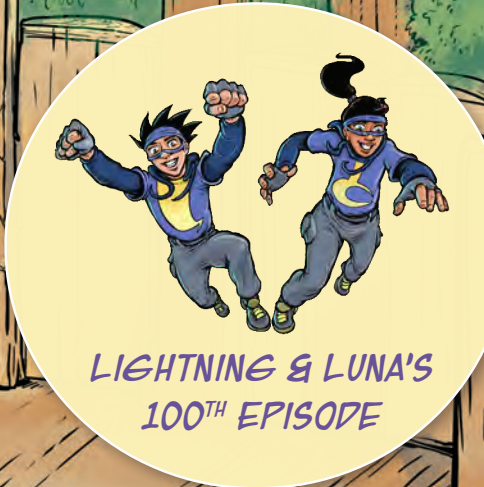


Brilliant Star

LET YOUR SPIRIT SHINE

BRILLIANTSTARMAGAZINE.ORG

VOL. 54 NO. 1



**CREATING ART
WITH HEART**

Brilliant Star

BAHÁ'Í NATIONAL CENTER

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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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DEAR FRIENDS,

Have you ever heard someone say they're not creative because they don't think they can draw or write poetry? The truth is, *everyone* can be creative! Creativity is bringing new ideas to life. That could be *anything*—from acting in a play to building a robot or planting a colorful garden. If you're curious and keep an open mind, the possibilities are endless!

In this issue, explore your infinite imagination. Dive into an action-packed 100th episode of *Lightning & Luna*! Write and draw about your inner superhero. Take a quiz on your sense of adventure. Craft a pinwheel with Nur to connect to the power of nature. And meet Masud Olufani, an artist, actor, and writer who explores race, history, and culture.

Whether working solo or with a crew, expressing your unique outlook sets the stage for joy and wonder. What will *you* have fun dreaming up today?

LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ✨



The Brilliant Star crew gathers to create a treasure trove of fresh, fun ideas for the year ahead. PHOTO BY KATIE FARIDANI

ABOUT THE COVER | ART BY C. AARON KREADER

In this scene, kids are rehearsing a musical inspired by Hazel Scott, a gifted Bahá'í musician who stood up for racial justice. The two kids in front represent Hazel Scott (left) and musician Dizzy Gillespie (right), who taught her about the Faith. Learn more about Hazel in our SHINING LAMP feature on page 26!



SHARE YOUR ART & SOAR!

Just like Lightning and Luna use their virtues and superpowers to help others, you can be a creative superhero! Making art of any kind can lift your spirit, bring joy to others, and even help change the world. Art, images, stories, and ideas that ignite your spirit may inspire others too!

So let your imagination fly! Draw, take photos, make videos, do crafts, or build with LEGO bricks. Choose an activity below and have fun expressing yourself. **Share your creation with us by November 2, 2025, and we'll send you a free Lightning & Luna sticker!** We can't wait to see what you create!

CREATE A DRAWING

Create art with our Imagination Station 2 art app or a How to Draw video on our website. Or draw any character from *Brilliant Star*, like Lightning, Luna, or Nur.



IMAGINATION STATION 2



HOW TO DRAW Videos

TAKE PHOTOS



Send us one or more photos of yourself doing a service project or showing a Nur's Nook craft you made, a favorite *Brilliant Star* page, or your LEGO creation. Include a short description of your photo and why you're excited to share it. Please send high-resolution photos (jpgs that are at least 2 MB).



MAKE A VIDEO



Make a short video of yourself doing a service project, singing, playing music, reading your poem or story, or sharing what a virtue means to you. Or tell us what you like most about *Brilliant Star*. Shoot a video with a smartphone in vertical portrait mode. It should be between 15 seconds and two minutes long.*



GET A COOL LIGHTNING & LUNA STICKER!

When you share your art, we'll send you a Lightning & Luna sticker in the mail! Scan the QR code with a smartphone's camera to send us your creations. Send your art by **November 2, 2025!** You can send a jpg, png, tiff, mov, mp4, PDF, or docx up to 20 MB.



Scan to send your art!

ENCHANTING ART

Making art is magical! You can create anything you imagine, from a soul-stirring song to a playful painting or a dramatic dance. Through all kinds of arts and crafts, you tap into your creative spirit.

It's easy to be critical of your art if you don't think it will win a contest or get lots of "likes" from friends. You don't

have to be super skilled to make art. Follow your curiosity and make something that's meaningful to you. Express your feelings with a camera, clay, or a clarinet. Try different arts, get messy, and go at your own pace. Share it with friends or keep it to yourself—it's your choice. Like a magic spell, creativity can enchant your heart!

Fill in the blanks to complete tips for being creative and resourceful!

1 PUT YOUR OWN SPIN ON THINGS AND DARE TO BE DIFFERENT!

BRAVE BULLET SHOES

2 CONNECT WITH OTHERS WHO ENJOY YOUR FAVORITE ART.

CONFIDENT CROCHET HOOK

3 FOCUS ON WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU AND ENJOY FUN MOMENTS.

CURIOUS CAMERA

4 PRACTICE A LITTLE EVERY DAY TO IMPROVE AND STAY IN TUNE!

FAITHFUL FLUTE

5 LOOK AT YOUR WORLD FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES AND LET YOUR MIND WANDER.

OPEN-MINDED ORIGAMI

6 EXPLORE YOUR EDUCATIONS AND EXPERIENCES TO SPARK NEW IDEAS.

JOYFUL JOURNAL

7 IF A PROJECT GETS BENT OUT OF SHAPE, BE KIND TO OTHERS AND YOURSELF.

PATIENT POTTERY

8 IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, STOP AND ASK FOR HELP!

MEANINGFUL MICROPHONE

9 BRUSH OFF SELF-DOUBT WITH A SPLASH OF OPTIMISM!

POSITIVE PAINTBRUSH

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

Art Is Worship

A Brief Timeline

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 Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tíhrán

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), Türkiye. 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.

“The true worth of artists and craftsmen should be appreciated,” said Bahá'u'lláh, “for they advance the affairs of mankind.”

Bahá'ís believe that practicing an art is a form of worship. Poetry, music, drama, visual arts, and other creative work can lift people's spirits and share spiritual truths.

In one verse, Bahá'u'lláh said that when a faithful soul passes on to the next world, they provide power “through which the arts and wonders of the world are made manifest . . .” Just as yeast makes bread rise, these souls help to inspire the arts on Earth.

While Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned for His faith in the cold and filthy “Black Pit” of Tíhrán, weighed down by massive chains, He revealed a joyful poem praising God.

Some time later, He was released and exiled to Baghdád, in what is now Iraq. Scholars asked Him to reveal a poem with a specific rhyme and meter they admired. Bahá'u'lláh dictated 2,000 verses and let the scholars keep 127 of them. The men agreed that Bahá'u'lláh's poem was magnificent.

Many early followers of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh were gifted artists. Bahá'u'lláh gave a devoted female poet the name Táhirih (“the Pure One”). At a conference



These verses from the Hidden Words are in Bahá'u'lláh's own handwriting. The decorative designs were added later.

of Bábís, He supported her when she bravely defied tradition by removing her veil and speaking out for equality.

Nabíl-i-A'zam was another excellent poet. He gave the Bahá'ís a priceless gift by writing a history of the Faith's early days called *The Dawn-Breakers*. Bahá'u'lláh reviewed and approved Nabíl's work.

Bahá'u'lláh's teachings attracted a calligrapher named Mishkín-Qalam. This brilliant artist was a private tutor to the Crown Prince of Persia (now Iran).

Mishkín-Qalam left that position to be near Bahá'u'lláh. He spent many hours transcribing Bahá'u'lláh's words in splendid calligraphy.

Celebration of the arts continued after the ascension of Bahá'u'lláh in 1892. His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, said kids should “share in every new and rare and wondrous craft and art.” When 'Abdu'l-Bahá's grandson Shoghi Effendi led the Faith, he told Bahá'ís to share inspiring stories and other arts.

Today, the Universal House of Justice, the international governing body of the Faith, urges Bahá'ís to use the arts in community building. The House of Justice says, “When the sublime teachings of the Faith are reflected in artistic work, the hearts of people, including artists, will be touched.”

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

Try expressing virtues through the arts. Scan the QR codes or visit our website for instructions.*

Gratitude: Sweet Superheroes

Who’s a person you’re grateful for? Create a thank-you gift for a teacher, parent, or another superhero in your community. To start, you need a candy or granola bar, decorative paper, construction paper, yarn, and a pipe cleaner.



Prayer: Folding Book with Pockets

Invite friends to a prayer party at a home, park, or community center. Make this book to help you memorize or share a prayer. You need eight envelopes and some ribbon to get started.



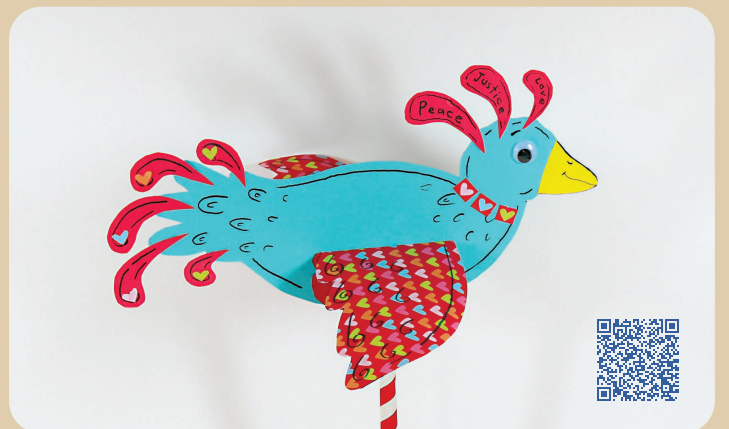
Friendliness: Origami Friend-Ship

Friends really help you go with the flow and stay afloat in stormy seas. Make this cute origami boat for a friend. Start with paper, twine, a toothpick, and ring-shaped candy.



Equality: Bird Puppet

When females and males are equally strong, we all fly higher. Make a fun bird puppet with flapping wings. You’ll need paper, card stock, two straws, and the pattern on our website to help.**



*See brilliantstarmagazine.org

**See brilliantstarmagazine.org/uploads/characters/birdpattern.pdf

Maya's MYSTERIES

"All the existing sciences and crafts . . . were at one time hidden . . . it is that all-encompassing human power that has discovered them . . ." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

BOREDOM CAN BE A GOOD THING!



BUST OUT OF BOREDOM

Today my friend Kiara texted me: "I'm bored. What should I do?" I looked outside. Howling winds and rain shook the trees, so going outside wasn't an option. Last week during a storm, I got bored and stared out the window until my dog, Pinecone, jumped in my lap with a ball in his mouth. His big eyes asked me to play, and I got inspired to teach him some new tricks. I even built a fun obstacle course for us!

Can boredom be a *good* thing? I looked it up online, and guess what? Being bored lets your brain rest and daydream, and that can help ideas come to life. When you tackle new ideas, you can boost your creativity and self-esteem. Who knew?

I called Kiara, and we came up with a list of fun things to do when we're bored. I hope it helps *you* bust out of boredom, too!

USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

Invite friends and family to see how many of these ideas you can try in one month. Add your own ideas!

Start of challenge: _____ ☆ End of challenge: _____

- ☆ Make a time capsule to open in 10 years with a letter to your future self.
- ☆ Make up a dance routine to your favorite song.
- ☆ Pick five ingredients and challenge yourself to create a new recipe.
- ☆ Draw or paint something with your opposite hand.
- ☆ Design your dream house. Where would it be? What are nine cool features?
- ☆ Imagine that you get to interview a hero from history. Who is it? _____ Write a story about the interview.
- ☆ Create a fun gift box for a friend or family member.
- ☆ Imagine your stuff comes to life. What does your backpack say? Your shoes?
- ☆ Choose any ball and make up a new sport.
- ☆ Dream up your own restaurant and design a menu of your favorite foods.



- ☆ Grab six things from the recycling bin and create art or an invention.
- ☆ Make a collage about adventures you want to have.

Write your own ideas:

☆ _____

☆ _____

☆ _____

☆ _____

BEE-utiful Teamwork

Did you know bees and fruit trees are an un-BEE-lievable team? Fruits start out as blossoms that make sweet liquid nectar and powdery pollen, which bees collect for food. As bees fly from flower to flower on different trees, pollen sticks to their fuzzy bodies and spreads around.

When pollen from one type of plant mixes with another, that's **cross-pollination**. Lots of trees need brilliant bees to cross-pollinate them so they produce fruit, such as pears

and apples. Bees are buzzworthy helpers!

Like bees and blossoms, teamwork helps us bear fruit. Whether you're planning a party or doing a presentation, working with diverse people can get creative juices flowing. Maybe a friend can lend their amazing art skills to make decorations, or a classmate can share their cool culture in your history project. When we work together with open minds, new ideas will be ripe for the picking!

WHAT VIRTUE HELPS US WORK TOGETHER?

In this pear tree, fill in the blanks with letters to find words that help us get creative with others. Connected fruits have the same letter.

YOU'RE MY BEST BUD!

BEE-ING HUM-BLE.

WHAT AN AMAZING PEAR-FORMANCE!

WE MAKE A GREAT PEAR!

WHAT VITAMIN DO PEARS HAVE?

VITAMIN BEE.

WHAT QUALITY MAKES A GOOD TEAM?

PEAR-SISTENCE!

Be-LEAF in Unity: Make a Leafy Pinwheel

“Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship.” — Bahá’u’lláh

Yesterday my friend Neon was beaming about his new bee friend, Sasha. He told me how they both love hive music and they’ve been having tons of fun together. My light dimmed as I wondered if he likes flying around with her more than with me.

I flew to a treetop to think, and I saw leaves blowing in the wind. They reminded me that friends can drift apart,

but we can also find each other again. That sparked ideas!

I hosted a prayer party and invited Neon, Sasha, and other friends. Guess what? They all came! After prayers, we had fun buzzing out songs and creating this cool pinwheel craft. Even if life’s winds blow us in different directions, we can respect each other and find ways to live in harmony. Try making your own pinwheel!

NATURE INSPIRED ME TO CREATE THIS COOL CRAFT!



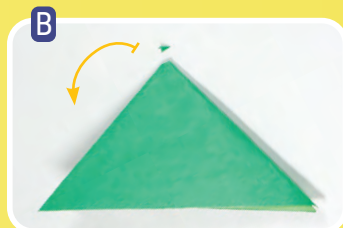
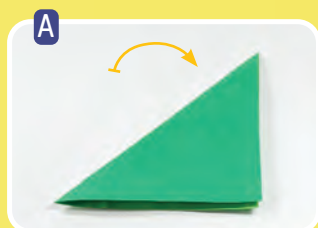
You'll Need

- two shades of leaf-colored construction paper, 6" (15.2 cm) square
- tacky glue
- scissors
- pencil
- ruler
- hole punch
- thick dark-colored marker
- wooden skewer
- bead with hole just large enough for skewer's point
- 2.5" (6.4 cm) piece of drinking straw
- duct tape
- stem-colored pencil
- 5" tall (12.7 cm) recyclable jar
- sand or pea-sized gravel
- decorations like string, small nature items, or ornaments

- 1 Evenly glue square papers together.



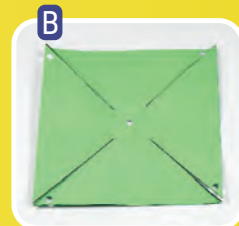
- 2 (A) Fold paper in half diagonally so opposite corners touch. (B) Fold in half diagonally again so opposite corners touch. Cut off tip of most creased corner to make a small hole in center of paper. Open paper.



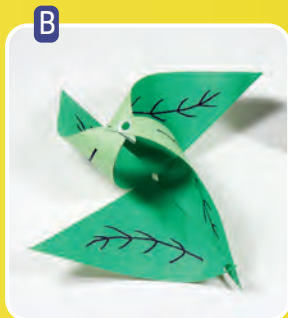
- 3 (A) With pencil, draw 3½" (8.9 cm) lines along creases, starting at each corner. (B) Cut along each crease, stopping at end of each crease's line.



4 (A) With paper facing you as a square shape, punch hole in corner of left side of a triangle flap. Leave enough space for glue around hole. (B) Rotate paper and repeat Step 4A for each triangle flap to make three more holes.



5 (A) Centered and arced along an outer edge, use thick marker to draw veins of leaves. Repeat for each outer edge on front and back sides of paper. (B) Fold (without creasing) each punched corner's leaf so four holes overlap in center. Add glue between corners to hold leaves together. Squeeze glued corners to secure. Let glue dry.



6 Thread wooden skewer through back and front holes, so point faces front of pinwheel. With glue, secure bead snugly on skewer's point. Trim skewer's point. Let glue dry.



7 With front of pinwheel touching (not glued to) back of bead, thread open end of skewer through straw, stopping just before back of pinwheel. Pinwheel should spin easily between bead and straw.



8 (A) Cut off end of skewer so it extends about 1/2" (1.3 cm) past straw's end. Cover and secure ends of straw and skewer together with duct tape. (B) Secure top of stem-colored pencil to bottom center of straw with duct tape to form stem.



9 Fill jar with gravel or sand. Firmly plant stem in jar. Add decorations such as small nature items, ornaments, or string. Blow on leaves and watch your pinwheel spin!



Are You an Explorer?

“Invention and discovery are penetrating hitherto unknown fields, revealing new wonders and hidden secrets . . .” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Life is full of amazing mysteries. Is there life on other planets? Why do we dream? Is it possible to time travel? Curiosity can make every day an adventure! Did you know our brains are *designed* to be curious? When we question something, our brain releases the chemical **dopamine**. It makes us feel excited and drives us to explore. So curious people tend to be happier.

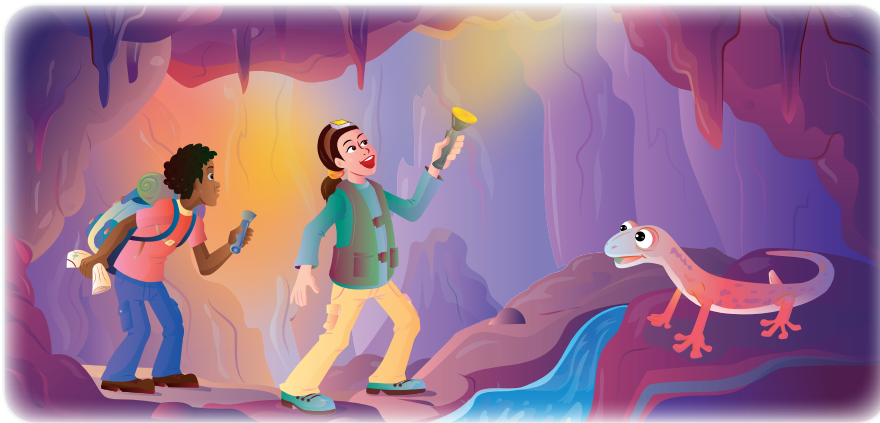
When we’re curious, we’re open to experimenting. Like

an explorer seeking hidden treasure, you could discover a new talent or passion. You might find you love mountain climbing, camping, or cooking. Maybe you’re a wizard at science, soccer, or singing, and you didn’t know it!

Digging into new things can unearth worlds of wonder. So jump out of your comfort zone. Ask questions. Follow ideas that ignite your imagination. Awesome discoveries are just waiting for you to investigate with enthusiasm!

Circle your answers and add up your score or scan the QR code to take the quiz online.

Try this quiz online! Scan code to go to *Brilliant Star*’s website.



1. When I see stuff on the internet or TV, I check to see if it’s true.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
2. I spend time dreaming or imagining without distractions like screens.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
3. I make friends with people from diverse backgrounds.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
4. If someone has a different opinion than mine, I want to find out why.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

5. I like to explore museums, libraries, parks, landmarks, and other cool places.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
6. I think about how the world can be better and how I can help.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
7. I like to travel and explore new food, cultures, traditions, and music.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
8. If a question pops up into my head, I enjoy looking for the answer.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

9. I like to learn new skills, hobbies, or ways to do things.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
10. When I feel negative about someone or something, I try to understand why.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
11. If I have a problem, I look for lots of solutions and talk to people I trust.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1
12. If I’m bored, I get creative, go outside, or have fun with family or friends.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



My Score

36–28 POINTS You’re an eager explorer! Keep following your curiosity and enjoy seeing where it leads you.

27–20 POINTS You’re learning to explore new paths. Choose a tip from the quiz to have fun experimenting!

19–12 POINTS You can build your skills as an explorer. Try some ideas from the quiz and voyage into new territory!

EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

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



EARTH-SAVING TIP

Party On!

At your next party, ditch the plastic treat bags. Give out reusable bags with Earth-friendly gifts, like seeds, recycled paper notebooks, or homemade snacks.



WOW, REALLY?

Take care of honey bees! They pollinate about one-third of our food, including over 130 fruits and vegetables, like peaches and peppers.



OUR CONNECTIONS



Bright lights on streets, buildings, and bridges are handy at night—but did you know too much light is harmful? It wastes energy, which contributes to climate change. Thousands of stars that could be visible are now hard to see, so animals that use stars to navigate get confused and lost. People's sleep gets disrupted, leading to health problems. You can help by turning off unneeded lights and closing curtains to keep the light inside.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Dr. Christina Grozinger from Pennsylvania, U.S., leads a team of researchers seeking ways to help honey bees thrive. Disease and pesticides are big concerns, but she says, "Our most recent research has revealed that weather and climate change are much more important contributors to the decline of bees."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



World famous for its film industry, the second largest city in the U.S. is known as the "City of Angels." It's a diverse cultural center and home to people from over 140 countries speaking 224 languages. *Unscramble the letters to find its name:*

SOL GELSEAN



AMAZING ANIMALS



The largest primates can grow from 4 to 400 pounds (2 to 181 kg) in 12 years. They share 98% of human genes and are social, intelligent, and playful. They're endangered due to habitat loss, disease, and war. *Fill in the blanks to find the species.*

O R I O O O S

RILEY'S RAINFOREST



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

—Bahá'u'lláh

EXPLORE & SOAR: GET CREATIVE!

Be adventurous and try something new each day! Check out these challenges.

- ☆ In a pocket notebook, draw or write at least one thing every day. How many days can you keep going?
- ☆ Pick a song you love and write new lyrics that make you laugh.
- ☆ Read a new book, try a new food, or listen to a new type of music.



- ☆ Get creative with your space! Decorate it with colors and things that inspire you.
- ☆ Go for a nature walk and take pictures of patterns, colors, or other things that catch your eye.
- ☆ Write down a problem you'd like to solve. Ask family or friends to help you come up with nine actions you could take together to resolve it.

YOUR INNER ARTIST

My art class is awesome! Today we painted whatever we wanted. I made a sunbathing wombat. It was so fun!

But Krissa stared at her canvas and said, “Ugh—art stresses me out. I’m not creative.”

I just about dropped my paintbrush. “Everyone can be creative!” I said.

Creativity is like a superpower that can help you with lots of stuff. It can give you tools to solve problems, help others, and express yourself in fun ways, from painting to designing puzzles.

“You’re a wiz at computer coding, and that takes tons of creativity,” I said.

“Then why do my paintings look so bad?” she asked.

“I used to feel that way,” I said. “Art isn’t fun when I criticize myself and compare my work to other birds’ stuff. But when I get curious and play with art supplies, the hours just fly by. What makes *you* happy?”

Krissa perked up. “I do love coding. Maybe I could make art with computer code!” She had a blast painting coding numbers and words in different colors all over her canvas.

It was super cool!

Each person is unique, and no one can create art like yours. Besides, life would be boring if we all had the same style.

Krissa and I made a list of ideas for boosting creativity. I hope they help unleash *your* inner artist!



CURIOSITY CANOPY



Did you know that creativity may make you kinder?

Kids who take art classes are more likely to be interested in how others feel and want to lend a helping hand. The arts can boost communication skills, too! When we express our feelings through art, we may strengthen relationships with friends and family.

MAGICAL MISTAKES

Did you know mistakes can have magical results? Lots of great discoveries were accidents. Popsicles were invented by 11-year-old Frank Epperson, who left his soda and wooden stirring stick outside on a cold night. In the morning, he found a tasty treat!

Kay Zufall, a schoolteacher, made Play-Doh by getting creative with clay-like wallpaper cleaner. Microwave ovens were invented when engineer

Percy Spencer accidentally melted a candy bar in his pocket while working on a radar system.

When you're flexible and curious, your imagination can work like a charm. So the next time a project doesn't turn out like you planned, keep an open mind! Mishaps may not *always* lead to cool inventions—but they can help us learn and grow. With positivity and perseverance, you may surprise yourself with creative concoctions!

In this magical workshop, find 9 accidents or annoyances.

Then unscramble the letters to discover tips for making the most of mistakes.

- 1 Be (NOEP) _____ to trying new things.
- 2 If you make a mistake, (MDAIT) _____ it, and don't blame someone else.
- 3 It's okay to be upset, but (EVIGFOR) _____ yourself. You're only human!
- 4 Figure out what went wrong and how to (GHCANE) _____ next time.
- 5 Focus on your strengths and (PRGERSOS) _____.
- 6 Look for (ORHMU) _____ in the situation. Laughter can be magical!
- 7 Remember mistakes are a natural part of (LNRAENIG) _____.
- 8 (CERAETEBL) _____ your successes, big or small!

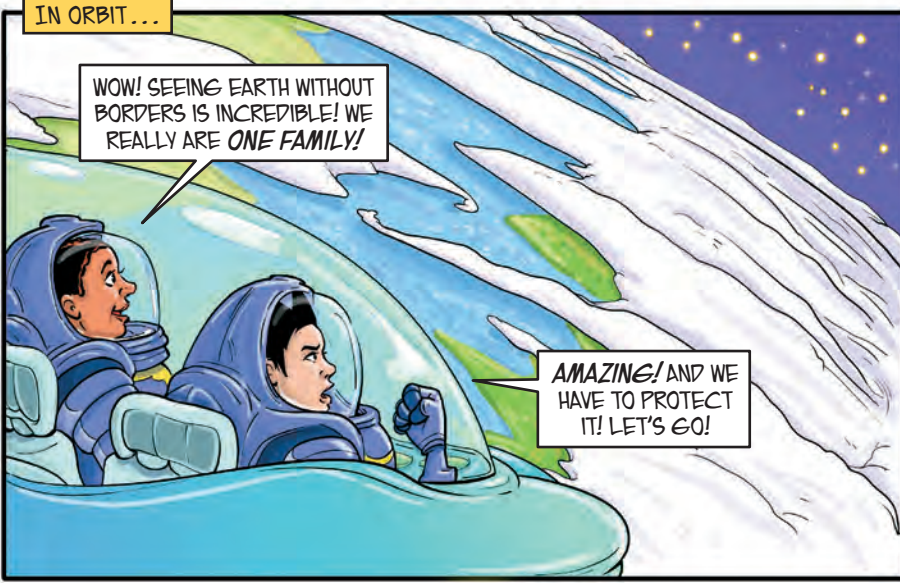


BAXTER AND BRIDGET

LIGHTNING & LUNA

STICKING TOGETHER

#100



IN ORBIT...

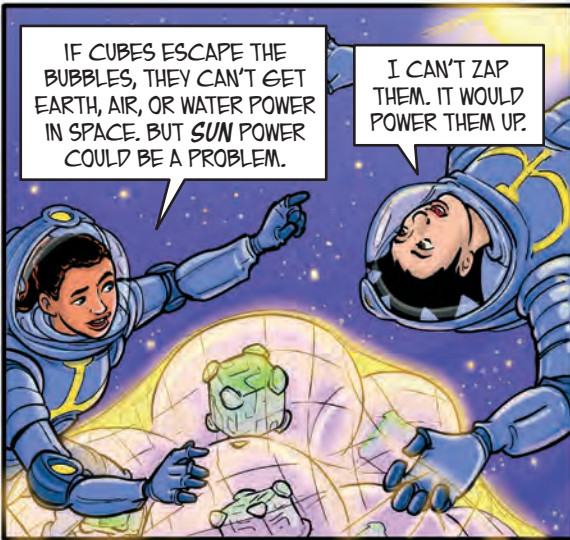
WOW! SEEING EARTH WITHOUT BORDERS IS INCREDIBLE! WE REALLY ARE **ONE FAMILY!**

AMAZING! AND WE HAVE TO PROTECT IT! LET'S GO!



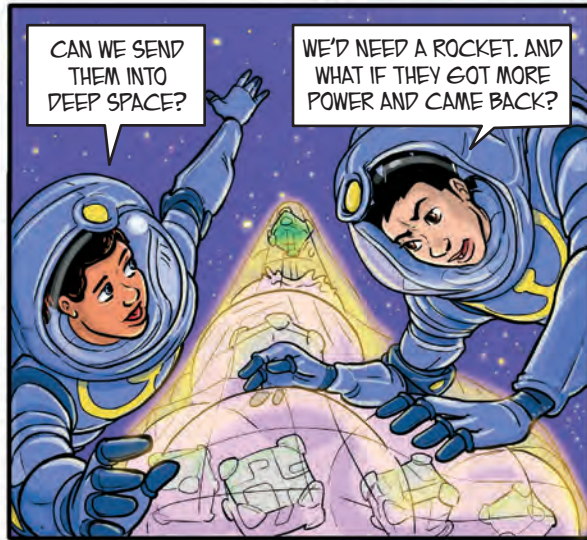
FINALLY, WE CAN DESTROY THESE AWFUL CUBES!*

I'LL START THE CAMERA FOR HQ.



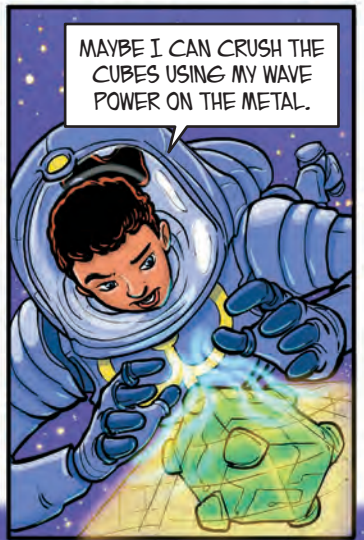
IF CUBES ESCAPE THE BUBBLES, THEY CAN'T GET EARTH, AIR, OR WATER POWER IN SPACE. BUT **SUN** POWER COULD BE A PROBLEM.

I CAN'T ZAP THEM. IT WOULD POWER THEM UP.



CAN WE SEND THEM INTO DEEP SPACE?

WE'D NEED A ROCKET. AND WHAT IF THEY GOT MORE POWER AND CAME BACK?



MAYBE I CAN CRUSH THE CUBES USING MY WAVE POWER ON THE METAL.



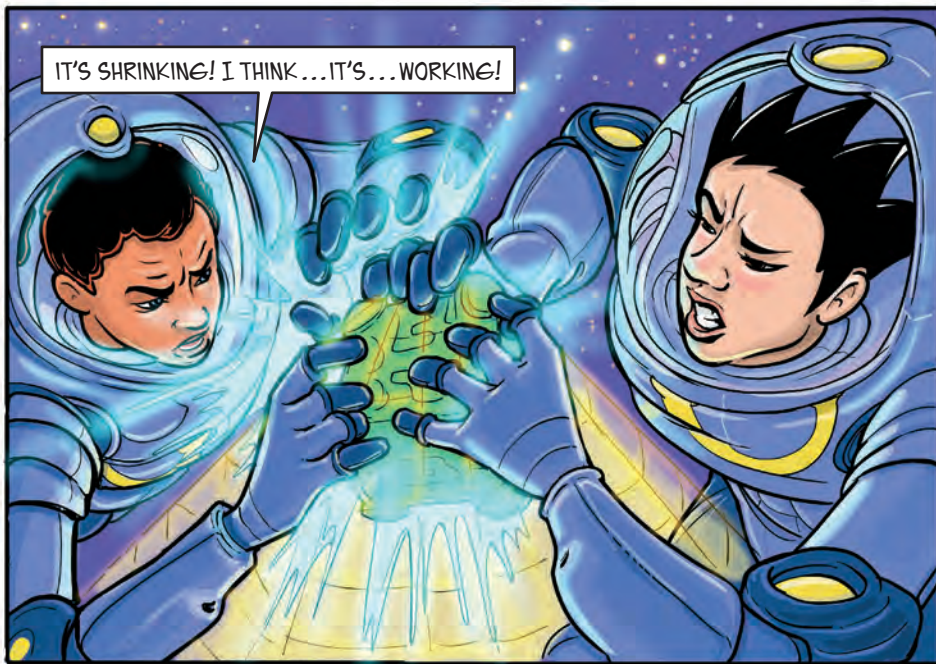
NOTHING. IF GRANDPA WERE HERE, HE COULD USE HIS METAL POWERS TO DESTROY THEM.**



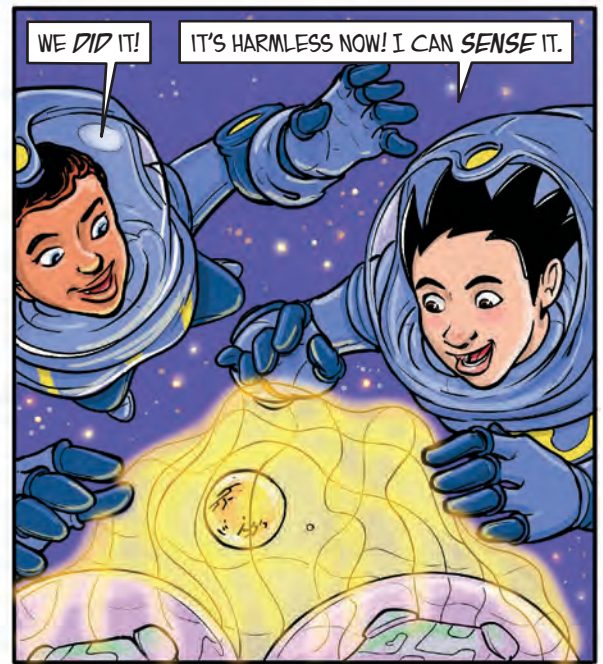
HEY, WHAT IF I **BOOST** YOUR WAVE POWER WITH SOME SUPER STRENGTH?



GOOD IDEA. MAYBE WE INHERITED SOME OF GRANDPA'S METAL POWER TOO.

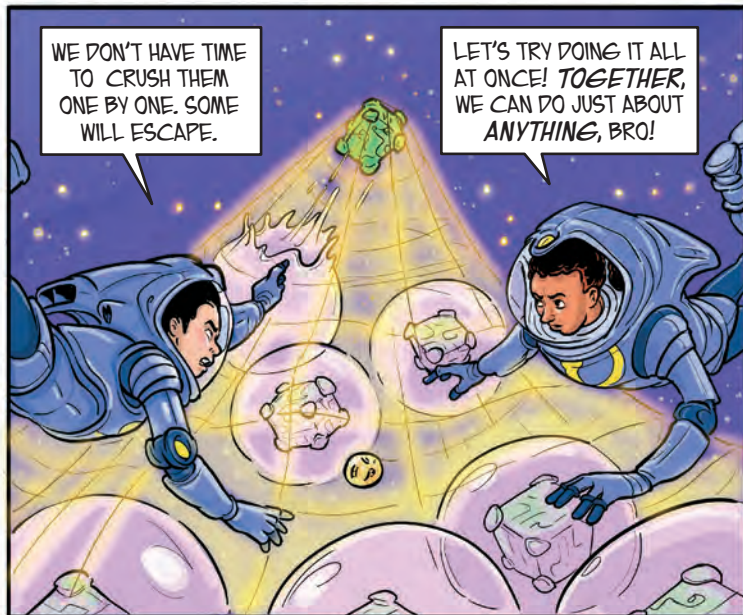


IT'S SHRINKING! I THINK...IT'S...WORKING!



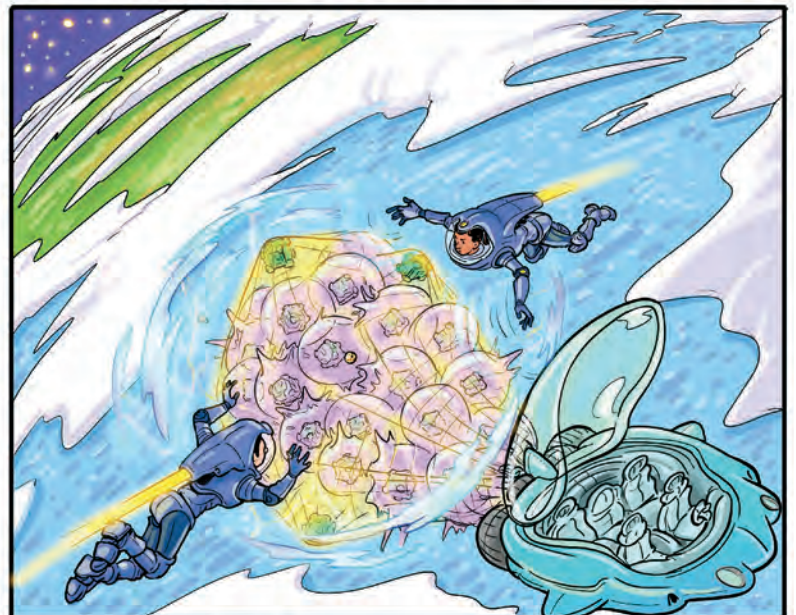
WE DID IT!

IT'S HARMLESS NOW! I CAN SENSE IT.

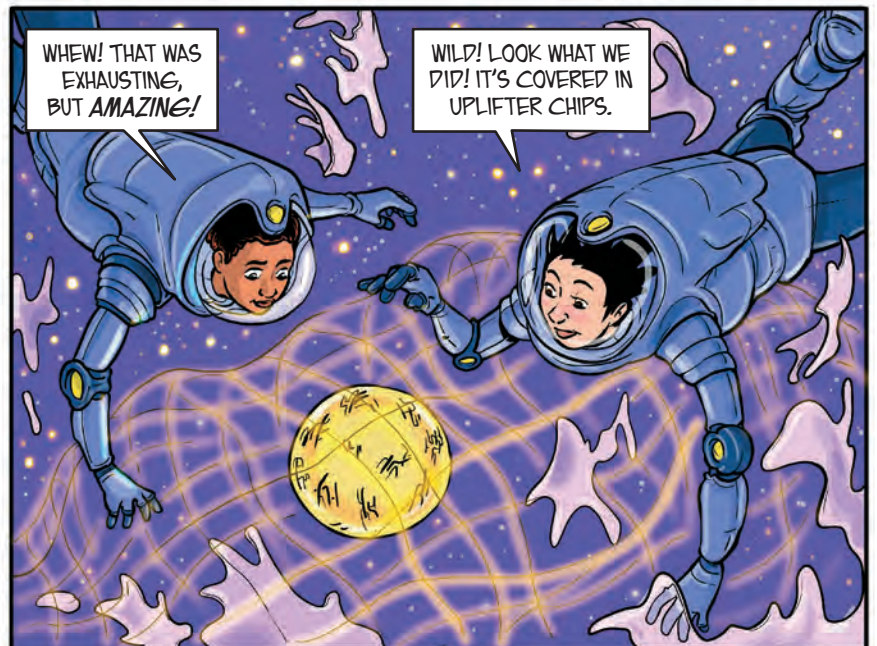


WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO CRUSH THEM ONE BY ONE. SOME WILL ESCAPE.

LET'S TRY DOING IT ALL AT ONCE! TOGETHER, WE CAN DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, BRO!



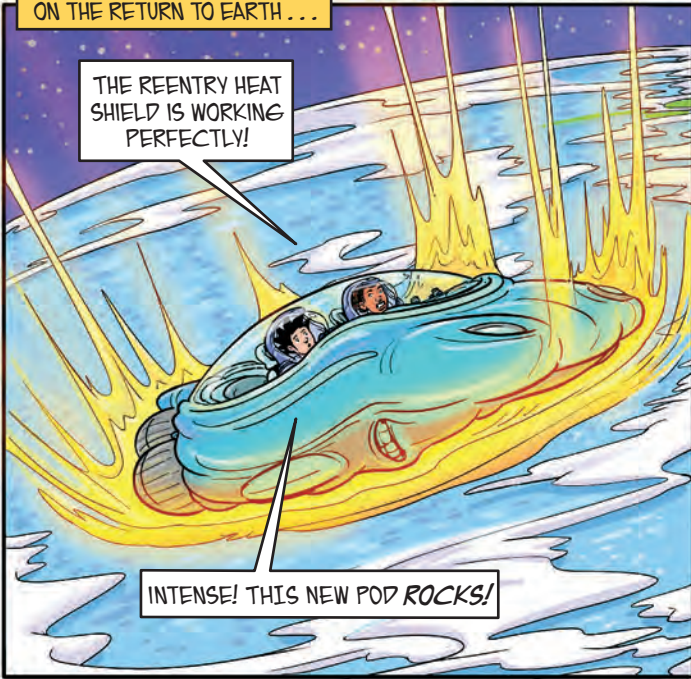
YES, I CAN FEEL THE CUBES LOSING POWER!



WHEW! THAT WAS EXHAUSTING, BUT AMAZING!

WILD! LOOK WHAT WE DID! IT'S COVERED IN UPLIFTER CHIPS.

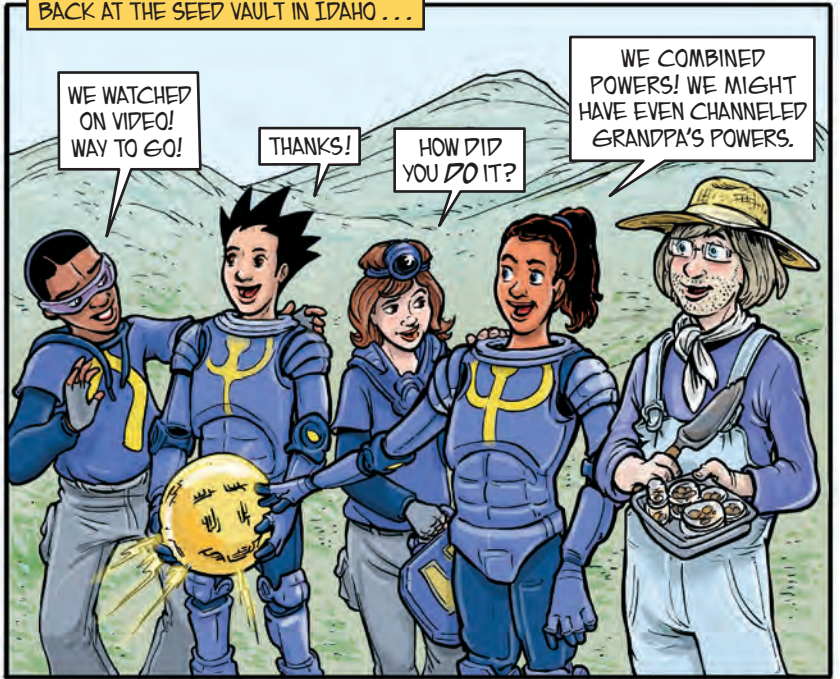
ON THE RETURN TO EARTH...



THE REENTRY HEAT SHIELD IS WORKING PERFECTLY!

INTENSE! THIS NEW POD ROCKS!

BACK AT THE SEED VAULT IN IDAHO...

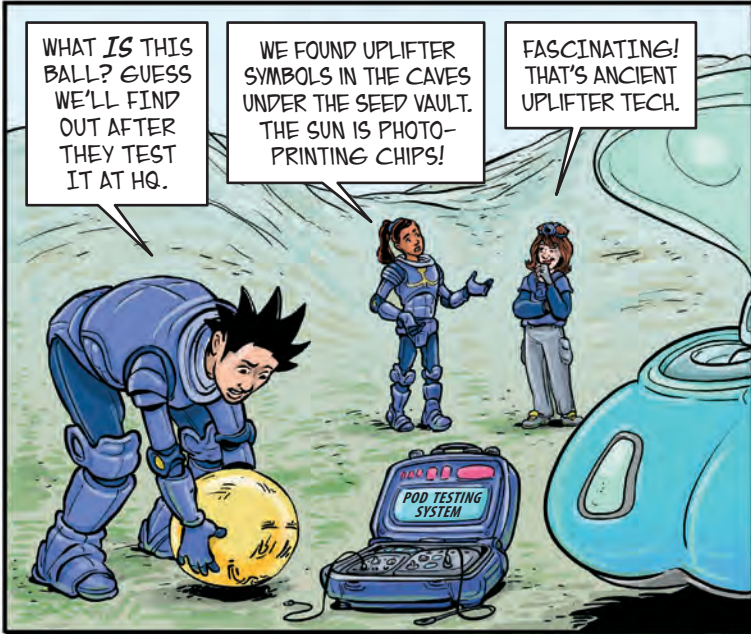


WE WATCHED ON VIDEO! WAY TO GO!

THANKS!

HOW DID YOU DO IT?

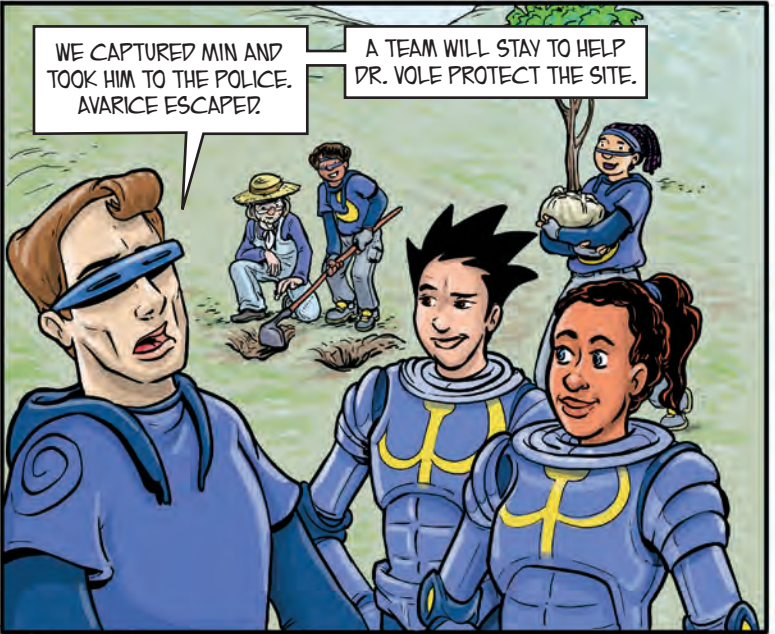
WE COMBINED POWERS! WE MIGHT HAVE EVEN CHanneled GRANDPA'S POWERS.



WHAT IS THIS BALL? GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT AFTER THEY TEST IT AT HQ.

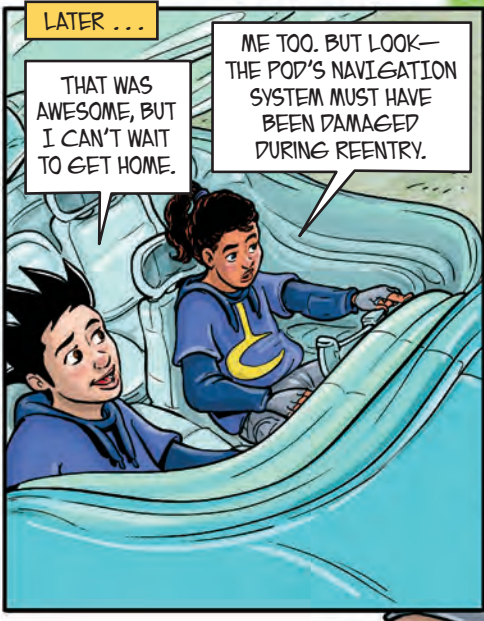
WE FOUND UPLIFTER SYMBOLS IN THE CAVES UNDER THE SEED VAULT. THE SUN IS PHOTO-PRINTING CHIPS!

FASCINATING! THAT'S ANCIENT UPLIFTER TECH.



WE CAPTURED MIN AND TOOK HIM TO THE POLICE. AVARICE ESCAPED.

A TEAM WILL STAY TO HELP DR. VOLE PROTECT THE SITE.

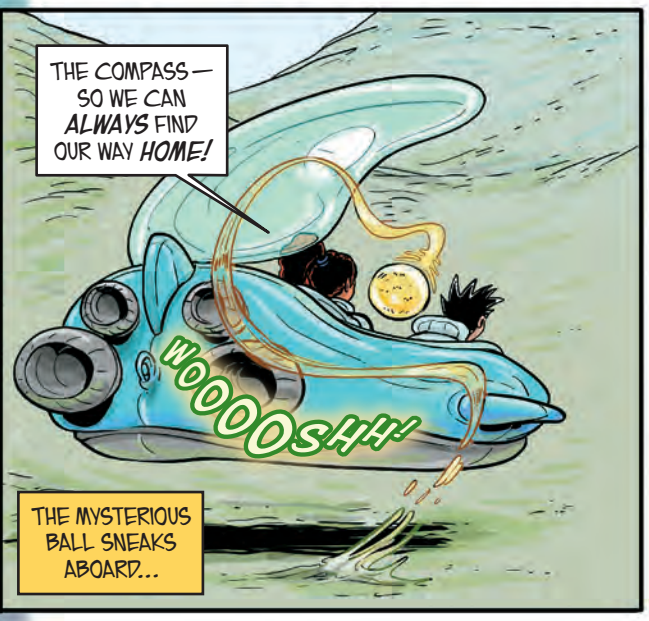
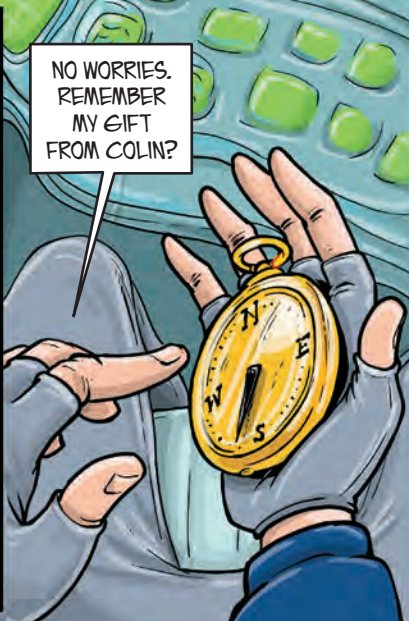


LATER...

THAT WAS AWESOME, BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME.

ME TOO. BUT LOOK—THE POD'S NAVIGATION SYSTEM MUST HAVE BEEN DAMAGED DURING REENTRY.

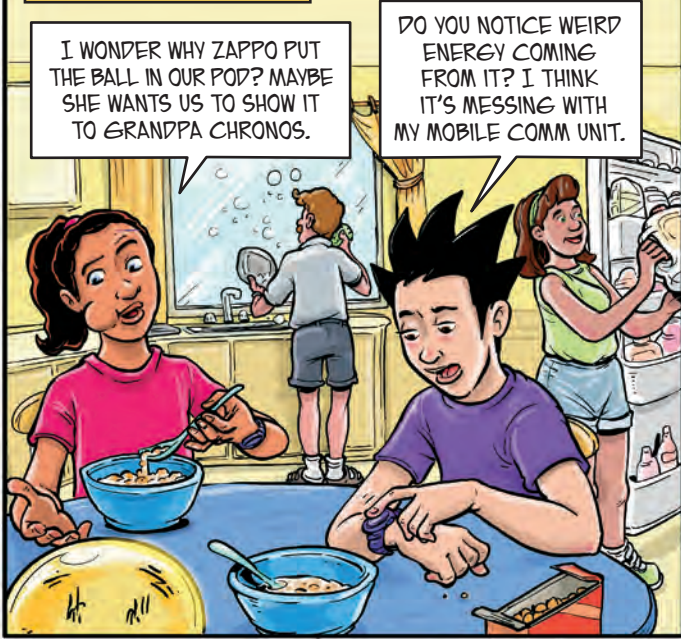
NO WORRIES. REMEMBER MY GIFT FROM COLIN?



THE COMPASS—SO WE CAN ALWAYS FIND OUR WAY HOME!

THE MYSTERIOUS BALL SNEAKS ABOARD...

THE NEXT DAY, AT HOME ...



I WONDER WHY ZAPPO PUT THE BALL IN OUR POD? MAYBE SHE WANTS US TO SHOW IT TO GRANDPA CHRONOS.

DO YOU NOTICE WEIRD ENERGY COMING FROM IT? I THINK IT'S MESSING WITH MY MOBILE COMM UNIT.



WELCOME HOME!

HEY, BAX, WANT TO SHOOT SOME HOOPS?

MINNAH!

SURE, COLIN!



IS THIS FROM YOUR LATEST UPLIFTER MISSION?

HEY... IS IT SMILING AT US?



WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT... WHOA!



WHAT IN THE WORLD?

WE'RE... FLOATING?

¡AY, DIOS MÍO!*

KIDS, WHAT DID YOU DO?



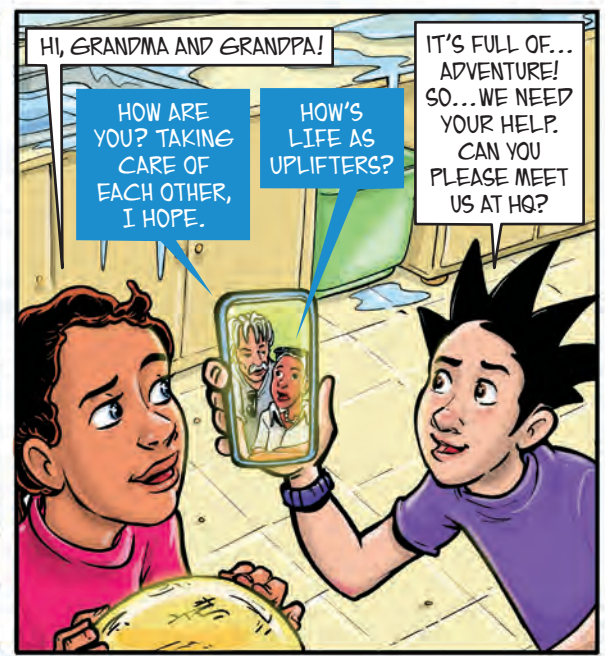
NOTHING! THE CHIP ON THE BALL MOVED!

I'M TRYING!

PUT IT BACK!



GRAASHHH!



HI, GRANDMA AND GRANDPA!

HOW ARE YOU? TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER, I HOPE.

HOW'S LIFE AS UPLIFTERS?

IT'S FULL OF... ADVENTURE! SO... WE NEED YOUR HELP. CAN YOU PLEASE MEET US AT HQ?



SCAN FOR ALL EPISODES OF LIGHTNING & LUNA

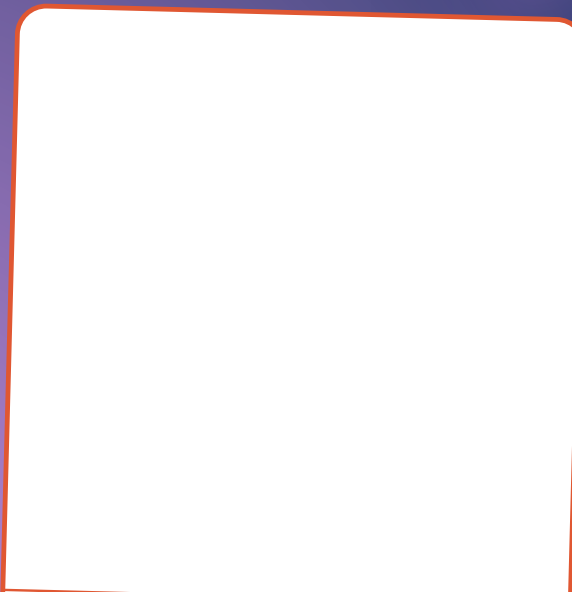
*Spanish: "Oh, my God!"

's HEROIC JOURNAL



Lightning and Luna develop superpowers, solve mysteries, and work together to save the world. They even went to space! They learn from mistakes, ask for help, and talk about fears.

Heroes are all around us—even if they don't fly or wear cool uniforms. Who do you notice being kind? Real-life heroes may teach a class, raise funds for charity, or rebuild a park after a storm. They share their skills—whether as a super gardener, knitter, or soccer player. You can soar and put *your* heroic powers into action, too!



Draw yourself using your skills and interests to help your community!

A problem in the world I'd like to help solve:

A world where everyone is kind would be:

My advice for kids who are sad or struggling:

Virtues that help me be heroic:

My top three priorities in life:

Skills I could use to help others:

What helps me handle challenges:

A kind act I can do every day:

Cosmic Creativity

Have you ever had a great idea streak into your mind like a comet? Comets look like giant stars with glowing tails. They're bodies of dust and ice about the size of a *mountain*. They seem to appear in the sky suddenly—but they've been orbiting the Sun for years. We just can't see them until they get closer and reflect the Sun's light. Creativity can be like a comet's orbit. You might

prepare, think, observe, write notes, and draw sketches for a long time. Then, in a flash of inspiration, you arrive at a brilliant new idea for an experiment or a song.

Like a comet's trip through space, it takes time to develop the skills to share your ideas through art or science. There's no limit to what you can explore—just as the universe is endless. So keep your gaze on the stars and let your creativity shine!

When creating art, we use lots of stellar skills! Unscramble these virtues, then match them with the definitions below.

CRAGEOU

1. C _ U _ _ _ _

CPASMOSION

3. C _ _ P _ _ _ _ N

CTRACEONNET

4. C _ NC _ N _ _ _

CPLETOME

2. C _ M _ L _ _ _

CITCAPAY

6. C _ P _ C _ _ _

CFENDICONE

7. C _ _ F _ _ _ _ C

CNETCON

5. C _ _ _ _ CT

CTEMTIMON

8. CO _ _ _ _ _ N

CATEOLABOLR

9. C _ _ _ _ B _ _ _ T

- Think deeply, focus
- Belief in yourself
- Concern for people's needs and desire to help
- Work with others as a team
- Being dedicated to something
- Ability or skill to do something
- Facing difficulties with bravery
- Link or unite people or things
- Finish what you start

WHAT DO PLANETS LIKE TO READ?

COMET BOOKS!

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?

Jaleh K.

Age: 12

I live in: **Curaçao**

I want to be: **Architect**

This career interests me because:

I love designing houses.

Virtue I admire most: **Courtesy**

Hobbies or sports: **Dance**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth group**

A favorite book: **Discovering the Moon** [by Jacqueline Mehrabi]

I like to be creative by: **Expressing my imagination and emotions in writing**

I'm inspired by: **Looking at nature and the state of the world now and trying to make sense of it**

What helps keep me going on a creative project: **Wanting the world to see it**

I bring joy to others by: **Creating fun board games and sharing [them] with others**

A creative project that made me happy: **I made a board game, and when my family played it, we had lots of fun. It brought laughter and unity to the family.**

If my house had a magical door, it would lead: **To a world of peace (and I'll never come out!)**



Anisa G.

Age: 13

I live in: **New York, U.S.**

I want to be: **A filmmaker and animator**

This career interests me because:

I can explore creativity in an evolving space.

Virtue I admire most: **Kindness**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth classes**

I like to be creative by: **Drawing. I can create a new idea when words don't adequately express it.**

What helps keep me going on a creative project:

I imagine the end product.

I bring joy to others by: **[Using] my art to show my affection and appreciation to my family**



I'm inspired when: **[Creative projects are] fun and satisfying.**

A creative project that made me happy: **A recent needle-felting project . . . We used barbed needles to puncture and intertwine unspun wool into 3D sculptures.**

If my house had a magical door, it would lead: **To a magical forest . . . that welcomes you in. There are plants and water sources that heal wounds, and angels and visions that reveal hidden knowledge.**



Shayan S.

Age: 12

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

I want to be: **Meteorologist**

This career interests me because:

Storms are fascinating!

Virtue I admire most: **Kindness**

Hobbies or sports: **Badminton**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Celebrating Ayyám-i-Há and Naw-Rúz***

I like to help people: **Any way I can**

A favorite food: **Hamburgers**

My creative role models: **My parents**

I like to be creative by: **Drawing, because I like to make comics**

I'm inspired by: **My ideas [and] my everyday life**

What helps keep me going on a creative project: **Listening to others' ideas when I don't have my own**

I bring joy to others by: **Making funny comics to brighten their day**

A creative project that made me happy: **Making bread for others at my school**

If my house had a magical door, it would lead: **To a big pillow fort**

Vincenzo V.

Age: 12

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

I want to be: **A teacher**

This career interests me because:

I get to help many people get ready for the future.

Virtue I admire most: **Honesty**

Hobbies or sports: **Soccer**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth camps**

Favorite animal: **Dogs**

A favorite food: **Spaghetti**

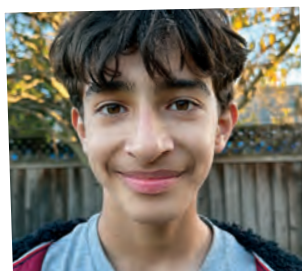
I like to help people by: **Showing them something new**

My creative role model: **Spider-Man, because he saves people in many different ways. He is creative by being funny . . .**

I bring joy to others by: **Making drawings**

A creative project that made me happy: **Making a video that showed what the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program is and what people do in the three-day camps**

If my house had a magical door, it would lead to: **Peru. I was born there, and my family is from there. I would love to see the family I haven't seen in a long time and visit places like Machu Picchu!**



Alexis Y.

Age: 12

I live in: **Australia**

I want to be: **A forensic scientist or a detective**

This career interests me because:

I love mysteries, and it would be cool to help solve different problems. Forensic scientists collect information from scenes to analyse it, which is awesome.

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Feast,* junior youth group, Family Festival [a picnic to build friendships with neighbours]**

My creative role models: **My mum and dad**

I like to be creative by: **Making origami and arts and crafts**

A creative project that made me happy: **Creating stop-motion animations with LEGO [bricks]. It helps me practice patience, and the result at the end always looks very cool.**

If my house had a magical door, it would lead: **I imagine what I want behind the door, and voilá, it appears! It's able to read my mind and take me anywhere I want every time I open it.**



“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

Talisa N.

Age: 12

I live in: **Malaysia**

I want to be: **An artist**

This career interests me because:

I want to express my . . . vision to other people. I love all kinds of art, and I want to share it with the world.

Hobbies or sports: **Contortion or gymnastics, singing, badminton, basketball, cooking, reading, video games . . .**

Favorite Bahá'í activity: **Spending time with family during Ayyám-i-Há**

I like to help people by: **Offering advice or being a friend**

What helps keep me going on a creative project: **With every challenge, I remind myself that I don't have to make it hard . . .**



My creative role model: **[Arts and crafts YouTuber and author] Moriah Elizabeth**

I bring joy to others by: **I draw and showcase my artwork to the community. I also make bookmarks and cards for people.**

A creative project that made me happy: **Making neurographic art, [which is] when you make long scribbles across your paper, trace it in ink, and use watercolor, markers, etc., to add pops of color**

If my house had a magical door, it would lead to: **My mental happy place**

How to be a Radiant Star

1. If you're aged 7–14, scan the QR code with a smart phone's camera. Or go to brilliantstarmagazine.org and from the top menu, choose “Discover.” Click “Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer.” Or email us at brilliant@usbnc.org. Include your name, age, birthdate, mailing address, and phone number.



2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll ask for 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).

3. We'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed form, and you'll be in our next issue!

*Feast is a Bahá'í community gathering with prayers, consultation, and fellowship.

Sophie T.

Age: 11

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

I want to be:
An actor/director, singer, author, and teacher

This career interests me because:
I love teaching, writing, acting, and singing.

Virtue I admire most:
Kindness

Hobbies or sports:
Figure skating, creative writing, acting, flute, and piano

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Dayspring Bahá'í School [in Maryland] and Green Acre Bahá'í School [in Maine]

I like to be creative by:
Doing creative writing

My creative role model:
[Singer and songwriter] Andy Grammer

I'm inspired by:
Seeing a really good movie or Broadway show

I bring joy to others by:
Writing a play or musical

If my house had a magical door, it would lead:
To Hogwarts (I'm a Hufflepuff) [from the Harry Potter series]



Ella R.

Age: 10

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

I want to be: **Actor**

This career interests me because:
I get to meet different people and form new relationships. I just enjoy going out of my comfort zone and trying new things.

Virtues I admire most:
Loyalty, kindness, patience

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Bahá'í camps and service projects

My creative role model:
My big sister, Lua

I like to be creative by:
[Making] art, because I like to imagine while I read. Art helps me express my emotions.



I'm inspired by:
Watching work by other artists; Pinterest

I bring joy to others by:
Making posters about helping the community or to create awareness about social issues like the wars, etc.

A creative project that made me happy:
We made prayer beads at Bahá'í school.

If my house had a magical door, it would lead:
[To] the next world, also known as heaven

Justice H.

Age: 9

I live in: **Japan**

I want to be:
I've wanted to be an inventor since I was five years old.

This career interests me because:
I can help the world with my inventions, like making an outdoor air filter to clean the air, because I'm concerned about Earth and the environment.



Virtues I admire most:
Fairness and justice, like my name!

Hobbies or sports:
Robot building, acting, singing, cooking. I also like playing the ukulele, trumpet, and piano.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
I enjoy children's class and celebrations like Ayyám-i-Há and Ridván.*

My creative role models:
My mom and dad

I like to be creative by:
Performing onstage. I was born a performer.

I'm inspired by:
My mom teaching me how to use digital art software

What helps keep me going on a creative project:
My ability to hyperfocus (because of ADHD)

Naila W.

Age: 9

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

I want to be:
A psychiatrist and a drummer in a heavy metal band

This career interests me because:
I want to be a psychiatrist because I can learn how people's brains work, and a drummer because I love heavy metal and drumming.

Virtue I admire most:
Courage

Hobbies or sports:
Reading and drawing

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Ayyám-i-Há

Place I'd love to visit:
Iran

A favorite food:
Chicken pot pie



I like to be creative by:
[Drawing] because it relaxes me

My creative role model:
[Heavy metal drummer] Lars Ulrich

I'm inspired by:
At night, I let my mind wander, and ideas come to me.

I bring joy to others by:
Making drawings to give to people as a present

A creative project that made me happy:
[Work on] school newspaper

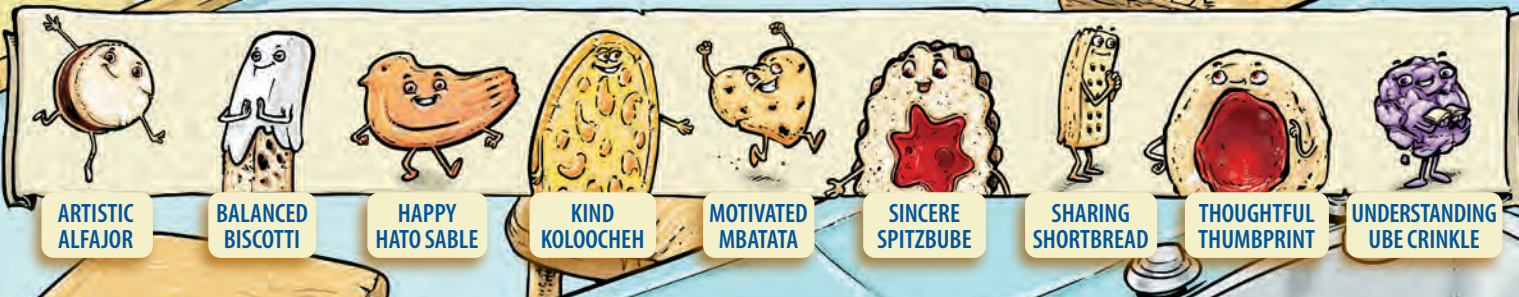
Festival of Flavor

Flour, butter, eggs, and sugar are simple ingredients, but together they become terrific treats! You might bake a delicious chocolate chip cookie that melts in your mouth or a chewy granola cluster with oats and nuts to boost your energy.

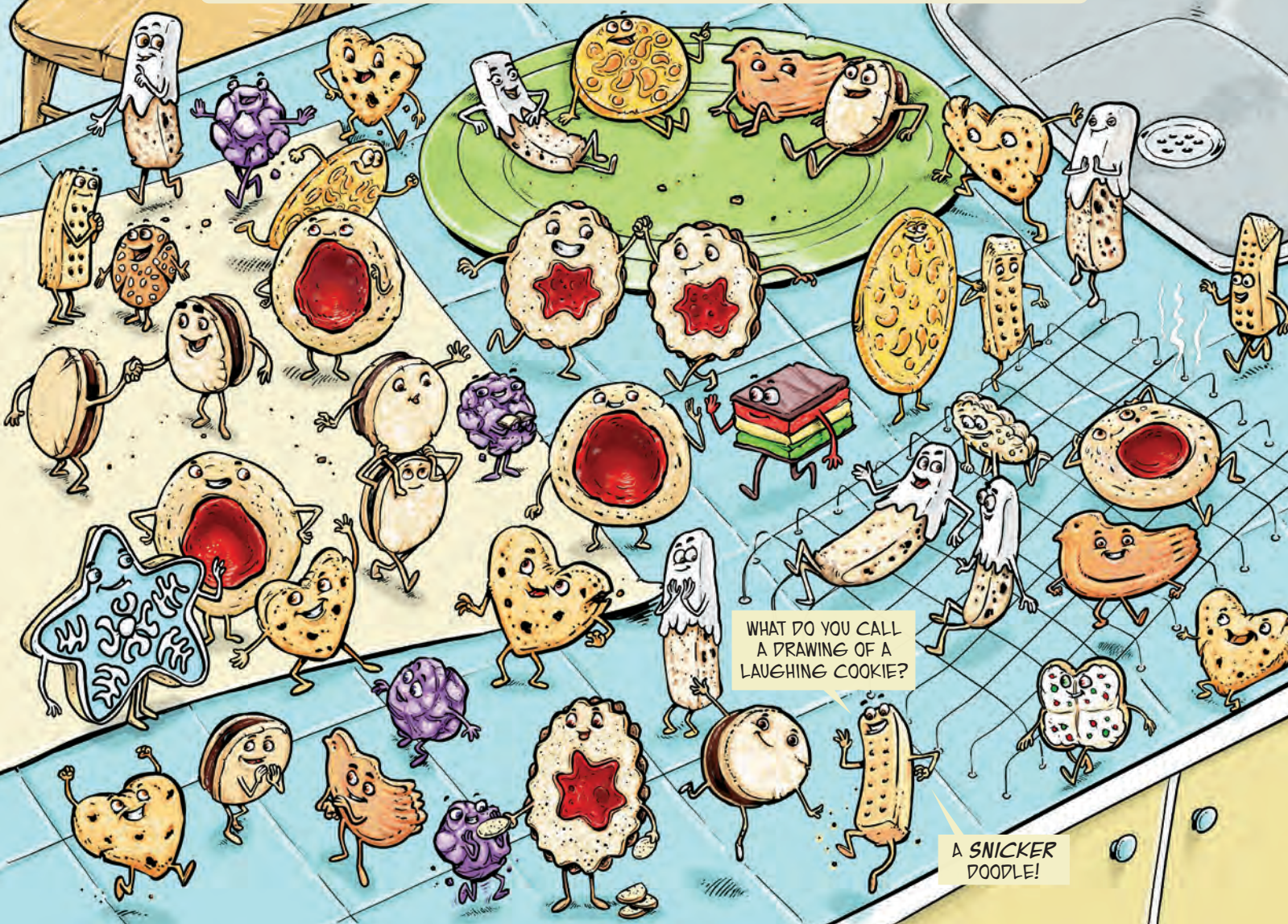
Food is more than fuel for our bodies. Sharing food is a powerful recipe for deepening relationships and memories. Every family and culture has its own ways of eating together.

It's one of the juiciest joys of exploring diverse ways of life.

What are *your* favorite treats? Who would enjoy them with you? Whether you're decorating cookies, planning a party, or making a handmade gift, you're stirring up creativity. You're spreading love and empathy by thinking about others and what can help them feel happy and appreciated. That's a treat for *everyone*!



Find these cookies from around the world named for virtues that help get our creativity cooking!



Masud Olufani



“Art is magic,” says Masud Olufani. He isn’t just a sculptor, he’s like a wizard who creates pieces that make you think, feel, hear, and even smell! He uses all kinds of materials – wood, steel, fabric, and clay, as well as video, audio, and food. He wants you to relate to his artwork with *all* of your senses.

Born in California, Masud loved drawing as a kid. It helped him stay calm when his parents argued. They divorced when he was about seven. Masud lived mostly with his mom in New York, and she encouraged his creative spirit.

Masud studied art at Morehouse College in Georgia. He searched for his creative path for about 15 years while working as a waiter. In 2013, he earned a master’s degree in sculpture from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Since then, Masud has shown his work around the world and won many awards. He also writes, acts in movies and plays, and teaches in schools, colleges, and prisons. Today, he lives in Atlanta, Georgia, and uses his creative powers to invite us into his enchanting world!

Q: What’s one of your favorite childhood memories?

A: Going to Disney World with my whole family . . . my older brother, my mom, my dad, and me. I think I was five . . . It was one of the rare times when we were all together and happy.

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

A: The dissolution of my parents’ marriage. The thing that still sticks in my mind was their fights . . . When my father left, my older brother left too . . . I must have been six or seven, and . . . I thought if I cried or pleaded in just the right way, I could get [my dad] to stay . . . But it didn’t work.

Q: What early experiences set you on the path toward your career?

A: I started drawing when I was four. I remember the first drawing that [my mother] flipped out on—it was some cowboys . . . They had dimension and depth. I wasn’t drawing stick figures . . . She loved the arts . . . She got me lessons, bought me books, took me to museums, all that stuff.

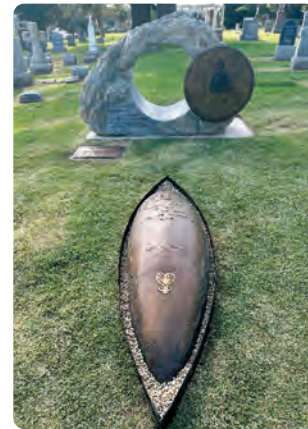


Though he mainly grew up in New York, at about age 14, Masud lived with his mom in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Q: Some people say they aren’t creative or good at making art. How would you encourage them to try?

A: I think *everybody* has the capacity to be creative . . . I’m starting to take African dance, and I have no intention of opening on Broadway anytime soon. It’s a hobby, a fun endeavor, a learning endeavor. I think so much of life is about finding ways to open ourselves up to the creative spirit that’s inside of all of us . . . I’m all for creative play. I think that’s the arena for some remarkable discoveries about ourselves.

Questions and
Answers with an
Inspirational Bahá'í



Top left: In 2024, Masud starred in *No Cowards in Our Band*, a play about Frederick Douglass, who escaped from slavery and became a civil rights leader.

Above: Masud designed the Robert Turner Monument in 2020. **Left:** Masud's *You Can't Cage My Strut* is a response to the U.S. prison system, which unequally ensnares Black men. The strutting chicken conveys survival in African culture.

Q: You designed the monument for Robert Turner, the first African American Bahá'í. What was most meaningful about that process?

A: The diversity of the crew and the committee that did it . . . that was really rich. Obviously, there's a lot of historical significance—the first African American Bahá'í, the first time that a person of African descent within the Faith has designed any memorial of any significance in the Bahá'í Faith. It's about representation, which is so important . . . And it's about providing a space where people can contemplate . . . this man's life and what he meant, not only to the Bahá'í community, but also to the world. Whether the world recognizes it or not, in the future, they will . . . [understand] the impact that his acceptance of Bahá'u'lláh's revelation ultimately has . . . I'm honored that I was [chosen to design it] . . . It was really a joyful process.

Q: What impact do you think art can have on social change?

A: Art . . . is a stimulus for the spirit, for the soul . . . It can draw out qualities in human beings. It can inspire us to think differently about the world . . . [and] help us to envision a different future . . . When [I'm] dealing with the issue of race, obviously I have personal interest in that, given the history of my family and watching the struggles in my family and in my community . . . At a very young age, I was listening to the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I developed an interest in issues of racial justice. And that found its way into my work.

Q: What virtues are essential for you to practice in your work?

A: Perseverance, dedication, commitment, risk, failure, sincere humility. Courage—courage is so big. Creativity, of course . . . I always like to be almost at the very edge of what I think I can do . . . because I know that I'll learn something. Even if there's failure, there's learning in the failure.

Q: How has the Bahá'í Faith influenced your career choices or your work?

A: I believe fundamentally that if the teachings have penetrated your heart in a sincere way, you don't have to micromanage how they're going to manifest themselves in the world, in the work. They will be there . . . One [young Bahá'í artist] asked me . . . "What do you wish for us?" I said, "Freedom. I want you all to be free to explore your ideas, your concepts, the things that are important to you, trusting that the Faith is part of who you are, and that will guide you . . . Trust that it's in you."



SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Hazel Scott (1920–1981)

By Susan Engle

Hazel Scott was only eight years old when she auditioned at Juilliard, the famous school for the arts in New York City. It was 1928, and most students were white, male, and age 16 or older. Hazel wasn't enrolled as a student, but a professor recognized her talent on the piano and taught her privately for 10 years.

Hazel wasn't new to performing. She started around age three on her home island of Trinidad and continued when she and her mother moved to the U.S. Her skills grew, and she played at night clubs, sang on Broadway, and was in an all-woman band while in high school. By age 19, Hazel supported her family financially. She felt a responsibility with her music "to communicate a beauty that has been entrusted to [my] care."

Speaking Out for Justice

Hazel also stood up for the rights of African Americans. At that time, Black women in movies were often cast as servants. When she appeared in films, Hazel insisted on approving her wardrobe and music, and she would only appear as herself, Hazel Scott, not as a character.

Throughout her career, Hazel worked against the racial prejudice that separated Black and White people in schools, buses, restaurants, and concert halls. She only performed for audiences where Black and White people sat side by side. She said, "Why would anyone come to hear me . . . and refuse to sit beside someone just like me?"

She was so successful that in 1950, she had her own TV show—a first for a Black woman! Only weeks into filming, Hazel was unjustly accused of being disloyal to the U.S. and investigated, like many other artists at the time. She testified without a lawyer, saying, "The entertainment profession has done its part for America, in war and peace, and it must not be dragged through the mud of hysterical name-calling . . ."

Still, her TV show was canceled, and Hazel's career in the U.S. plummeted. She moved to Paris and performed around Europe. In 1963, she and her friends marched in front of the American Embassy in Paris while 260,000 people protested against racial injustice in Washington, D.C., led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A Great Faith

Back home in the U.S. a few years later, Hazel's friend, musician Dizzy Gillespie, told her about the Bahá'í Faith. In 1968, she became a Bahá'í. In one interview, she said, "There is only one God . . . That's what is great about Bahá'í . . . We believe that whenever man has been ready to absorb more knowledge, God has revealed it."

Even after her death in 1981, Hazel's music can be heard on the many albums she recorded during her 61 years. She is remembered for her gifted contributions to jazz, films, TV, and equal rights. She said, "Who ever walked behind anyone to freedom? If we can't go hand in hand, I don't want to go."

CREATIVE COLONY

Beavers are clever workers that make *tree*-mendous changes to their habitat. A beaver colony builds a dam in a river or stream using sticks, mud, plants, and rocks. This creates a safe, calm pond. Next, they build a cozy lodge where they live, store food, and raise their

young, called kits. The lodge has at least two underwater doorways, so they can always make a quick exit.

Beavers show us how to be creative, cooperative, and persistent when we face challenges. Those are some ideas you can really sink your *teeth* into!

In this friendly pond, explore the world of beavers and how they can inspire you!

BEAVERS ARE GNAW-SOME!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SNACK?

WOOD CHIPS!

THE LARGEST BEAVER DAM IS A HALF MILE LONG (.8 KM)!

IT'S FUN WHEN WE STICK TOGETHER!

BEAVERS CAN SPEND 15 MINUTES UNDERWATER!

BEAVER FACTS

Beavers cut trees with strong front teeth that never stop growing!

Beaver dams help create ponds for fish, frogs, and other creatures.

Beavers slap their tails and use scents and sounds to talk to their colony.

Beavers sometimes work in daylight but are most active at night.

In some cultures, beavers stand for determination and harmony.

YOUR FACTS

My favorite creative tools: _____

To help Earth, I could: _____

My favorite way to express myself: _____

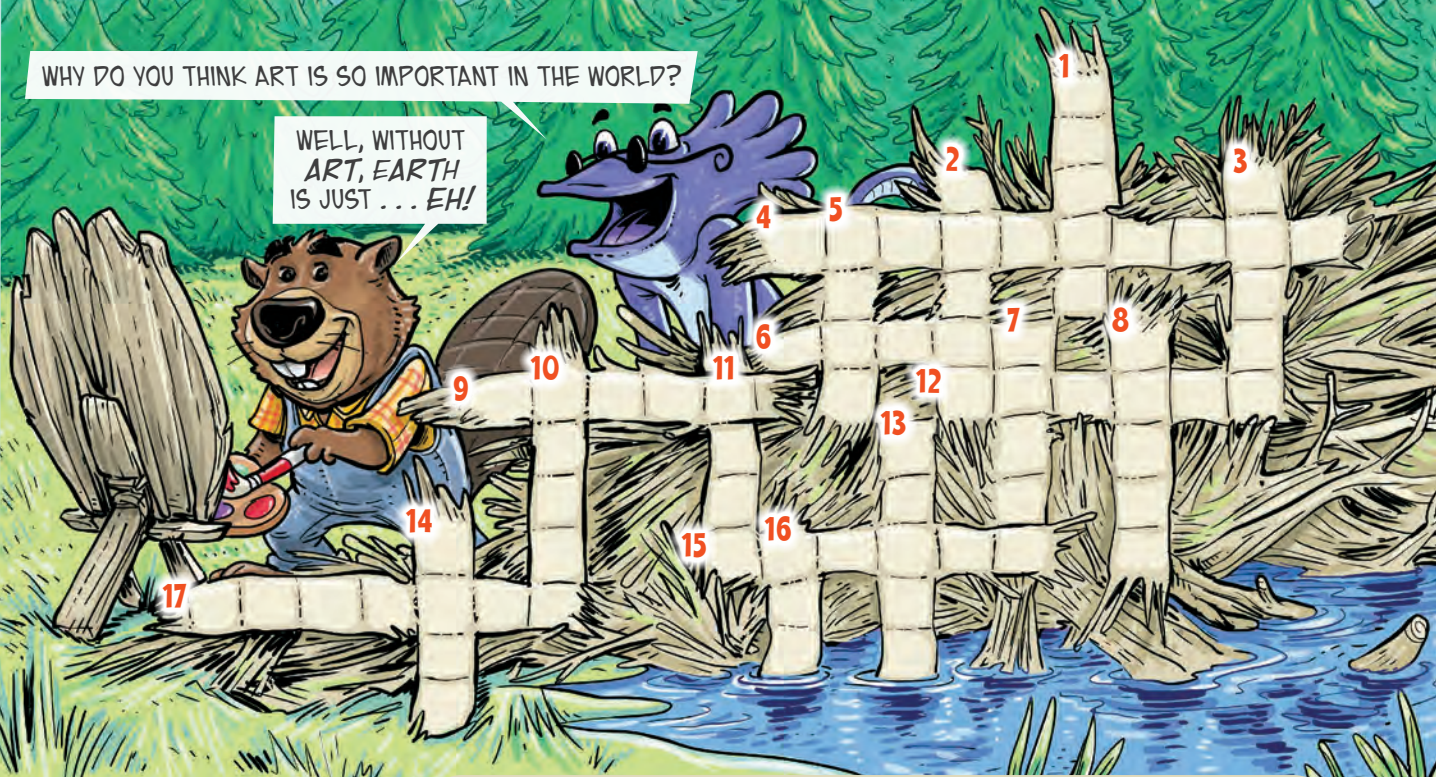
When and where I love to make art: _____

Virtues I admire most: _____

Find Cosmo the Chameleon's clues throughout the magazine.

WHY DO YOU THINK ART IS SO IMPORTANT IN THE WORLD?

WELL, WITHOUT ART, EARTH IS JUST . . . EH!



ACROSS

4. _____ can give you tools to solve problems, help others, and express yourself in fun ways. (p. 12)
6. _____ wrote a history of the early days of the Bahá'í Faith called *The Dawn-Breakers*. (p. 4)
9. Sophie and Justice play this instrument, which Hazel Scott played in movies. (pp. 22, 26)
12. _____ look like giant stars with glowing tails. (p. 19)
15. Walking in _____ can help creativity blossom! (p. 29)
17. Our brains are designed to be _____. (p. 10)

DOWN

1. For ideas to flow, try experimenting. Your _____ loves surprises. (p. 29)
2. Masud Olufani says art is _____. (p. 24)
3. Overuse of light makes it hard to see the _____. (p. 11)
5. Talisa and Naila both like to _____. (pp. 21-22)
7. A beaver _____ has at least two underwater doorways for a quick exit. (p. 27)
8. Find out what you can _____ from mistakes. (p. 29)
10. Being bored lets your brain rest and daydream, and that can help _____ come to life. (p. 6)
11. When we're curious, we're _____ to experimenting. (p. 10)
13. Lots of trees need bees to cross-pollinate them to produce _____. (p. 7)
14. Sharing _____ is a powerful recipe for deepening relationships and making memories. (p. 23)
16. You don't have to be super skilled to enjoy _____. (p. 3)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



[Brilliant Star] makes me feel joyful, because there are fun and interesting activities and games. I would like it to have the theme of outer space . . . I DEFINITELY always turn to *Lightning & Luna* first, because I always want to see what other adventures they go on.
 —Leela T., age 13, California, U.S.

ANSWERS

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

Page 3: 1) Brave ballet shoes, different; 2) confident crochet hook, connect; 3) curious camera, focus; 4) faithful flute, practice; 5) joyful journal, emotions; 6) mindful microphone, speak; 7) open-minded origami, angles; 8) patient pottery, kind; 9) positive paintbrush, optimism

Page 7 (T to B): Love, honesty, listen, joyful, unity, questions, enthusiasm, teamwork, respect, patient, flexible

Page 11: Los Angeles, Gorillas

Page 13: Accidents/annoyances - dripping potion at TR; mouse stealing gem at BR; spider going into teacup, bird eating

morph wafer, cauldron overflowing at BC; ink spilling at BL; lizard erasing book at LC; cat spilling bowl at TL; book falling at TC.

Tips - 1) open, 2) admit, 3) forgive, 4) change, 5) progress, 6) humor, 7) learning, 8) Celebrate

Page 19: 1) Courage, 2) complete, 3) compassion, 4) concentrate, 5) connect, 6) capacity, 7) confidence, 8) commitment, 9) collaborate; Definitions (L to R, T to B): 4, 9, 1, 7, 8, 5, 3, 6, 2

Page 23: Alfajor at BC, biscotti at TR, hats sable and kolocheh at CR, mbatata at BL, spitzbube at BC, shortbread and thumbprint at CL, ube crinkle at C

WANDER-FUL CREATIVITY

A-MAZE-ING
ADVENTURE

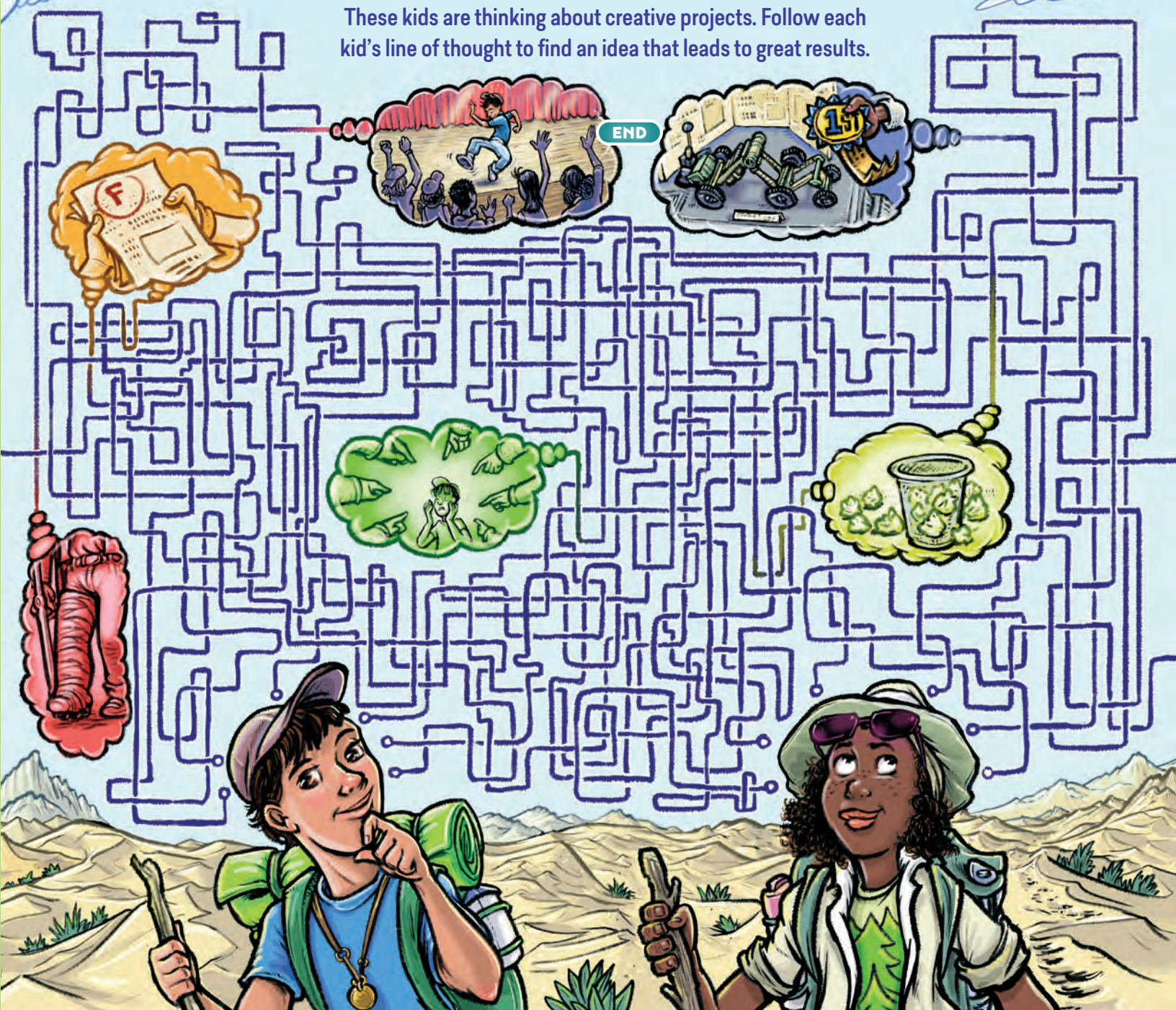
You're excited to leap into a creative project, but your brain gets stuck in what-ifs. What if I make a mistake? What if my friends say it stinks? What if I hate it?

Doubting yourself is quicksand for creativity. For ideas to flow, try experimenting. Instead of worrying about mistakes, find out what you can learn from them. Your brain *loves* surprises. If you write a story, create drawings for it. If you usually build ships or treehouses, try sculpting or quilting.

When you think differently, your brain's energy changes. It zips along quickly if you're studying or solving problems. But imaginative ideas bloom from slower **alpha waves**, which you produce when you're calm and mindful.

Your brain also needs rest. Walking in nature can help creativity blossom! Meditation, deep breaths, and noticing the present moment can soothe your fears. So stay curious, let your mind wander, and have fun exploring new paths!

These kids are thinking about creative projects. Follow each kid's line of thought to find an idea that leads to great results.



"Today's youth must move towards the front ranks of the professions, trades, arts and crafts which are necessary to the further progress of humankind . . ."

—Bahá'í Writings



Brilliant Star

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