

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Brilliant Star

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WHAT ARE YOUR
SUPERPOWERS?

FACING CHALLENGES
WITH COURAGE

An illustration depicting a scene of community service. In the foreground, three children are walking towards the right, each carrying a large, brown paper grocery bag filled with fresh produce. The bags have the word 'LOVE' written on them in a decorative font. The child on the left is a boy with brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and light blue pants. The middle child is a girl with dark curly hair, wearing a yellow and white striped shirt and purple pants. The child on the right is a girl with dark curly hair, wearing a light blue shirt and blue pants, who is running up a set of stone steps. At the top of the steps, an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a green and yellow plaid shirt and blue pants, is handing one of the grocery bags to the girl. Next to him, an elderly woman with white hair and glasses, wearing a purple sweater and dark pants, is waving her right hand. The background features three large, grey silhouettes of people in various heroic poses, such as flexing muscles and striking dynamic stances, set against a bright yellow background. The overall scene is set outdoors with a stone building and a blue door visible in the background.

HEROIC SPIRIT

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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,

Do you swoop in when a friend or neighbor truly needs your help? Do you leap into action when your family asks you to lend a helpful hand? Maybe you light up the room and zap sadness away with jokes or positivity.

We all have superpowers that can come to life when we help others. Our most powerful strengths arise from our virtues and spiritual qualities, such as generosity, joy, and compassion. With practice, you can build them up and be a hero in your family, neighborhood, and community.

In this issue, explore the true meaning of heroism. Get inspired at an Uplifters' training camp. Learn about service from furry friends. Create a castle of courage with Nur. Quiz yourself about your proactive powers. And meet Dr. Mia Derstine, who uses a healing touch in emergency rooms and in the wilderness.

Each of us has the ability to uplift those around us. What heroic heights will you reach for today?



LOVE,
BRILLIANT STAR ☆



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Do You Captain Your Ship?

“You are the reality and expression of your deeds and actions.” –Abdu’l-Bahá

Anchors aweigh! With clear skies ahead and warm winds at your back, you set sail for new horizons. But what do you do when storm clouds appear?

Life is like sailing on open water, and you’re the captain of the ship. You choose the destination you’ll aim for. But you can’t control what happens along the way. When challenges threaten to blow you off course, you can be **proactive**. Think about all of the options you have, then

choose a positive action to take.

What if you can’t get the supplies you need for a big project? What can you do to improvise? Or maybe your family vacation got canceled. Can you find other ways to have fun together?

When you’re proactive, you can use creativity and determination to navigate choppy waters and keep sailing in a sunny direction.

How proactive are you? Circle your answers, then add up your points.



1. Before starting a project, I do research and get tips on how to reach my goals.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

2. If I’m working with a team, I help create a fun, positive spirit in our group.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

3. When I have a problem, I try to stay patient and flexible.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

4. I try to learn from and fix mistakes.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

5. I make sure I understand my role on a team so I can do my best.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

6. I manage my time and focus on what’s most important first.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

7. I ask for help when I’m stuck or confused.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

8. On team projects, I ask the group to consult about problems, if needed.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

9. In tough situations, I stay positive and focus on what I can control.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

10. I finish projects that I’ve started, even if they’re not perfect.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

11. I pray for help and try to stay calm when difficulties pop up.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

12. When I have a project, I list my goals, then make a step-by-step schedule so I can finish on time.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



MY SCORE

36-28 POINTS You take action and face challenges head-on. Keep sailing toward your goals!

27-20 POINTS You’re learning how to chart your course to reach your goals. Choose a tip from the quiz to practice.

19-12 POINTS You can develop your navigation skills. Choose a few ideas from the quiz to try.

PRACTICE YOUR POWERS

"We all know and admit that justice is good, but there is need of volition and action to carry out and manifest it." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

The Uplifters have amazing superpowers—like x-ray vision, super speed, or invisibility. But that's not what makes them heroes. They can only use their superpowers for good causes, so their fantastic feats are fueled by virtues, such as justice, courage, and service to humanity.

Like the Uplifters, we all have qualities that empower us to be active world citizens. Being a

hero is a state of mind and heart. Just as you train your muscles with exercise, you can pump up your powers with practice. Try activating patience when you're not getting along with a sibling. Strengthen your service by being helpful to family and neighbors. Engage your empathy by encouraging friends when they face challenges. When you combine your talents and virtues to help others, you're a true hero!

Find nine hidden letters at the Uplifters' training camp:

Use the letters to complete virtues that can pump up your powers.

- 1 W _ RE _ E _ _
- 2 CO _ _ IDE _ CE
- 3 _ EL _ _ UL _ E _ _
- 4 _ UMILI _ _
- 5 LI _ _ E _ I _ G
- 6 O _ _ IMI _ m
- 7 _ RO _ LEM - _ OLVI _ G
- 8 _ ER _ EVER _ _ CE
- 9 RELI _ _ ILI _ _

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 Shíráz, 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 Chihríq (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.

By 1850, the community following the Báb's peaceful teachings had grown throughout Persia (now Iran). Thousands became Bábís, despite brutal persecution. Government officials were convinced that the only way to stop His Faith was to end the Báb's life.

In His remote prison, the Báb put His writings, pen case, seals, and rings in a box, along with a blue scroll of His holy verses. He sent these to Bahá'u'lláh.

The Báb and His secretary, Siyyid Husayn, were taken to the city of Tabriz. The streets surged with commotion as they were led to the prison. A young Bábí named Anís pushed through the crowd. He flung himself at the Báb's feet and begged to be able to stay with Him. Anís was immediately arrested.

On July 9, guards burst into the Báb's cell, interrupting His conversation with Siyyid Husayn. The Báb said, "Not until I have said to him all those things that I wish to say can any earthly power silence Me." Ignoring His words, the guards brought the Báb and Anís to face the firing squad.

The army colonel, Sam Khan, didn't want to kill an innocent man. He asked the Báb to free him from this duty. The Báb assured him that if his intentions were sincere, God would help him.

About 10,000 people watched as the Báb and Anís were suspended by ropes that were nailed to a pillar. When Sam Khan gave the order, 750 soldiers fired. The smoke from their rifles was so thick, it blocked the sun.



News of the stunning events surrounding the Báb's martyrdom in this barracks square in Tabriz spread far and wide, to Europe and beyond.

When the air cleared, the crowd found that the Báb was nowhere in sight! Anís stood unharmed. Only their ropes had been shredded by the bullets.

After searching, guards found the Báb in His cell with Siyyid Husayn. He calmly said, "I have finished My conversation . . . Now you may proceed to fulfill your intention." Sam Khan was so astonished, he refused to harm the Báb and ordered his men to leave.

New soldiers tied the Báb and Anís again, then opened fire. This time, the bodies of the Báb and Anís were destroyed, though their faces were barely touched. The moment the shots were fired, a violent dust storm engulfed the city until nightfall.

When news of the Báb's martyrdom reached Bahá'u'lláh, He said, "The flame that has been kindled will, by this very act, blaze forth more fiercely than ever."

Nine years later, Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Messenger of God foretold by the Báb. Today, His teachings of peace, unity, and hope continue to inspire millions of people around the world.

ENCOURAGE

SEAS OF LIFE

Ahooy there! What makes a terrific team captain? Someone who's loud and persuasive? The one who makes waves and tells the crew what to do?

Often, the most effective leaders humbly inspire everyone to work together in a spirit of service. This is sometimes called **servant leadership**. As a servant leader, you empower others instead of putting yourself

first. You encourage them to use their skills to steer the team toward success.

If a group project hits rough waters, having all hands on deck to solve the problem can be a real lifesaver. Consult with your crew, and listen to all suggestions with an open mind. When someone speaks, give them your full attention. When you build a team with cooperation and respect, you can chart your course with unity.

Find the words to complete tips that can help us sail with servant leadership.



- 1 Create a fun, positive atmosphere of trust and .
- 2 Be proactive and look for ways to and support others.
- 3 Be , kind, and flexible as everyone learns the ropes.
- 4 Check in with your team often to about progress or challenges.
- 5 Talk together about ideas to your teamwork or process.
- 6 clearly and with confidence.
- 7 Take time to thank everyone and tell them how they help the team .
- 8 Don't be afraid to make mistakes. If you make them, from them.
- 9 for guidance and strength as you work toward a goal.

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Hero of Justice

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), 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.

In the spring of 1863, Bahá'u'lláh was banished from Baghdád (now in Iraq) to stop His teachings of peace and unity from spreading. He was sent into exile in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). Everywhere Bahá'u'lláh went, His dignity, leadership, and compassion drew people to Him. Even on His journey to Constantinople, people turned to Him for guidance and help.

One night, the group traveling with Bahá'u'lláh camped near a village at the foot of Mount Márdín. A strong fortress surrounded the town to keep its citizens safe from harm.

A man caring for some mules approached the caravan. Bahá'u'lláh invited the muleteer to stay with them overnight. The area was swarming with thieves, and it was safer to remain with a large group. But the man refused, choosing to sleep some distance away.

As the caravan prepared to leave the next morning, the muleteer ran forward and grabbed the hem of Bahá'u'lláh's robe. His mules had been stolen in the middle of the night! Overcome with grief, he begged Bahá'u'lláh to help him get them back.

Bahá'u'lláh called on officials in the nearby village and told them that the stolen mules must be recovered. They searched, but no one could find the missing animals.

The head of the village claimed, "Although this man was advised to stay within the circle of tents . . . he did not heed the warnings. Consequently, we are not to blame nor are we responsible." He explained that the governor himself had recently been robbed of a load of



In 19th-century Persia, people traveled long distances on foot. Caravans often included animals, like mules, horses, or camels, to help carry supplies.

expensive silk. Even *he* wasn't able to get his property back. How could a humble muleteer expect to receive more justice than the governor?

Bahá'u'lláh replied, "The intention of my words is that they be carried out. My orders are not to remain unheeded." He refused to continue the journey until the mules were found.

The exiles set up camp in a beautiful orchard near the top of the mountain, where brooks of fresh water trickled by. Religious and government leaders visited Bahá'u'lláh. They paid their respects and gave excuses about why there was no hope of ever finding the stolen animals. They tried to pay for the mules instead. Bahá'u'lláh didn't accept their offer. He said, "Those same mules must needs be returned to their owner."

Finally, horsemen were dispatched in all directions. Within a few days, they found the mules. The muleteer was happily reunited with his animals.

“There is no force on earth that can equal in its conquering power the force of justice and wisdom.” — Bahá’u’lláh

Bahá’u’lláh offered gifts to the leaders who had helped in the search.

The people of Márdín had *never* seen stolen property returned before. They were astonished to witness such fairness and integrity. News of Bahá’u’lláh’s stand for justice quickly spread.

In the years to come, Bahá’u’lláh would make His call for justice and peace to kings and rulers around the world. He said, “No light can compare with the light of justice. The establishment of order in the world and the tranquility of the nations depend upon it.”



This tall hat, called a taj, was worn by Bahá’u’lláh. It is a symbol of nobility and leadership.

Find 19 words related to the story. Search forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

ASTONISH

CARAVAN

DIGNITY

EXILE

GUIDE

HELPFUL

HEROIC

HONESTY

HOPE

INTEGRITY

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

JOURNEY

JUSTICE

LEADERSHIP

MULES

PROTECTION

RECOVER

RESPECT

RESPONSIBLE

SEARCH

Create a Castle of Courage

“Strive . . . to turn wholly toward the Kingdom, that ye may acquire innate courage and ideal power.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Do you always feel brave? I try to, but sometimes it’s not easy. Being brave doesn’t mean I’m never scared. It’s a power I use to help me face my fears. If I’m afraid, I like to talk things over with family or friends. Saying prayers helps, too. When I’m calm, it’s easier to be courageous and make smart choices.

Sometimes bravery means saying no—like the time

mean mosquitoes wanted me to bully a beetle. What are some challenges you’ve had? Did they give you a chance to build up your courage?

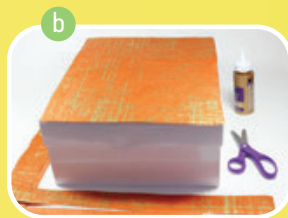
My cool castle craft can boost courage, too. You can make one and fill it with quotes, prayers, and ideas that inspire you. Include actions that can empower you to make your neighborhood *and* the world more noble.



You'll Need

- large shoebox with secured lid
- smaller boxes and paper tubes
- scissors
- pencil
- tacky glue
- ruler
- clear tape
- markers
- 4" (10.2 cm) paper circles or round doilies
- two pieces of 11½" (29.2 cm) string
- wrapping paper
- card stock
- toothpicks

- 1 (a) Set largest portion of large box on wrapping paper. Trace around it. (b) Cut tracing out. Spread glue evenly on top of box lid and cover with paper.



- 2 Draw 6½" x 5" (16.5 x 12.7 cm) rectangle for drawbridge at bottom edge of box. Carefully cut top and sides to make a flap (leave bottom edge attached).



- 3 (a) Cut slits ½" (1.3 cm) from each top corner of drawbridge. Thread strings through slits, so most of each string is inside castle. Tape short ends to drawbridge. (b) Tape other string ends inside top corners of doorway, so drawbridge lies flat and strings are taut.





- 4 Glue wrapping paper to other sides of box, and to smaller boxes and tubes for rooms and towers.



- 5 (a) For smaller cone-shaped rooftops, cut paper circles in half. For larger cones, cut straight line from outer edge to circle's center. (b) From corners, wrap cut ends of half or whole circle snugly around each other to form cones. Secure with tape.



- 6 For flags, glue 1" (2.5 cm) card stock triangles to toothpicks. Cut tiny portion off tip of some cones and insert flagpoles in openings. Glue flagpoles to cones, and glue cones to towers.



- 7 Use glue to attach smaller rooms and towers to castle.



- 8 Cut out windows, doors, bricks, and trim from card stock and glue to castle. Add details with markers.



- 9 On slips of card stock, invite family to write quotes, prayers, and ideas for building courage. You could include ideas for brave actions, like "Speak up against racism" or "Tell someone about your faith." Store slips inside castle and read them for encouragement or new challenges.



Kind Connections

“Strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful prayers.” —Abdu’l-Bahá

Have you ever been surprised by someone’s act of kindness? It’s like a friendly gift that makes you smile. Suddenly, life’s challenges may feel a little easier to handle. Even small things, like getting a compliment from a friend or a cheerful hello from a neighbor, can have a powerful impact.

When someone reaches out to you in service or friendship,

it often inspires you to do the same with someone else. Slowly but surely, one kind deed can propel an entire community into action. So cool!

How can you spread kindness today? Maybe you could deliver groceries to help a neighbor or encourage a sibling with their project. Little or large, your helpful deed may start a chain reaction of love and generosity.

In picture 1, Lola is delivering groceries to her neighbor. Find her neighbor’s kind deed and label it “2,” then continue in the same way to follow the chain reaction.



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

Chew on This

Gum isn't biodegradable. Cities and schools waste water to clean it up, and it can hurt animals. Throw your gum and wrappers in the trash.



WOW, REALLY?

When he found burrs clinging to his clothes and dog, Swiss engineer Georges de Mestral invented hook and loop fasteners (known as **VELCRO®**) in 1955.

OUR CONNECTIONS



Studying Earth and animals to find ideas for new tools is called **biomimicry**—it mimics biological

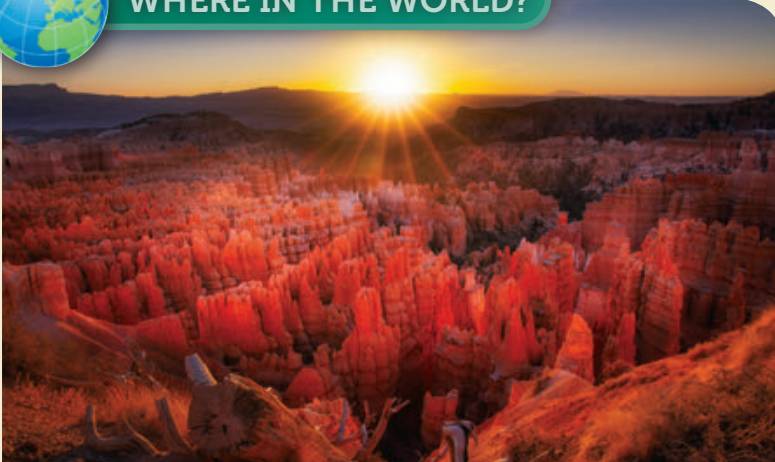
life. Designers saw manta rays filtering food through their mouths, then used the concept to make air pollution filters. From solar cells that work like leaves to trains shaped like bird beaks, nature leads to innovation.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Janine Benyus, a biologist from Montana, is an author and cofounder of the Biomimicry Institute, and she believes nature is the "wisest teacher." She empowers people to create inventions inspired by nature. She says, "What we're trying to do is take . . . wisdom from the natural world and let it flow into human systems design."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Fremont, Ancestral Puebloan, and Paiute indigenous peoples once lived in the area around Bryce Canyon. It has the world's largest amount of **hoodoos**—rock columns formed by millions of years of erosion. *Unscramble the letters to find the location:*

HAUT ○○○○

AMAZING ANIMALS



These descendants of wild African creatures carried loads for nomadic people over 5,000 years ago. Now found all over the world, the brave, intelligent animals haul people and cargo, herd sheep, and even perform rescue missions. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

○ON○○○S

Maya's MYSTERIES

WOW! ANIMALS HAVE LOTS OF COOL DEFENSES!



"O my Lord! Make Thy protection my armor, Thy preservation my shield . . ." —Abdu'l-Bahá

POWERFUL PROTECTION

Today, when it was time to present my science project, my heart raced. Funny thing is that it was my "fight or flight" response, and this is exactly what my project is about! It's a natural alarm system that kicks in when people or animals feel

threatened. Our heart and breathing rates speed up to get ready for action. Some creatures retreat inside their armor, like turtles, or run, like rabbits. I wasn't in physical danger, so with some deep breaths and a quick prayer, I calmed down. My class said my report was cool!

PHOTO FUN

Check out the photos I collected for my science project. Match each one to the right clue.



- When in danger, this big-eyed creature hides in the ground and hisses like a rattlesnake.
- When threatened, this creature rolls into a prickly ball with thousands of spines.
- All species of this amphibian are toxic. Even their skin is covered with poison.
- This quiet, nocturnal mammal can spray a terrible-smelling liquid over 10 feet (3m)!
- To avoid predators, these creatures use their shape and color to blend into greenery.
- This clever creature squirts a cloud of ink to distract its attacker while it escapes.
- The only mammal with armor, this animal rolls into a ball to protect itself.
- Teamwork is a defense for these burrowing animals. Someone is always on lookout.

's SUPER JOURNAL



Heroism isn't just about how strong or fast you are. It's about who you are inside. By using your virtues and talents to help the world, you *are* a hero.

When Lightning and Luna became Uplifters, they received a magical book with guidance about their superpowers. You can think about *your* life journey and powers by keeping a hero's journal. In it, you can reflect on your strengths, goals, dreams, and paths of service. Use this page to get started!



Draw yourself as an Uplifter and design the symbols of your strengths and virtues on your superhero suit!

My superpowers:

Qualities that make my character strong:

Some of my goals for the future:

Ways I can help others:

Activities I love to do:

People and things I'm thankful for:

A quote that inspires me:

One of my heroes and why:



LIGHTNING & LUNA

FREEZING FIASCO

#87



ON THE U.S. EAST COAST...



C'MON, ICE, MELT! I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!



GOTCHA, SIS!



HANG IN THERE!

CLINK! CLINK! CLINK!



ARE YOU OKAY?

I TH-THINK SO ... TH-THANKS BR-BRO.

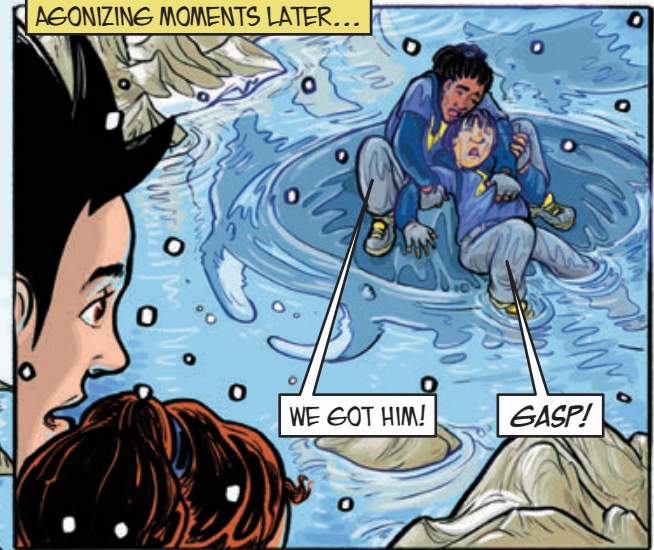
MY PARTNER WENT UNDERWATER TRAPPED IN OUR POD!



THERE HE IS!



I'LL CALL THE MANTAS!



AGONIZING MOMENTS LATER...

WE GOT HIM!

GASP!



LOOK! THE CITY'S GETTING BURIED IN ICE!

WE NEED TO HELP THEM!



I SEE RESCUE PODS ON THE WAY.

FIRST RESPONDERS ARE COMING, TOO.



WE BLEW IT. WE COULDN'T STOP THE ROCKETS.

THE ERASERS HAVE CRAZY NEW TECH.

COME ON, YOU GUYS—WE CAN STOP THEM!



BUT THEY CAN TURN CITIES INTO ICE CUBES.

THEN LET'S GO BEFORE MORE ROCKETS LAUNCH!

THE SUB IS ONLY 10 MINUTES AHEAD OF US. AT TOP SPEED, WE CAN CATCH IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



AT FAUNA'S HQ...

WHEN WE'RE IN RANGE, LAUNCH MORE ROCKETS.

AND SET UP MY VOICE CHANGER!

TIME TO TELL THE WORLD THAT ITS CLIMATE-WRECKING DAYS ARE OVER!



THE SUB IS SURFACING!



I'LL USE WAVE POWER TO TIP THE SUB!

WE'LL PULL IT ASHORE!

TOGETHER WE'LL STOP ITS LAUNCH!



LOOK OUT! THEY'RE GONNA LAUNCH!

YOU CAN DO IT, LUNA! MAKE SOME BIG WAVES!

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?

Arya K.

Age: 13

I live in: **Ontario, Canada**

I want to be: **Architect**

This career interests me because:

I want to build big masterpieces (like skyscrapers) and help design homes for people in need.

Hobbies or sports:

Art, music, soccer

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Junior youth [group] and going to Wildfire Bahá'í School



I like to help people by:
Being a listening ear. When people need somebody to talk to, I'm always willing to listen.

Hero or role model from history:
Malcolm X . . . he was a human rights activist who . . . stood up for African American rights.

Three important qualities in a hero or leader:
Bravery, kindness, justice

If I had a superpower to help the world, I'd choose:
Healing. I would heal people with different sicknesses . . .

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:
Just remembering that worse things can happen and that the world is not over

Aliya K.

Age: 11

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

I want to be: **Pediatrician**

This career interests me because:

I'd like to help kids stay safe and healthy.

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

Place I'd love to visit:
Israel (to see the Shrine of the Báb and the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh) and Paris (to see the Eiffel Tower)

I like to help people by:
Helping with art or homework, co-teaching the Grade 1 children's class

Favorite animals:
Dogs and cats (We have a dog named Benji.)



Hero or role model from history:
Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb brought the message of unity. 'Abdu'l-Bahá is the perfect exemplar.

Living hero or role model:
My mom and dad, because they inspire me to do my best, and Malala Yousafzai, because she is a champion of girls' education!

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:
I . . . strive every day to be better and better.



Amani B.

Age: 11

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

I want to be:
Lawyer for a video game company

This career interests me because:
I would get to meet a lot of cool people.

Virtue I admire most:
Truthfulness

Hobbies or sports:
Martial arts, esports, and lacrosse

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Devotions with dessert

A favorite food:
Burgers

Hero or role model from history:
Shoghi Effendi, because he was the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith

Living hero or role model:
My mom and dad, because they take care of me and love me

If I had a superpower to help the world, I'd choose:
To control water, so I could give it to people who need it

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:
Talking to my friends about the challenge

When I took a leadership role:
In Scouts . . . I helped people set up their camping area. I practiced kindness and helpfulness in this role.

Jaydan M.

Age: **11**

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

I want to be:
Professional soccer player

This career interests me because:

I love playing soccer. It is one of my talents.

Virtue I admire most: **Joy**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Feast*

I like to help people by:
Making them laugh!

Hero or role model from history:

Bahá'u'lláh, because He was a Manifestation of God and was always kind

Living hero or role model:
Dwayne Johnson. He is a very kind person even though he is famous, and he is a great actor.

Place I'd love to visit:
LEGOLAND

If I had a superpower to help the world, I'd choose:
Power of Earth, to . . . create trees and nature

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:
Thinking about something that makes me happy

When I took a leadership role, I:
Helped organize our classroom library. I encouraged my classmates . . .



Amari R.

Age: **9**

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

I want to be:
Tennis player or actress

This career interests me because:

A tennis player because I am really good at tennis and it is really fun. An actress because I love acting. It is fun and creative.

Virtue I admire most:
Kindness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Celebrating holy days, especially Ayyám-i-Há**

Hero or role model from history:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He played an important part in Black history and made more freedom for Black lives.

A favorite food: **Pizza**

Living hero or role model:
Serena Williams, because she shows girls and women they can be and do anything, no matter what.

If I had a superpower to help the world, I'd choose:
Peacefulness. I'd use this power to stop wars, unkindness, and fighting.

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:
My mom and dad



“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

Zayn T.

Age: **10**

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

I want to be:
A software engineer

This career interests me because:

I want to create technology.

Virtue I admire most:
Kindness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Making gift baskets for homeless shelters

Place I'd love to visit:
Anywhere—I love traveling.

Hero or role model from history:

My great, great, great, great-grandfather, who was the wheat sifter mentioned in [the book] *The Dawn-Breakers* and was the first person to believe in the Báb in the city of Isfahán and a martyr at the Fort of *Shaykh* Tabarsí



Living hero or role model:
My mother and father, because they work so hard to help the family and do service for others

If I had a superpower to help the world, I'd choose:
[To] cancel poverty and make everybody be treated fairly

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:
I think about how blessed I am . . .

When I took a leadership role, I:
Led my group in school so we could finish our task. I had to be confident, respectful, and a good listener.

How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7-14, go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org. From the top menu, choose "Discover." Then click "Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer," and fill out the form. 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 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).

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

**Ayyám-i-Há is a festival of hospitality, gift giving, and preparing for the Bahá'í Fast.

Ayden H.

Age: 10

I live in: **Ontario, Canada**

I want to be: **A teacher**

This career interests me because:

I can help people learn and become amazing.

Virtue I admire most:

Creativity

Hobbies or sports:

Basketball

A favorite food: **Sushi**

Favorite Bahá'í activity: **Children's class**

I like to help people by: **Giving them good words like "You got this"**

Hero or role model from history:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was not shy to say what he wanted.

Living hero or role model:

My parents, because they show me how to be me

Three important qualities in a hero or leader:

Caring, listening, doing

If I had a superpower to help the world, I'd choose:

To stop climate change

When I took a leadership role:

When playing a game with the kindergartners, I used my care to create comfort and courage to try new things.



Naim M.

Age: 10

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

I want to be: **Soccer player**

This career interests me because:

I love soccer.

Virtue I admire most:

Truthfulness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Children's class

Hero or role model from history:

Bahá'u'lláh, because He helped the world

I like to help people by: **Mowing the lawn and shoveling the driveway for my family and neighbors**

Place I'd love to visit:

France

A favorite food:

Navajo tacos, burritos



Living hero or role model: **Lionel Messi, because he is a great soccer player**

Three important qualities in a hero or leader:

Do something important, help people, spread a message to people

If I had a superpower to help the world, I'd choose:

The power to eliminate racism and racist thoughts and actions by snapping my fingers

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:

My mom and dad

Salim H.

Age: 8

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

I want to be: **An animator**

This career interests me because:

I love animation.

Virtue I admire most:

Kindness

Hobbies or sports: **Reading**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Children's classes

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:

My heart

Favorite animal: **Dog**

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

I like to help people by:

Being a good person

Living hero or role model:

My dad, because he taught me how to ride a bike and how to make French toast

Three important qualities in a hero or leader:

Kindness, truthfulness, and courage

Hero or role model from history:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He fought for justice without violence. My school is named after him.

When I took a leadership role:

I led a volleyball team at recess, and that was a lot of fun.



Anisa G.

Age: 8

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

I want to be: **A botanist**

This career interests me because:

I love plants.

Hobbies or sports:

Playing piano, reading

A favorite food: **Pasta**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Devotions on Zoom

Place I'd love to visit:

Haifa, Israel

Hero or role model from history:

Clara Barton, because she helped save and heal soldiers in the Civil War

Living hero or role model:

Mae Jemison, because she was the first African American woman astronaut



I like to help people by: **Cleaning my room**

If I had a superpower to help the world, I'd choose:

Be able to control the rain, to help put out forest fires around the world

What helps me persevere or gives me courage:

My favorite stuffed animal and prayers

When I took a leadership role:

In my Bahá'í children's class, I helped read quotes and prayers to the other kids.

Land of Dwarves & Giants

“Be thou of those who foster peace. Offer thy friendship, be worthy of trust.” —Abdu’l-Bahá

Deep in the forest, giants and dwarves struggled to share their home. The towering giants ripped out trees to build with the wood. In the forest below, the dwarves grew angry and scared. Their shelter and food were being destroyed!

Anxious to protect their home, the dwarves climbed to the treetops with spears and arrows, ready to attack. But they got a surprise. The giants actually listened to

their story. Instead of going to war, the giants planted new trees and helped the dwarves rebuild. The dwarves taught them to grow fruits and veggies.

Our tiniest actions can have a huge impact on those around us—and on our planet. By listening with respect, we can be mindful of what we do and say. We can learn from mistakes and fix them. That’s an *enormous* help for building happy and trusting communities.

Find 12 pairs of matching items that show shared interests among these friends of the forest.





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 space scientists. Have questions about space? Send them to brilliant@usbnc.org (with your name and age).

How does being in a suit prevent outer space from freezing you? – Lena, age 10

Hi, Lena,
Being in a spacesuit is like being in a thermos bottle. The vacuum of space acts as one of the best insulators we know of, so the issue is not freezing, but getting too hot. Spacesuits use a special system that allows water to escape into space, which carries away our body heat. This process is called **sublimation**, and it happens when water ice evaporates into space. – Don

Is it possible to farm in space? What kind of farming is already happening? – Emma, age 10

Hi, Emma,
We can grow plants in space now, mostly for experiments, using **hydroponics** or **aeroponics**, where plants are grown without soil. It would be expensive to carry soil into space. We are still a long way from farming and growing crops, but I am certain that one day we will be doing that in space. – Don



Don Pettit (left), Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko (center), and Dutch astronaut André Kuipers wear their spacesuits on the International Space Station in 2012.

COSMIC QUIZ

When a star doesn't glow steadily, but gets brighter or dimmer, it's called a:

- A) Waffling White Dwarf
- B) Fickle Fireball
- C) Variable Star
- D) Ping Pong Star



The star V838 Monocerotis



How has exploring space helped us back on Earth? –Tristan, age 15

Hi, Tristan,
That is an excellent question! Because it is so challenging to leave the Earth and explore space, it has inspired many engineers and inventors to find new ways to do things. Thousands of inventions and technologies that were originally developed for space missions have found their way into our everyday lives—they're called "spinoffs." Some spinoffs that had their start in NASA's space program are memory foam, now used for mattresses and pillows; miniature image sensors, now in smartphone cameras; wireless headsets, originally used when astronauts went to the moon; thermometers that take your temperature without touching you; and many, many others. NASA estimates that each dollar spent on space exploration generates over three dollars in benefits to the economy. Space exploration also inspires youth to dream big and to do what hasn't been possible before. That's the reason that I became an aerospace engineer! –Steve



NASA's digital image sensor is one of its most popular spinoffs so far, equipping cameras, high-definition (HD) video, and other technology.



DON PETTIT is an active NASA astronaut who has been on three flights to the International Space Station. He lived there for over a year in total and spent 13 hours on spacewalks. While aboard, he sent videos to Earth and even invented a zero-G coffee cup. An avid photographer since sixth grade, he took thousands of photos from space and published his favorites in the book *Spaceborne* in 2016.



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.

BACH IN TIME

Dr. Shannon Lucid's 1978 astronaut class was the first to include women. She's the only American woman to work on:

- A) The Russian space station Mir
- B) The International Space Station
- C) A space shuttle
- D) Mars



Dr. Mia Derstine



How intense would it be if you were a doctor, and you had to treat an injured person while flying in a helicopter? As an emergency room (ER) doctor in Chicago, Amelia “Mia” Derstine sometimes tended to patients while zooming through the sky. She loves flying, which she first did at age three, when her family came to Illinois, U.S., from Hong Kong.

Mia is passionate about helping others. After high school, she moved to Ecuador as a volunteer to teach virtues classes for kids. Later, she studied at Northwestern University and spent a spring break assisting people in Louisiana whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

After earning a bachelor's degree in math, Mia moved to Japan with her husband, Brian. While teaching English, she realized she wanted to work in crisis situations. She returned to the U.S. for medical school and discovered a love of emergency medicine. Now she's an ER doctor in Colorado and is training in wilderness medicine to care for people with outdoor emergencies.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: Going to my grandparents' house in Kansas in the summertime with my family. My brother and I would take this exercise mat and ride it down the stairs like a sled, which our grandparents allowed us to do only if we wore helmets.



Left: Mia, age 6, sat on a Chinese lion statue during a family visit to Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood. **Right:** At age 16, Mia was a cheerleader for her school's basketball and football teams.

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

A: I used to get bullied for being Chinese . . . I got pushed around and hit a couple of times . . . I tried to talk to my teacher, who was not sympathetic, and ended up telling my parents. My mom, who is 4'10", stormed into the school and demanded that this issue be addressed. After that, it never happened again.

Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in medicine?

A: After college, I worked a bunch of part-time jobs and was unhappy, and saw a job posting to teach English in Japan . . . While we were in Japan, the earthquake in Haiti happened. I wanted to go and help . . . And it kind of brought about a realization that I had no real skill set, and I wanted one . . . that would be useful in emergency situations.

Q: What helps you persevere through challenges or gives you courage?

A: My friends and my family [and] my dog . . . And I call my dad. He'll often have something from the Bahá'í writings to say to me or something from his own personal experiences . . . those things are always very helpful.

Questions and
Answers with an
Inspirational Bahá'í



Above: As part of her training, Mia flew in the University of Chicago helicopter to pick up emergency patients.

Left: Mia (back right) and her husband, Brian, enjoy a family reunion in January 2020 with her parents, Steve and Sabrina Townsend (front), her brother, Patrick (back left), and his fiancée, Hannah.

Q: What motivated you to work as a flight physician at University of Chicago Medical Center?

A: It was actually part of our residency program . . . I loved it. I loved learning from the flight nurses . . . They are so knowledgeable, so I learned a ton from them. I liked being able to go to other hospitals and see how medicine was practiced in other places . . . But also, just flying was cool.

Q: What do you love about emergency medicine?

A: The diversity of medicine . . . We [can] see everyone. No one gets turned away in the ER, so it doesn't matter if someone has insurance . . . Quite often we're actually getting the people . . . who are grossly underserved, so I like that I get to be with those people. I really like diagnosing a lot, and I like all the procedures.

Q: You're doing a fellowship in wilderness medicine. What's involved?

A: I get a lot of training on technical skills, which means I get to go rock climbing with my boss and just learn how to manage ropes. But then I also get to do cool stuff—like this weekend, I'm going to Mars space camp in Utah to film scenarios about astronaut emergencies.

Q: What virtues are important in your work?

A: Kindness and empathy . . . I find that with some patients, really what they actually need is just to talk to somebody . . . Sometimes that's really more important than whatever medication you're going to prescribe.

Q: What advice would you have for a kid who wants to be a doctor?

A: The best thing that you can do is do all the stuff that you love. The medical schools tend to admit people who have passions outside of medicine. So if you love playing guitar or if you love being on the chess team, do those things to the best of your ability . . .

Q: This issue of *Brilliant Star* is about what it means to be a hero. What are some of the ways that kids can be heroic?

A: One of the things that is so gorgeous . . . is when kids stand up to prejudice. Sometimes it happens among their own friends or even among their families and loved ones. When you see kids saying things like, "Hey, that's not nice," that's really, really brave, and that's being a hero, too.

RILEY'S RAINFOREST

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

—Bahá'u'lláh

Explore & Soar: Being Brave

Try these ideas to boost your bravery and reach new heights.

- ▣ When a goal seems scary, make a plan to work on it step by step.
- ▣ Be positive. Encourage yourself and say, “I can do this!”



- ▣ Think about a time when you were brave in the past and it felt great.
- ▣ List the qualities that can help you achieve your goals.
- ▣ Talk to a family member or friend about your fears.
- ▣ When you're afraid, take slow, deep breaths to help you relax.
- ▣ When you're learning a new skill, keep trying, even if it's frustrating.
- ▣ Read stories about inspiring heroes.
- ▣ Say a prayer to ask for God's help.
- ▣ Listen to music that lifts your spirit.
- ▣ Each day, do something to prepare. Write down a step you took toward being braver.

Dive into Courage

Do you have a family hero? Mine is my *awesome* grandma. She won a gold medal in the Aviary Olympics for high diving. She dove off a super high diving board and did five flips before plunging into the water. It was *epic*! When she asked me if I wanted to take lessons, I was all in.

The lower dives were fun, but when it was time to try the 10m (33 ft.) dive, I was pretty scared. It felt like jumping off a mountainside! I got nervous and had to stop. It was *so* embarrassing.

But guess what Grandma said? She was nervous for her first high dive, too! One reason she loves diving is that it's a

great chance to get out of your comfort zone and push yourself to be brave. She said courage helps us achieve goals and learn new things. It can strengthen confidence and resilience, too. She was so encouraging, I wanted to try again. I was still nervous when I flew up to the diving board. But this time, I folded my wings, gathered my courage—and dove! Once I did it, it was so much *fun*! I felt awesome! I was so proud of myself for facing my fear.

High diving isn't for everyone. There are lots of ways to be brave. Being patient during tough times, standing up for what's right, and following your heart can be scary, too. Whatever your challenge is, I hope these tips help you dive in!



I'M BUILDING MY BRAVERY!

Curiosity Canopy



Did you know that imagining you're a superhero can help you overcome fear? In one study, kids persevered longer when they pretended to be a favorite character, then asked themselves if their character was working hard. When you have a challenge, try turning into a superhero. You might summon your strength—and have fun, too!

A HELPING PAW



Heroes aren't only human—they can be furry friends, too! Some dogs lend a helping paw to people who are blind, deaf, or have other needs. Service dogs might be trained to pull a wheelchair up a ramp, alert a human partner who can't hear, or even help people avoid things they're allergic to.

These hard-working canines have important jobs, so they're allowed to go *anywhere* with their owners.

The dogs often wear special vests when they're working. If you see a dog on duty, don't distract them. Ask the handler for permission before you approach their dog.

Like people, these dogs aren't *always* on the job. They need time to relax and have fun, too. From puffy Pomeranians to giant Great Danes, service dogs *unleash* teamwork, dedication, and companionship to help their human friends stay safe.



Find nine off-duty service dogs that are named for virtues of heroism.



SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Munírih Khánum (1847–1938)



A spark of excitement was growing in Bahá'u'lláh's family. His eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, was getting married. The bride, Munírih Khánum, had traveled to 'Akká (now in Israel) all the way from Persia (now Iran).

On the night of March 8, 1873, the family gathered for the ceremony. There were no decorations, gifts, or cake, but the room was full of joy. The bride, wearing a simple white dress made by 'Abdu'l-Bahá's mother, Navváb, chanted prayers and drank tea with her new family.

A spirit of reverence surrounded the wedding. Munírih Khánum said, "The glory and beauty of love and happiness were beyond and above all luxury and ceremony and circumstance."

Harmonious Marriage

Munírih Khánum was born in 1847 in Isfahán, Persia. Her parents named her Fátimih. She was educated, though that was rare for girls at the time. She spoke multiple languages and loved to write poetry.

When she became engaged to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'u'lláh gave her the name "Munírih," which means "Luminous." 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Munírih faced many challenges, but their marriage endured with love. Four daughters lived to adulthood, but several of their children died young in 'Akká's unhealthy climate.* Munírih Khánum spent much of her time raising their children, managing the household, and caring for the sick. She was a source of strength and support for 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The first time she traveled out of 'Akká, 'Abdu'l-Bahá missed her so much that every day he asked his daughter, "When do you think

your mother will come back?"

Inspired by Bahá'u'lláh's teachings, Munírih Khánum was passionate about education. She raised funds and had a school built for girls in Haifa, Israel. She wrote, "The education of girls is a matter of the greatest importance. Hence, the friends of the All-Merciful, and the beloved maidservants of the Lord, in all cities and countries must take action and endeavor to their utmost capacity to carry out this weighty injunction."

The Holy Mother

When Bahá'í women from all over the world visited Haifa and 'Akká, Munírih Khánum met with them and helped to deepen their understanding of the Bahá'í teachings. One American Bahá'í shared the "indescribable joy" of visiting with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's family, saying, "the motherly presence of Munírih Khánum filled the atmosphere . . . She seemed the personification of Universal Motherhood—indeed the 'Holy Mother.'"

'Abdu'l-Bahá and Munírih Khánum were happily married for nearly 50 years. When he passed away in 1921, she was grief-stricken. She said to one Bahá'í, "You, who have known Him, can imagine what my 50 years have been—how they fled by in an atmosphere of love and joy. . . I await the day when I shall be called to join Him. . ."

Munírih Khánum passed away on April 30, 1938. She was buried on Mount Carmel in Haifa. Her grandson, Shoghi Effendi, who led the Bahá'í Faith after 'Abdu'l-Bahá, praised her "UNIQUE SERVICES" and "EXALTED POSITION."

Plant Positivity

Do you ever imagine going to outer space? Maybe you dream up awesome sculptures or stories. Each idea is like a flower sprouting to life. Since you can have up to 60,000 thoughts a day, your brain is in full bloom!

Planting positive thoughts helps you thrive. If you're practicing piano or learning a soccer trick, optimistic self-talk helps you stick with it. Did a new neighbor move in? Kind and hopeful thoughts can

empower you to walk over and say hi.

Watch out for negative weeds that try to creep in. If you get tangled up in worry or pessimism, clear it away and let fresh ideas take root. Visit nature, play music, talk to family and friends, or say prayers.

Optimism can inspire words and actions that uplift you and others. When we're connected with positivity, we can overcome thorny situations and grow stronger and happier.

These thoughts are working together in the sculpture garden. Unscramble the letters and use the new words to complete the quote.

IVSETPOI

SPILTURIA

PIEIHSDRFN

RCHSEEA

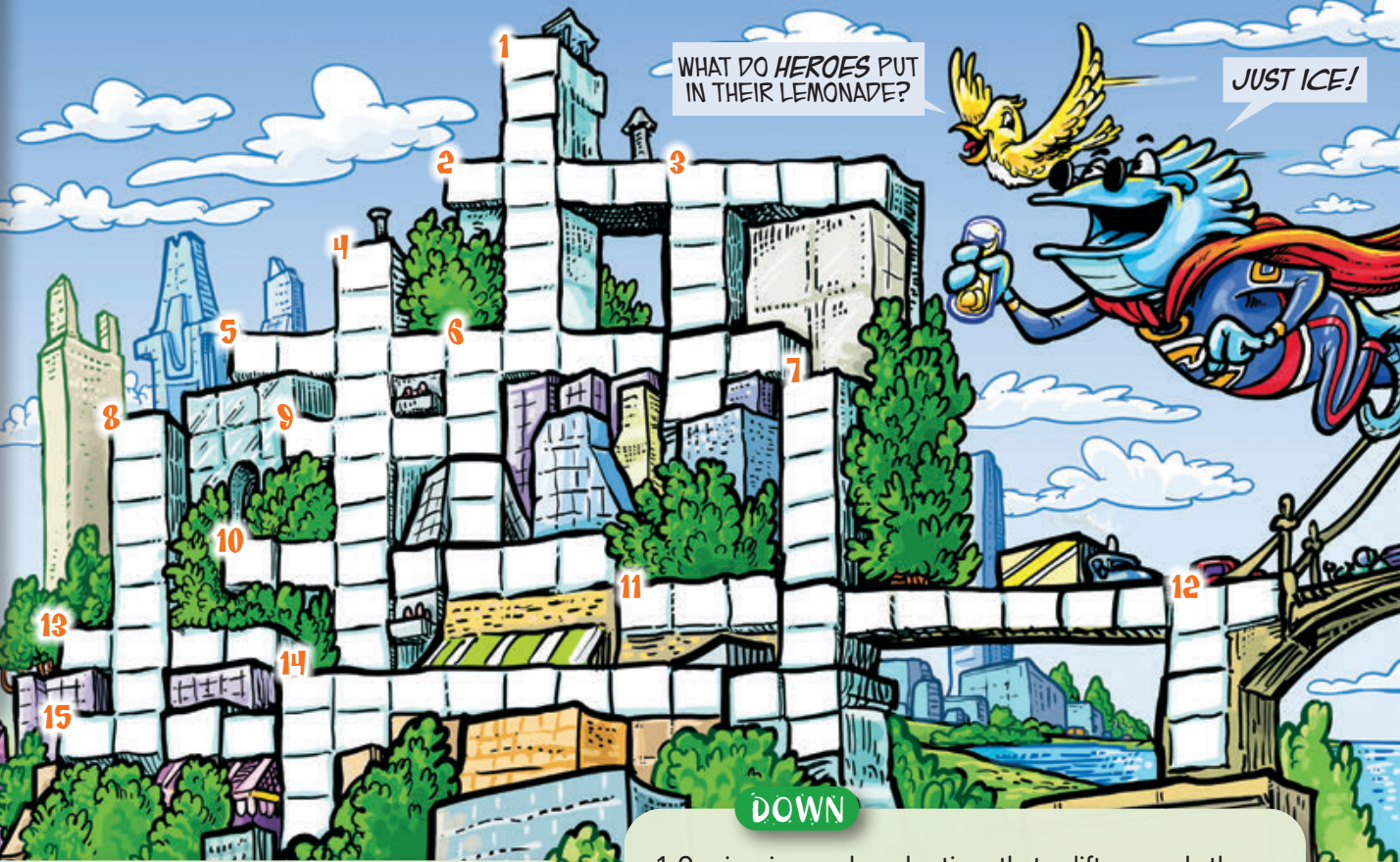
DREPAS

NDMIS

HHOTGUT

RAHET

"If you desire with all your _____, _____ with every race on earth, your _____, _____ and _____, will _____ ... until it _____ the _____ of all ..." —'Abdu'l-Bahá



ACROSS

2. Small acts of _____ can have a powerful impact. (p. 10)
5. Studying Earth and animals to find ideas for new tools (p. 11)
9. Service _____ unleash teamwork, dedication, and companionship to help humans. (p. 25)
10. A power to help us face our fears (p. 8)
11. Amani and Naim both admire the virtue of _____. (pp. 16-18)
13. Dr. Martin Luther _____ Jr. is a role model for Amari, Ayden, and Salim. (pp. 17-18)
14. Dr. Mia Derstine sometimes treated patients in a _____. (p. 22)
15. As a servant _____, you empower others instead of putting yourself first. (p. 5)

DOWN

1. Can inspire words and actions that uplift you and others (p. 27)
3. Janine Benyus believes _____ is the "wisest teacher." (p. 11)
4. Dr. Don Pettit has been a _____ since sixth grade. (p. 21)
6. Heroism isn't just about how strong or fast you are. It's about who you are _____. (p. 13)
7. Like the _____, we all have qualities that empower us to be active world citizens. (p. 3)
8. Being proactive is thinking about your options and choosing a _____ action to take. (p. 2)
12. Life is like sailing on open water, and you're the captain of the _____. (p. 2)
14. Being a _____ is a state of mind and heart. (p. 3)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



I feel good reading this magazine because I learn a lot, and I read about the interests of other Bahá'í kids my age. I've learned about Bahá'u'lláh's past and what other people have done to help others. [If I could choose a theme,] I would choose race unity, because racism is very bad, and people need to learn more about treating everybody equally.

—Nika P., age 9, California, U.S.

ANSWERS

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

Page 3: Letters: P, Y at TL; T at TC; F, H at CL; B, N at BL; S at BC; A at BR. 1) Awareness, 2) Confidence, 3) Helpfulness, 4) Humility, 5) Listening, 6) Optimism, 7) Problem-solving, 8) Perseverance, 9) Reliability

Page 5: 1) respect, 2) encourage, 3) patient, 4) consult, 5) improve, 6) Communicate, 7) succeed, 8) learn, 9) Pray

Page 10 (L to R): 1, 5, 3, 6, 8, 9, 2, 4, 7

Page 11: Utah, Donkeys

Page 12: 1) Owl, 2) Hedgehog, 3) Salamander, 4) Skunk, 5) Katydid, 6) Octopus, 7) Armadillo, 8) Prairie dogs

Page 19: (dwarf listed first) Arrows at TC, CR; Balls at BL, far TR; Binoculars at CR, far TL; Birds at C, TL; Books at BR, C; Cauldrons at BC, C; Compasses at BC, TC; Flutes at C, BL; Lutes at TL, CR; Paintbrushes at BC, BR;

Telescope at CL, TR; Watering can at TR, CL

Pages 20-21: C) Variable Star, A) The Russian space station Mir

Page 25: Hera at C, Cali at BL, Leo at C, Beva at TR, Relly at CL, Pesh at TL, Fiza at BR, Roki at TL, Hugo at C

Page 27 (L to R): Positive, spiritual, friendship, reaches, spread, minds, thought, heart; "If you desire with all your heart, friendship with every race on earth, your thought, spiritual and positive, will spread . . . until it reaches the minds of all . . ."

Page 29: Level 1 - Start to salmon door, level 2 - salmon door to yellow stairs, level 1 - yellow stairs to light green door, level 2 - light green door to aqua door, level 1 - aqua door to pink door, level 2 - pink door to Purposeful Pillar.

YOUR UNIQUE MISSION

Do you want to go on an exciting, adventurous, and magical mission to help the world? Yes? Your special assignment may get confusing. To gear up, you can strengthen your character with virtues like courage and perseverance. You'll also need special powers to help others, like justice and resourcefulness.

So what's your mission, exactly? It's up to you! You can

find ways to use your stealthy skills to help humanity. Maybe you'll explore a career in concocting ways to ease climate change. Or you could unravel mysteries of medicine to cure disease. Perhaps you'll craft music or drawings to lift people's spirits. Whatever you choose, start building your knowledge and toolkit now—from pursuing science savvy to creating amazing art. Let your imagination help to unlock the doors to your unique quest.

In a magical castle, help agents reach Purposeful Pillar. Each door, trap door, or stairway takes you to another of the same type and color. For example, a red door takes you to a red door on the other level.



“Ultimately, the power to transform the world is effected by love, love originating from the relationship with the divine... You are channels for this divine love; let it flow through you to all who cross your path.” –Bahá’í Writings



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