's okay. Try to find a compromise that's fair for everyone. When we practice respect and cooperation, teamwork can lead to magnificent harmony.

Use the Musical Mini Code to replace each note in the quote with the correct letter. You'll find a truth that helps us consult in harmony.



"Th<sub>e</sub> shinin<sub>g</sub> sp<sub>ark</sub> o<sub>f</sub> truth<sub>ful</sub> om<sub>ni</sub>th<sub>ing</sub> orth<sub>odox</sub> only<sub>ness</sub> th<sub>at</sub>  
th<sub>at</sub> I<sub>sh</sub> o<sub>ne</sub> i<sub>n</sub> r<sub>in</sub> opinions." —'Abdu'l-Bahá



# SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

## "Auntie" Victoria Bedikian (1879–1955)



**I**magine training to be a musician, but suddenly becoming deaf. How would you handle it? When it happened to Victoria Bedikian, she didn't let it slow her down.

Born in 1879, Victoria grew up in Idaho with six sisters. They traveled between the U.S. and Germany, studying art and music. But Victoria's life changed when she lost her hearing as a kid, possibly due to illness. Leaving music behind, she devoted herself to drawing and painting instead.

When she was 22, Victoria married Dikran Bedikian. They owned an art store in New Jersey. 'Abdu'l-Bahá visited their store during his travels to North America in 1912. Victoria became a Bahá'í seven years later, in 1919. 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote to her and encouraged her to devote her art to the Faith.

### "Auntie" Victoria

Victoria had a special place in her heart for kids and their noble spirits. She said, "No work is greater, or more important, than the work with the children . . . they are simply His Very Own, and need all the attention we can give to them . . ."

The Bedikians opened their home to kids in need and also adopted a son. They purchased 19 acres and built an orphanage and a school. At one point, over 40 kids lived there. They called her "Auntie" Victoria, a nickname she cherished.

'Abdu'l-Bahá praised her loving care of children. He said, "Helping the poor and the orphan is service to the Kingdom of God. No benevolent deed has, or will, ever surpass it in merit."

In 1922, Victoria started a magazine for kids that was soon called *The Magazine of the Children of the Kingdom*. She wrote to over 100 groups of kids in countries such as the U.S., Egypt, India, Australia, and Japan. She called them "gardens," and each had a special name, such as "Rose Garden" or "Song Birds." She included letters and photos from them in her magazine. Over the years, she created other publications, too.

### Building Together

Through her magazines, Victoria encouraged Bahá'ís to contribute to the first Bahá'í House of Worship in North America. She wrote letters to readers and included drawings of what the Temple would look like. She wrote, "*Giving is an art!* Selfless giving proves our faith and love and hope in Bahá'u'lláh!"

Victoria went on pilgrimage to Haifa, Israel, in 1927. It was a highlight of her life. She spent three months as a guest of Shoghi Effendi, the leader and Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. He prepared her to raise funds for the Temple and communicate messages of love and unity to Bahá'ís around the world.

After her husband passed away, Victoria shared Bahá'í teachings throughout the U.S. She continued to create art and write to Bahá'ís until her passing in Georgia in 1955 at the age of 76.

Her loving letters had reached so many people that memorial programs were held for her in many countries. Shoghi Effendi called her an "indefatigable, wholly consecrated promoter of the Faith" and praised her "unforgettable" services.



# RILEY'S RAINFOREST



“Send down...from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing...”

—Bahá'u'lláh

## Grow a Healthy Mindset

I had a tough time learning a new flying technique in class today. I tried again and again, but I just kept flapping all over the place. It was so embarrassing! I wanted to fold my wings and give up.

But guess what? My teacher told me I was making a great effort. She said mistakes help us learn. The key is to have a **growth mindset**. Your mindset is the way you look at the world. If you have a fixed mindset, you might give up easily, because you feel like you can't learn new skills. If you have a growth mindset, you see challenges as opportunities to grow. Even if things get tough, you don't give up. You know you can improve by working hard and staying positive.



Like flying, having a growth mindset takes practice. It's like exercise for your mind. It can help your brain grow stronger, almost like a muscle! Crazy, right?

A growth mindset also helps you listen to advice with an open mind, which is important when you're learning something new. My teacher's feedback helped me. She gave me a lot of pointers, like being positive with yourself. Telling yourself encouraging things like “I'm learning so much from these mistakes” or “I'm going to get a lot better if I keep trying” can help you stay optimistic.

Learning this new technique is challenging. But I know that if I keep practicing, my wings *and* my brain will soar faster and stronger!

## Explore & Soar: Practice Positivity

**T**ry these cool ideas to boost your growth mindset.

- ❑ Each day, write down three things you learned, two things you'd like to learn, and one question you want to ask someone you respect or admire.
- ❑ Read about someone who overcame a major challenge in their life.
- ❑ Draw a picture of yourself using your strengths as a reminder that you can fulfill your dreams.



- ❑ Think about the things you're grateful for and write them in a journal, draw them, or take photos that bring them to mind.
- ❑ Meditate on your goal, then visualize possible obstacles. How will you handle them?
- ❑ Think of a problem you face, then ask yourself how a role model might solve it.
- ❑ Create a vision board of your goals and hang it up to stay positive and motivated.

## Curiosity Canopy



**D**id you know? You can learn a lot about a growth mindset from raccoons. They're so resilient that they can adapt to almost any environment. They're also smart problem-solvers. One famous raccoon learned over 100 behaviors, like how to ride a bike and sweep the floor!



WHY ARE  
BIRTHDAY  
PARTIES SO  
MUCH FUN?

BECAUSE IT'S TIME  
TO SHELL-ABRATE!



ACROSS

3. Teaming up with others can spark \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 12)
4. Laughter and \_\_\_\_\_ are like superpowers that can help us work together. (p. 29)
5. By focusing on what works for everyone, you can discover jewels of \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 5)
11. When you're working with others, \_\_\_\_\_ everyone instead of trying to outshine them. (p. 10)
12. Dr. Scotti says, "Using principles of Bahá'í \_\_\_\_\_ at work is a big help." (p. 20)
13. Fazal and Jian both admire this virtue. (pp. 16-17)
14. Listen with an \_\_\_\_\_ mind and attentive ears to people's suggestions. (p. 25)
15. It's **Brilliant Star's** 50th \_\_\_\_\_ this year! (p. 19)

DOWN

1. Being in nature fills Maya with a sense of \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 12)
2. Auntie Victoria Bedikian wrote that "\_\_\_\_\_ is an art!" (p. 26)
3. Making each stage of **Brilliant Star** takes lots of \_\_\_\_\_ and consultation. (p. 2)
6. When a group has a problem to solve, consulting in a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ is a great place to start. (p. 13)
7. Consulting is like mining for \_\_\_\_\_ of truth. (p. 5)
8. If you have a \_\_\_\_\_ mindset, you see challenges as opportunities to grow. (p. 27)
9. All wolves live in packs and form strong \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 11)
10. In 50 years, there have been about 300 \_\_\_\_\_ of **Brilliant Star** magazine. (p. 8)

## FROM OUR MAILBOX



*Brilliant Star* makes me feel good. [From reading it] I have learned that you should have perseverance. The comics on the website are fun to read. [For an issue theme] I'd choose unity of all religions, because the nations are still fighting.

— William K., age 10  
California, U.S.

## ANSWERS

KEY: T=Top, C=Center, B=Bottom, L=Left, R=Right

Pages 2-3: teamwork, inspiration, explore, sketches, activities, detectives, approve, quality, treasury, readers, mailbox

Page 5: 1) confidence, 2) cool, 3) offer, 4) options, 5) attention, 6) express, 7) courtesy, 8) honesty, 9) solutions

Page 11: Faroe Islands, Arctic wolves

Page 13: 1) B, 2) E, 3) A, 4) C, 5) G, 6) D, 7) F

Page 19: Brushes at TC, camera at CR, glitter at CL, ink at CR, jar at CL, laptop at TL, pencils at C, tape at BR, watercolors at BL

Pages 20-21: D) Columbia, C) Gibbous

Page 25: "The shining spark of truth cometh forth only after the clash of differing opinions."



# SUPER SWEET TEAMWORK

**T**eamwork can be like baking a delicious cake. Each person tosses in talents and skills to whip up something wonderful. But did you know there's a secret ingredient? It's having fun!

Laughter and humor are like superpowers that can help us work together with joy, friendship, and creativity. Laughing also releases stress, which makes any adventure more fun—even when you're trying to save the planet!

Like a carefully crafted recipe, a team needs balance, too. If one person swoops in to do all the work or make all the decisions, it's like using salt instead of sugar—yuck! It's more heroic to work as a team and allow each other to soar.

When we all mix our powers and strengths with enthusiasm and cooperation, teamwork can be a piece of cake. And that's a reason to celebrate!

Lightning and Luna are decorating a cake for *Brilliant Star's* 50th birthday! Find your way to the top and get the party started!





"Loving fellowship, mutual encouragement,  
and willingness to learn together are natural  
properties of any group . . . sincerely striving for  
the same ends, and should also characterize those  
essential relationships that bind together . . . society."  
—Bahá'í Writings



## Brilliant Star

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[www.brilliantstarmagazine.org](http://www.brilliantstarmagazine.org)