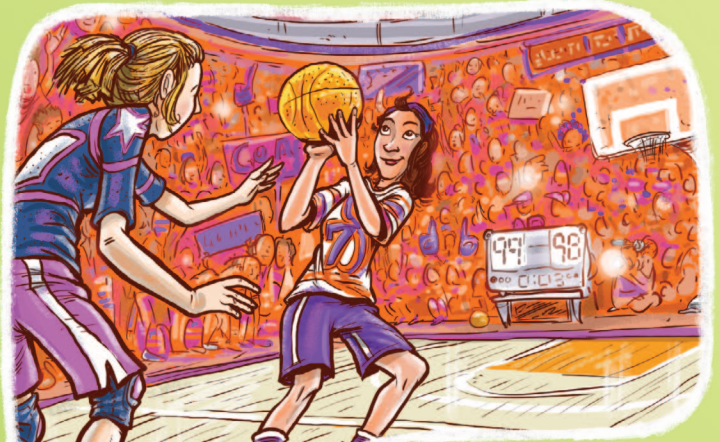


A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

# Brilliant Star

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

VOL. 46 / NO. 3



QUIZ: DO YOU EMPOWER OTHERS?

NOW SHOWING: YOUR LIFE



FINDING YOUR FUTURE

# Brilliant Star

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

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

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

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## DEAR FRIENDS,

If you could travel through time to your future, what would you want to see? A glimpse of your college graduation

or what you'll do in your career? Places you'll travel around the globe? All people on Earth living in unity?

Those things may be far away, but you can take steps *now* to make your dreams come true in the future. Think big, plan ahead, and take action to build a happy and productive life. You can help bring peace to the world.

In this issue, discover tips for setting goals, boosting curiosity, and exploring career paths. Take a quiz about how you empower others. Make a time capsule with your favorite stuff and ideas about the future. Create your own 3D glasses. And meet writer Nathan Alan Davis, who brings imaginative worlds to life.

No matter what the future holds, your strengths and talents will make it a great adventure.



LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ✨



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# Sweet Adventures

**A** box of candy is full of mystery—each piece can reveal a sweet surprise. Even if there's a flavor key, you may bite into a yummy-looking piece and find it doesn't thrill you, while another may dazzle your taste buds.

It's the same with life—you don't always know what you like until you try something new. Experiment with

activities, sports, clubs, and hobbies. Sign up for a class, try out for a team, or pick up a new instrument—the menu of options is limitless! Each day is an adventure when you set out with curiosity and an open mind.

When you discover something you love, savor it—and share it with a friend. Finding fresh ways to add joy to life is a real treat!

Fill in the missing letters to find flavors that help you explore life's tasty adventures.



1 CR\_A\_IV\_  
NUT CRUNCH

2 TR\_T\_F\_L  
TOFFEE

3 RES\_L\_EN\_  
ROCK CANDY

4 J\_\_FU\_  
JELLY BEANS

5 GR\_T\_FU\_  
GUMMY BEARS

6 A\_VENT\_RO\_S  
APPLE

7 CH\_\_RF\_L  
CHOCOLATE

8 F\_IE\_DLY  
FRUIT SNACKS

9 M\_N\_FUL  
MINTS

10 CU\_\_OU\_  
CARAMELS

11 P\_S\_T\_VE  
PRETZEL

12 TR\_ST\_\_G  
TWISTS

13 H\_P\_F\_L  
HEARTS

14 L\_ST\_NIN\_  
LOLLIPOP

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

## A Mysterious Tablet

### 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 22

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.

Imagine having a wish granted—before you even wish it! That happened to a man named Hájí Muhammad-Tahír.

Bahá'u'lláh taught peace and unity, but some religious and government officials felt threatened by His Bahá'í Faith. In 1868, they imprisoned Him in 'Akká (now in Israel). While He was there, the Hájí visited Him, traveling from Yazd, Persia (now Iran).

The Hájí met with Bahá'u'lláh every other day for nine months. He was so overwhelmed by Bahá'u'lláh's majesty that he could barely look at Him or speak a word. Once, when he gazed at Bahá'u'lláh's face, he was so awed that he spilled a cup of hot tea on himself without noticing it.

The Hájí wrote, "Whenever I came into the presence of the Blessed Beauty if there were anything I wanted to ask, I would say it by way of the heart and He would answer me invariably. I was so deeply impressed by His supreme power that I always sat in His presence spell-bound, oblivious of myself."

Hájí Muhammad-Tahír longed for a Tablet—or even a word—written in Bahá'u'lláh's own handwriting. But he did not request it. One day, Bahá'u'lláh told him that He *had* revealed a Tablet for him, but he would receive it in the future. Hájí Muhammad-Tahír was elated.

When he returned to Yazd, the Hájí taught many about the Bahá'í Faith. He was a brilliant speaker and knowledgeable about the Qur'án, the Bible, and other holy books. But officials did not

want him to spread Bahá'u'lláh's teachings. After some years, a death warrant was issued for the Hájí, and he decided to leave Yazd.



As the Hájí mounted his donkey in the dark of night, a devoted Bahá'í woman approached and handed him something. It was a Tablet in Bahá'u'lláh's handwriting! The woman had received it 24 years earlier, when Bahá'u'lláh was in Baghdád—long

before He was imprisoned in 'Akká. Bahá'u'lláh had said that its rightful owner would be known later. The woman knew in her heart that the Tablet was for the Hájí. He accepted it with deep joy. Bahá'u'lláh had written it when the Hájí was a child, before they had met in person!

Hájí Muhammad-Tahír was so inspired by Bahá'u'lláh that he shared the Bahá'í Faith with

hundreds of people. Though he was persecuted and imprisoned, he remained faithful until the end of his life, at age 100.



Hájí Muhammad-Tahír

# DO YOU EMPOWER OTHERS?

“They should see nothing but good in one another . . . and speak no word of one another save only to praise.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

**H**ave you ever felt down, and then gotten a lift from a friend’s cheerful words? Has a parent’s hug ever given you the confidence to take on a big challenge?

Words, actions, and body language can encourage others.

When you speak enthusiastically, do kind deeds, and show

people that you believe in them, you empower those around you. Helping friends find the courage and strength to persevere with their goals is a wonderful service. It doesn’t take much—a thoughtful word, a note of encouragement, or even a smile can give someone a boost. Who will *you* help empower today?

Circle your answer under each statement, then add up your points.

1 Do you speak in a kind, positive, upbeat tone?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

2 Are you welcoming to new people, even if they look, speak, or act differently from you?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

3 Do you consult with friends about activities you’ll do together?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

4 Do you use friendly body language by smiling and making eye contact when someone greets you?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



5 Do you cheer for your friends and give sincere compliments for their accomplishments or great ideas?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

6 Do you look for ways to be helpful to others?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

7 When a friend is working on a goal, do you give him or her positive encouragement?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

8 Do you listen carefully to others’ opinions instead of insisting that you’re right?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

9 When someone is facing a challenge, do you offer comfort and support?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

10 Do you stop when you catch yourself starting to criticize or complain about something?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

11 Do you smile and thank people who are helpful, such as a server in a restaurant or a librarian?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

12 Do you let your family and friends know you appreciate them?

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



## SCORING

**36–28 points:** You’re doing a *super* job of empowerment. You excel at sharing your confidence with others. Keep it up!

**27–20 points:** You have the power to uplift others! Have fun using it freely and often.

## MY TOTAL:

**19–12 points:** Your empowerment skills are just waiting to be released. Try some tips from the quiz to set them free.

# TRAVELING THROUGH TIME

If you could zip through time and see yourself 10 or 20 years from now, what would you like to discover? What goals do you want to accomplish? What exciting new technology do you think you'll find?

It would be fun to see if your predictions come true—and a time capsule can help you do just that!

Collect some of your favorite things, like photos of yourself and your family, artwork you've made, a current newspaper or magazine, and a toy you like. Decorate a sturdy box, and add a future date for opening your capsule. Then tuck it away for your adult self to find. It's the next best thing to a time machine!

Start your journey by completing this letter to your future self and putting it in your capsule. Happy traveling!



## TO MY FUTURE SELF

Hello, \_\_\_\_\_!

Today, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ years old, and I want you to remember what it's like to be me. Three words that describe me are \_\_\_\_\_.

Some of my favorite things to do are \_\_\_\_\_.

One of my best memories from the past year is \_\_\_\_\_.

Books I really like are \_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite songs are \_\_\_\_\_.

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

A prayer or quote that inspires me is \_\_\_\_\_.

When I grow up, I want to have a career as \_\_\_\_\_.

I'd like to live in \_\_\_\_\_.

Some cool things I expect to see by the time I read this letter are \_\_\_\_\_.

Some advice I'd like to give my future self is to always remember \_\_\_\_\_.

**W**hoosh. Zoom. In 3D art and movies, images seem to fly right at you. A fun way to make 3D art is with **anaglyph** images. Two overlapping pictures of the same subject are shown from slightly different angles. Often one is red and one is greenish-blue, or cyan. When you wear glasses with one cyan and one red lens, the brain merges these images to

create depth, or a 3D effect.

Just as 3D images show depth, we can look beyond the surface to see those around us. If we judge people based on their looks, we miss out on who they *truly* are. Strike up conversations and try asking questions like “What are your favorite things to do, and why?” Have fun looking for creative ways to deepen your friendships!

## Make 3D Glasses

## You'll Need

10" x 9" (25.4 x 22.9 cm) sheet poster paper • 3" (7.6 cm) square pieces of glossy transparent blue and red cellophane • clear tape • pencil • ruler • 2" (5.1 cm) round lid for tracing • scissors • hole punch • 2 pieces 16" (40.6 cm) ribbon • 8 ½" x 5 ½" (21.6 x 14 cm) sheets of white tracing, printer, and poster paper • black, red, and blue permanent markers (similar to cellophane colors)

- 1 For frame, fold large poster paper in half so long ends meet.



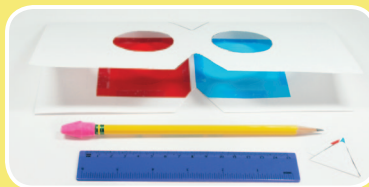
- 2 In center of frame, use pencil to trace around lid twice, leaving 1" (2.5 cm) between circles. Carefully cut out circles through both layers of paper.



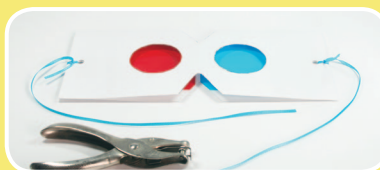
- 3 Open paper. Cover hole for left eye with red cellophane. Cover other hole with blue. Tape cellophane edges, avoiding holes. Close paper.



- 4 Along edges and between holes, draw 1¼" tall x 1½" wide (3.2 x 3.8 cm) cone shapes for nose bridges. Cut cones from both layers.



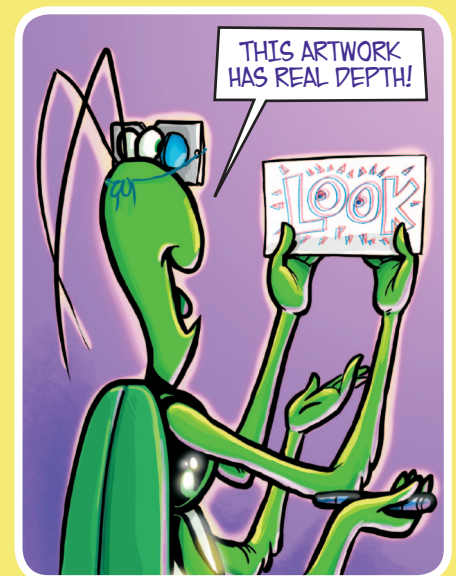
- 5 Punch holes through center of each side of frame. Thread a ribbon through holes on each side and tie a knot.



- 6 On printer paper, use pencil to write a name or word in bubble letters. Add simple designs. Trace lines with black marker. Place tracing paper exactly on top and trace image in red marker.



- 7 Move tracing paper up and right 1/8" (3 mm), away from bottom and left edges of printer paper. Retrace in blue marker. Put tracing paper on poster paper, tie on glasses (red lens over left eye), and see it in 3D!





## Who Will Fill the House?

## ¿Quién Llenará la Casa?



A hard-working farmer had three sons. The two older boys always bragged to the youngest about how much stronger and smarter they were. In time, when the boys grew up, their father built a new cabin with his own hands. He said to his sons, “Whoever can fill this house will be the one to own it.” The oldest son was sure he would win. He brought in a horse, a cow, two pigs, and a dozen chickens. But they only took up one corner of the cabin. The second son sneered, and brought in bale after bale after bale of hay. But they only filled half the house. It was the youngest son’s turn. He brought in a small box. His brothers laughed, but his father smiled. The boy took a single candle out of the box and lit it. Suddenly, the whole house was filled with a warm light. The youngest son earned the cabin, along with his brothers’ respect.

Un granjero trabajador tenía tres hijos. Los dos niños mayores siempre se jactaban ante el menor de lo fuertes y listos que eran. Pasó el tiempo, y cuando los muchachos crecieron, el papá construyó una nueva cabaña con sus propias manos. Les dijo a sus hijos, “El que pueda llenar esta casa será el dueño.” El hijo mayor estaba seguro que el ganaría. Metió un caballo, una vaca, dos cerdos, y una docena de gallinas. Pero solo llenaron una esquina de la cabaña. El segundo hijo hizo una risa burlona y empezó a meter un fardo de paja tras otro. Pero solo llenó la mitad de la casa. Era el turno del hijo menor. Trajo una caja pequeña. Sus hermanos empezaron a reír, pero el papá sonrió. El muchacho sacó una vela de la caja y la encendió. De repente, la casa entera se llenó de una cálida luz. El hijo menor se ganó la cabaña, al igual que el respeto de sus hermanos.



# RILEY'S RAINFOREST

“Send down... from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing...” –Bahá'u'lláh

## Finding Your Purpose

**H**ave you ever noticed that learning is more fun when it means something to you? Maybe you love your creative writing class because you want to have a career as an author. Perhaps your water filter science project was inspired by your goal to provide clean water to everyone. When you have a sense of purpose, you're inspired to use your talents and interests to help the world.

A purposeful mindset can help you persevere through tough challenges. One researcher says students with goals to help humanity tend to rate their schoolwork as more meaningful—maybe because they know *why* they're doing it.

Knowing your purpose can also make you happier. In one study of 1,200 youth, those with a clear sense of purpose had higher levels of gratitude, self-confidence, and optimism. Scientists say that those positive qualities can help prevent



depression and anxiety.

Purpose may even add years to your life! Studies show that adults who have focused and meaningful goals can live longer and healthier lives.

So how can you develop a sense of purpose? Pray and ask questions. What kind of a person do you want to be? How can you serve others? Where do you want your education to take you? Your purpose may change over time, as you find new passions and goals. Keep exploring ways to improve your skills and help our human family. You'll discover your purpose—and you *and* the world will be better for it.

## Explore & Soar: Searching for Meaning

**W**hat if you're struggling to find a sense of purpose? Figuring out what is meaningful to you can be like a treasure hunt. Here are some places to look for clues:

- ☐ Delve into the arts. Do you want to inspire people with music, painting, drama, or sculpture?
- ☐ Volunteer in your community. Maybe helping local people in need is your passion.
- ☐ Get out in nature. Our Earth could use some care. Is tending to the environment or its creatures your calling?
- ☐ Explore possible careers. Your interests might lead you to a fun and fulfilling job.
- ☐ Serve your faith. Worship, learning about God, and practicing His teachings are great ways to get clearer about your purpose.

## Curiosity Canopy



**T** rue or False? Youth in the U.S. think enjoying your work is more important than making a lot of money.

*True.* In one study, 75% of U.S. youth ages 16-25 said if you don't enjoy your work, you should change your job. Only 39% said the most important thing is to make as much money as possible.



# Big Doubts or Dazzling Dreams?

**"Work done in the spirit of service is the highest form of worship . . ." –'Abdu'l-Bahá**

**W**hen you imagine your future, how do you feel? Excited and hopeful? Nervous and unsure? Maybe you dream of being an astronaut, author, or architect. Or maybe you have no idea what kind of job you'd enjoy. Perhaps some careers sound fun, but you don't know what skills and education you'd need. It may seem like an impossible puzzle.

You can find career clues every day. What hobbies

and interests bring you joy? What talents come naturally to you? What are your favorite school subjects? How do you like to help others? Exploring careers that include these things can lead you to a job you'll love.

Your enthusiastic attitude makes a big difference. If you ever feel overwhelmed, talk to your parents, teachers, and friends. Your future can be anything you imagine!

**One of these kids has a bright attitude about the future, but the other struggles with doubts. Match each negative thought to the positive thought that can overcome it.**

1 HOW CAN I DECIDE WHAT I WANT TO BE? I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT IN A FEW YEARS.

2 I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO GO TO COLLEGE. IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE!

3 I'M NOT SMART ENOUGH TO GET INTO COLLEGE. MY GRADES ARE TERRIBLE.

4 SOME JOBS SOUND COOL, BUT WHAT IF I END UP NOT LIKING ANYTHING?

5 A JOB WITH MARINE LIFE SOUNDS FUN, BUT COLLEGE SEEMS TOO HARD.

6 I'D LOVE TO BE AN ARTIST, BUT THERE'S NO MONEY IN IT.

7 I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT ANYTHING, SO WHAT'S THE POINT?

8 THERE'S TOO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM. IT'S MIND-BOGGLING!

A I'M STILL FIGURING OUT MY STRENGTHS, BUT IF I WORK HARD, I CAN DO ANYTHING.

B STUDYING THE OCEAN IN COLLEGE WOULD BE AWESOME! IF IT'S TOUGH, I CAN ASK FOR HELP.

C SO MANY CHOICES! I'VE GOTTA TALK TO MY SCHOOL COUNSELOR!

D COLLEGE COSTS A LOT, BUT I'LL APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GET A JOB.

E IT'S FUN TO EXPLORE WHAT I WANT TO DO. I'LL START NOW!

F I WISH I HAD BETTER GRADES, BUT I'LL STUDY AND TRY HARDER.

G I'LL VISIT SOME WORKPLACES AND SEE IF JOBS ARE AS COOL AS THEY SOUND.

H THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO MAKE A LIVING IN THE ARTS.



# Arctic Explorers

“Let them welcome with confidence the challenges awaiting them . . . 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

Imagine trekking across the frozen Arctic Ocean in search of a spot never before reached—the North Pole. In the early 1900s, explorers raced across the dangerous and mysterious Arctic. It took careful planning to prepare supplies, assemble a team, and navigate on shifting sea ice. They faced frostbite, hunger, and isolation—but they persevered.

After many attempts, Robert Peary claimed to reach the North Pole in 1909, along with Matthew Henson, the

first African American to explore the region, and four Inuit people. Some experts believe they were 30–60 miles (48–97 km) away, but the feat was still impressive.

Your life is a voyage of discovery, too. You’re heading for new territory and exciting goals. As you map out your journey, you may face obstacles that chill your spirit, like challenges at school or with friends. But with optimism and confidence, you’ll conquer many frontiers. Who knows where your adventures may lead?

These Arctic explorers are preparing for a voyage across unknown territory. Find nine items for a courageous journey.



Bold Boots



Curious Compass



Diligent Diary



Flexible First Aid Kit



Grateful Goggles



Ice Axe of Initiative



Methodical Map



Self-Disciplined Sextant



Telescope of Teamwork

WINTER WEATHER AT THE NORTH POLE AVERAGES  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ )! IN THE SUMMER, IT'S A WARMER  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

MANY ARCTIC ANIMALS, LIKE FOXES, HARES, AND LEMMINGS, TURN WHITE IN THE WINTER, SO THEY CAN HIDE IN THE SNOW.





# 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?

### Ben K.

Age: 13

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

I want to be:

**An orthopedic surgeon**

This interests me because:  
**I like to help people, and I find bones interesting.**

Virtue I admire most:

**Honesty**

Hobbies or sports:

**Soccer and basketball**

Favorite animal or pet:

**Rabbit**

Places I'd love to visit:

**Hawaii and Australia**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

**Feasts, Junior Youth Groups, and Ruhi Books\***

I like to help people by:

**Making them laugh**

A talent I'd love to have:

**I would like to be a basketball prodigy.**

The coolest adventure I can imagine:

**Going around the world, in every single country. [I'd] take . . . picture[s] . . . of the famous building[s] or place[s] . . . and then make a scrapbook . . .**

If I could travel through time and see my future:  
**[I'd want to see] me being a professional basketball player or a successful orthopedic surgeon.**

What I can do every day to make the world better:

**Say a prayer for peace**



### Margot Z.

Age: 13

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

I want to be:

**I want to work with animals.**

This interests me because:

**I love animals and think they are interesting creatures.**

Virtue I admire most:

**Respect**

Hobbies or sports:

**Rowing, soccer, acting, singing**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

**Junior Youth Group and Green Acre [Bahá'í School in Maine, U.S.] programs**

Favorite animal or pet:

**My dog Fiona, and I love Australian Shepherds.**

I like to help people by:

**Making them happy**



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

A talent I'd love to have:  
**To be able to bake my grandma's cheesecake**

The coolest adventure I can imagine:  
**A trip around the world to see different cultures**

If I could travel through time and see my future:  
**I would want to see my high school graduation.**

What I can do every day to make the world better:  
**I can be kind and respectful every day.**



### Reema H.

Age: 12

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

I want to be:

**A graphic designer**

This interests me because:

**I like to be creative.**

Virtue I admire most:

**Patience**

Hobby or sport:

**Taekwondo**

A talent I'd love to have:

**To write without getting "writer's block" . . .**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Junior Youth Group studies and gatherings**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Haifa [Israel]**

The coolest adventure I can imagine:  
**[Going] inside one . . . of the Harry Potter books . . . I'd probably find a spell book and cast a majority of . . . the spells, just because I could.**

If I could travel through time and see my future:  
**I would want to see where I would live and what kind of job I would have. I would also want to meet my future self and see if I have changed at all.**

What I can do every day to make the world better:  
**Assist whoever needs help . . .**

## Javad H.

Age: 12

I live in:  
**Adelaide, South Australia**

I want to be:  
**An IT [Information Technology] technician**

This interests me because:  
**I am good at helping people with computer issues, and I find electronics fascinating.**

Virtue I admire most:  
**Complete patience**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Taekwondo, reading, playing the cello, art, and magic**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Doing service projects or helping host/participate in any Bahá'í event**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**A completely natural place with a waterfall**

A talent I'd love to have:  
**Being able to take any object around me and do a magic trick with it**

The coolest adventure I can imagine:  
**Looking for treasure in an ancient Egyptian tomb**

If I could travel through time and see my future:  
**[I'd want to see] me visiting my family and friends around the world.**

What I can do every day to make the world better:  
**Simply share a compliment**



**“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

## Amelia F.

Age: 10

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

I want to be:  
**A physical therapist**

This interests me because:  
**I want to help people feel better so that they can be active again.**

Virtue I admire most:  
**Kindness and trustworthiness**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Soccer, swimming, and skiing**

Favorite Bahá'í activity:  
**The drama part of children's classes**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Andorra, so that I can pioneer there\*\***

The coolest adventure I can imagine:  
**Being able to travel anywhere in the world with my friends and making new friends along the way**



Favorite animal or pet:  
**Dogs and dolphins**

I like to help people by:  
**Helping kids that need food and clothes**

A talent I'd love to have:  
**To ski black diamonds [advanced trails] because I would like to improve my skiing.**

If I could travel through time and see my future:  
**I would want to see everybody in the world helping each other.**

What I can do every day to make the world better:  
**I can clean up garbage around the neighborhood.**

## Amin Payam M.

Age: 10

I live in: **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

I want to be:  
**An author**

This interests me because:  
**I love reading and writing books.**

Virtue I admire most:  
**Kindness and forgiveness**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Writing and reading stories, and basketball**

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

Favorite animal or pet:  
**Puppies and snakes**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Edirne in Turkey**

I like to help people by:  
**Making them feel happier when . . . sad**

A talent I'd love to have:  
**Drawing, because it relaxes me and it's fun.**

The coolest adventure I can imagine:  
**Diving in the sea with . . . sharks . . . finding treasure**

If I could travel through time and see my future:  
**[I'd want to see] if I will be a successful author**

What I can do every day to make the world better:  
**Write stories and think of useful inventions for the world**



## How to be a Radiant Star:

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

\* Nineteen Day Feasts are Bahá'í gatherings with prayers, consultation, and fellowship. Ruhi books are used in courses of spiritual study.

\*\* A pioneer is a Bahá'í who moves to another place to live and share the Bahá'í Faith.



BAXTER AND BRIDGET

# LIGHTNING & LUNA

## DIGGING DEEP

#63



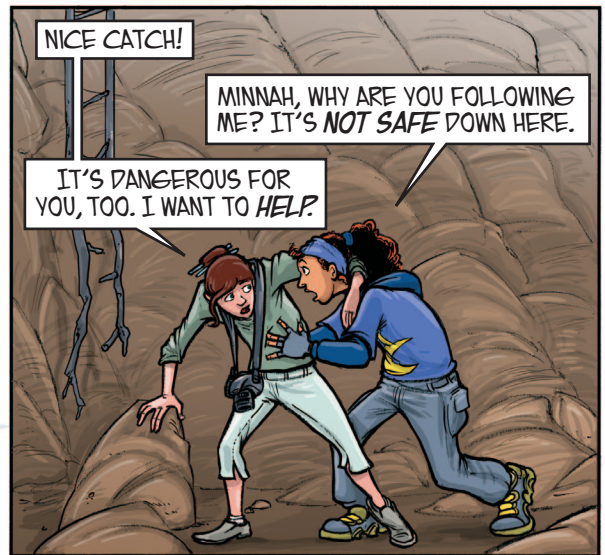
AT AN ENTRANCE TO THE CAVES ...

AAHHH!



OOOF!

GOTCHA!



NICE CATCH!

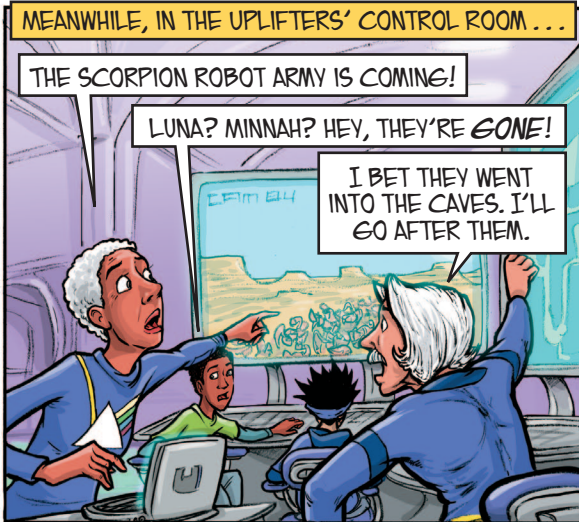
MINNAH, WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME? IT'S NOT SAFE DOWN HERE.

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU, TOO. I WANT TO HELP.



RUUUUMBLE

LOOK OUT!

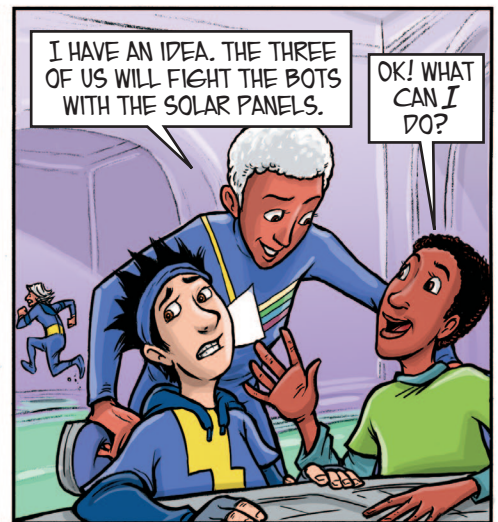


MEANWHILE, IN THE UPLIFTERS' CONTROL ROOM ...

THE SCORPION ROBOT ARMY IS COMING!

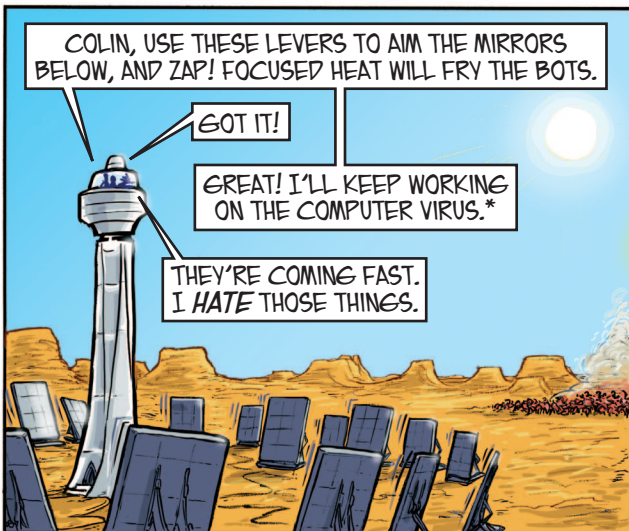
LUNA? MINNAH? HEY, THEY'RE GONE!

I BET THEY WENT INTO THE CAVES. I'LL GO AFTER THEM.



I HAVE AN IDEA. THE THREE OF US WILL FIGHT THE BOTS WITH THE SOLAR PANELS.

OK! WHAT CAN I DO?



COLIN, USE THESE LEVERS TO AIM THE MIRRORS BELOW, AND ZAP! FOCUSED HEAT WILL FRY THE BOTS.

GOT IT!

GREAT! I'LL KEEP WORKING ON THE COMPUTER VIRUS.\*

THEY'RE COMING FAST. I HATE THOSE THINGS.



WHAT IN THE WORLD?

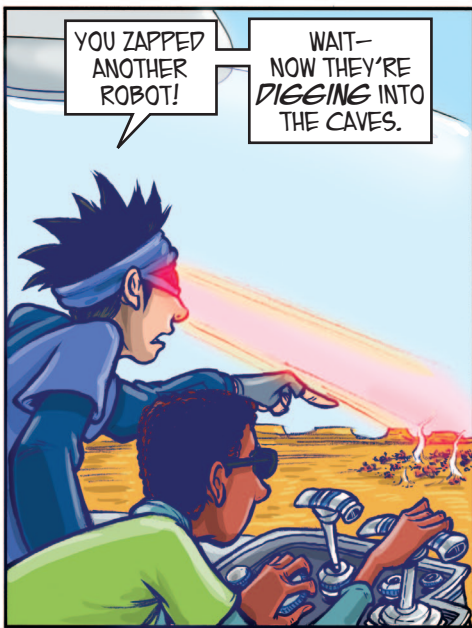
ZAAAAAP



WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE, OR WE'RE NEXT!

ZAAAP

\*See Episode #62, M/J 2014



YOU ZAPPED ANOTHER ROBOT!

WAIT— NOW THEY'RE DIGGING INTO THE CAVES.



OH NO! LUNA, GRANDPA, AND MINNAH WILL GET *AMBUSHED!* I—I HAVE TO STOP THE SCORPIONS.

OK, LIGHTNING. I'LL COVER YOU.



DEEP IN THE CAVES...

WAIT, THE SYMBOLS ARE... A MAP!



**RUUUMBLE**

UH, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.

BUT THESE SYMBOLS ARE LEADING US TO A HIDDEN CHAMBER!



A DEAD END. WE'RE TRAPPED!

THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO!

NO, WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING.



I NEED TO GET PAST THESE ROCKS. THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

"O GOD, GUIDE ME..."



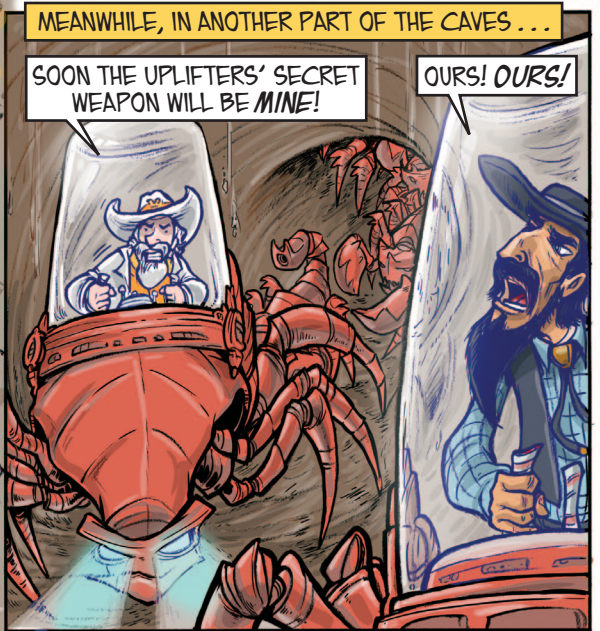
WE CAN... DO... THIS...

C-CAREFUL IN THERE!



**RRRUUUMBLE**

LUNA! NOOO!



MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CAVES...

SOON THE UPLIFTERS' SECRET WEAPON WILL BE MINE!

OURS! OURS!

# NOW SHOWING: YOUR LIFE

**L**ights, camera, action! In the movie of your life, you're the screenwriter, actor, and director, all rolled into one. Your choices help shape the kind of movie you make. Is it an animated adventure? A documentary about space exploration? Or a story of an athlete who struggles, but rises to the top?



All around you are opportunities to make your movie what you want it to be. Your education and goals will play a big role. It may be years before you begin your career, but you can start thinking, exploring, and planning now. It's rewarding to build a fun career that makes you feel good about helping the world. Try out this quiz and see what it says about your personal movie.

## QUIZ: REHEARSING FOR SUCCESS

For each question, select the answer that's closest to your interests.

- Your idea of a fun service project is ...
  - Performing at a charity event
  - Joining a walk or run for an important cause
  - Finding new ways your school can recycle and save energy
  - Tutoring younger kids with their homework
- An accomplishment you'd be most proud of is ...
  - Winning an art or writing contest
  - Scoring the winning points in a championship game
  - Earning the grand prize at the science fair
  - Helping to build a home for a family in need
- An article you might write for the school website would be ...
  - A review of a book or art exhibit
  - A piece about the swim team's recent win
  - News about space, science, or Earth-saving technology
  - Tips for solving conflicts with friends
- When you have free time, you're more likely to ...
  - Draw or write in your journal
  - Play sports or enjoy nature
  - Try out a science experiment
  - Visit a friend who's feeling down
- If you started a club, it would be for ...
  - Drama, art, or poetry
  - Biking or running
  - Science or computers
  - Service projects to help your community
- You have the most fun in ...
  - Art or music class
  - Physical education class
  - Math or science class
  - Social studies class
- Your idea of the perfect field trip is ...
  - Going to an art museum or bookstore
  - Touring a professional sports stadium
  - Studying birds and trees at a nature reserve
  - Cheering up kids at the children's hospital
- At your school festival, you'd rather ...
  - Create posters
  - Run the basketball-shooting game
  - Set up the equipment
  - Greet volunteers and give them snacks
- If you started a business, it would be ...
  - An art supplies store or photography studio
  - A fitness center or sporting goods store
  - A computer service business or garden center
  - A clinic for the poor or a community center



## SCORING

Take a look at your answers, and see which letter you circled most often. If you answered:

- Mostly A's = Your movie is an **Artistic Achievement**
- Mostly B's = Your movie is a **Sporty Success**
- Mostly C's = Your movie is a **Scientific Smash**
- Mostly D's = Your movie is a **Humanitarian Hit**

### Artistic Achievement

Actor  
 Animator  
 Architect  
 Choreographer  
 Film director  
 Graphic designer  
 Illustrator  
 Music producer  
 Social media writer  
 Photographer

Or \_\_\_\_\_

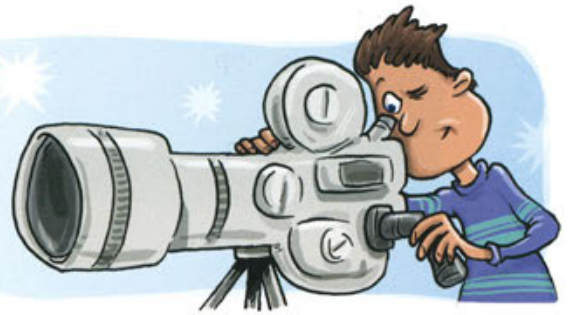
### Sporty Success

Athletic trainer  
 Coach  
 College athletic director  
 Fitness instructor  
 P.E. teacher  
 Physical therapist  
 Sports agent  
 Sportscaster  
 Team manager  
 Umpire or referee

Or \_\_\_\_\_

## SETTING THE SCENE

Once you have ideas about the kind of movie you want to make, think about details. Check out the careers below and circle ones that interest you. Write in your own ideas, too. These are just a start—the list of possibilities goes on and on. Your dream job may combine two or more fields. Or, you may invent something entirely new!



### Scientific Smash

Accountant  
 Biochemist  
 Environmental scientist  
 Financial advisor  
 Marine biologist  
 Medical scientist  
 Pharmacist  
 Robotics engineer  
 Software developer  
 Veterinarian

Or \_\_\_\_\_

### Humanitarian Hit

Civil rights lawyer  
 Doctor  
 Emergency med tech  
 Firefighter  
 International aid worker  
 Language interpreter  
 Nurse  
 School psychologist  
 Social worker  
 Teacher

Or \_\_\_\_\_



## A MOVIE ABOUT ME

Fill in the blanks to start on your personal script.

Stars \_\_\_\_\_, as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ with a passion for

your name

your career

\_\_\_\_\_. In the movie, my goal is to \_\_\_\_\_

subject or field you love

your most ambitious goal

\_\_\_\_\_. I like to help others by \_\_\_\_\_

something helpful you would often do in your work

One sign of success will be \_\_\_\_\_

the most positive, exciting result of your efforts

# Nathan Alan Davis



"E"verywhere." That's where playwright Nathan Alan Davis seeks creative inspiration. He says, "I look to what's going on around me, my own family. How do they think? . . . What do they care about?"

Nathan's passion for writing and theater was ignited in middle school, when he helped write a script, design costumes and sets, and act in a version of J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. He went on to earn a degree in acting from the University of Illinois. After performing with theater companies, he got a master's degree in playwriting from Indiana University. He's now studying at the prestigious Juilliard School in New York City. One of his plays, *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea*, has played in several theaters across the U.S., and it won an award from the American Theatre Critics Association. Nathan lives with his wife, Liz, and their three daughters in New York.

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

A: Just being by myself and making up stories in my mind . . . giving a toy a voice and a sort of character, and just having all the time in the world to myself to do that.

**Q: What was the most challenging experience for you when you were a kid, and how did you handle it?**

A: The hardest thing for me as a kid was wanting to be perfect, wanting to do everything right . . . I would feel guilty, or I would feel sad if I wasn't able to do [things] . . . what I thought was perfectly . . . If you're sort of a perfectionist, it also means that you have high standards . . . And so I think that it's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just a challenge if you have that sort of personality.



Left: Nathan, age 9, with his sister, Bahiyyih, and parents, Sharon and George, in Rockford, Illinois.

Right: Nathan, age 10, loved creating stories and characters as a kid.

**Q: How did your parents encourage you in your career?**

A: They are both artists themselves. My father is an actor, and my mother is a writer and a mime . . . They made it very clear that they wanted me to do . . . whatever path of service seemed right for me . . . It takes a lot of emotional vulnerability to be an artist. And so you do have to have support, a support network. And my family is definitely that for me . . . Not only artists need that. Every person needs that.

**Q: You're at Julliard, a world famous university, in a program that only accepts four or five writers yearly. What was being accepted like?**

A: It was really, really great . . . also a little scary, because [we] had to move to New York City . . . As exciting as it was to get in, that wears off really quickly, because then you have work to do . . . It's made me . . . realize just how . . . beautiful but also how difficult life is . . . There's no one solution . . . other than [to] keep doing your work, and keep serving and keep growing.

Questions and  
Answers with an  
Inspirational Bahá'í



Above: The cast of *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* performed in Washington, D.C., in June 2014.



Left: Nathan gets creative inspiration from his wife, Liz, and their three daughters, Olivia, Eleanor, and Elsie.

**Q:** What advice do you have for kids who want to be writers?

**A:** Read a lot of different things . . . Being able to take in different kinds of stories and understand different cultures and . . . people is really important. I think the more you read, the better you'll eventually be able to write . . . Just having fun and letting your imagination take you wherever it wants to go.

**Q:** What are important life skills for kids to have today?

**A:** One . . . is perseverance . . . the ability to work through difficulty, because that's going to happen . . . Empathy is extremely important. And it's especially important for writers, because you have to be able to understand where different people are coming from . . . And then . . . a sense of humor.

**Q:** This issue of *Brilliant Star* is about finding our life's purpose. Do you have any thoughts about ways to find your purpose?

**A:** I think you find your purpose by what you love. So I think you have to listen to your heart and listen to what are those things that make you feel really happy or the things that make you feel really sad. You know, if it's something that really bothers you, whether it's about the world or about the way somebody treats somebody else . . . [it] could be part of your purpose . . . to find a way to rectify that . . .

**Q:** You note that your African and Western heritage are both essential to your work as a playwright. How so?

**A:** When you're a writer, who you are as a person . . . is your main source of material. And so you have to . . . embrace who you are. And I would say that being mixed race and living in America, I have often felt maybe a little bit like I'm on the outside looking in . . . People wouldn't know how to categorize me . . . This can be difficult, because sometimes you don't feel like you fit in or you don't feel like you belong. But it can also be really great, because in the end, no person fits into a category . . . In some ways, it's an advantage . . . to be different . . . It makes you question the way things are.

**Q:** If you had one wish for *Brilliant Star's* readers, what would it be?

**A:** The biggest thing that I wish for is courage . . . Being a kid is not easy, and sometimes people overlook how hard it can be. You need the courage to stand up for yourself and . . . whatever challenges you have in front of you.



# MUSIC CAFÉ

“Music, sung or played, is spiritual food for soul and heart.” –Bahá’í Writings

YUM! WE JUST DUG UP FRESH CARROTS FROM OUR GARDEN BEHIND THE MUSIC CAFÉ.

SO COOL THAT TINY SEEDS GROW INTO CRUNCHY GOODNESS. MY GARDEN REMINDS ME TO WORK ON MY TALENTS SO THEY GROW INTO AWESOME SKILLS SOMEDAY. I LOVE WATCHING THINGS WHEN THEY ...

## BLOOM By Kira Willey

Verse 1, 2, 3

You start with a seed deep in the ground You pat pat pat the dirt down You dig a new hole, sprin- kle the rest

in low til there's no more in your hand Bah dah dah dah Bah dah dah dah dah dah dah dah

D.S. al Coda

Chorus

You give them a drink Eve-ry-thing's in bloom Eve-ry-thing's in bloo - m All be-cause of you

Eve- ry- thing's in bloo - m Bah dah dah da - h Bah dah dah dah dah dah dah da - h Hap - pi-ness

2

Bridge

dah Dah dah dah dah Oo oo oo oo ah ah Oo oo oo All the world is full of seeds

for you Show us all what you can grow

3.

dah Dah dah dah dah Oo oo oo oo ah ah Oo ah

1. To verse three D.S. al Coda

Break To

D/F# 4 times

1.2.3. 4.

### VERSE 2

You give them a drink  
 You close up the garden gate  
 You check three times a day  
 You hope for the sun  
 You wait for the rain to fall  
 You let mama nature work

### CHORUS

### VERSE 3

Happiness is  
 Being out in the garden with  
 The warm air on your skin  
 Smellin' the earth  
 Sayin' hi to the worms  
 Bright colors all around you

### CHORUS

### BRIDGE

### INSTRUMENTAL BREAK

### CHORUS/Ooo-ooos



# Vision of Hope

“With eyes of faith look into the future, for in truth the Spirit of God is working in your midst.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

**D**o you ever wonder what the future holds for humanity? Will we make life-saving breakthroughs in science and technology? Or will global challenges such as poverty, prejudice, war, and injustice bring us down?

The Bahá’í Faith offers a hopeful vision for our human family. We’re gradually moving toward a united planet. Peace will be achieved someday. But just as it’s messy to build a house, building a new world isn’t easy. It takes time and perseverance.

Imagine life on Earth when everyone’s basic needs are met, all people are educated, and all leaders work for justice. You can help create that future by praying and showing love and compassion in your home, school, and community. When we all work together, the human race will shine!

Find the words that will help make humanity’s future bright.

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

- COMPASSION
- ECONOMIC JUSTICE
- EDUCATION
- EQUALITY
- FRIENDSHIP
- HOPE
- JUSTICE
- LOVE
- ONENESS
- RACE UNITY
- RESPECT
- SERVICE
- SPIRITUALITY
- SUSTAINABILITY
- TRUSTWORTHINESS
- WORLD PEACE





"If we ponder each created thing, we shall witness a myriad perfect wisdoms and learn a myriad new and wondrous truths." —Bahá'u'lláh

I WONDER WHY SOME BIRDS FLY IN A V SHAPE?



## CURIOSITY CHALLENGE

I've always been super curious, especially about the mysteries of science and nature.

I love to explore, observe, and figure things out. How does a baby bird learn to fly? Why do they travel in the winter? Why can't penguins fly?

You know, when we're curious, we have more brain activity. We solve problems better, and we're more likely to try new things. My friends and I are giving our curiosity a workout with this fun challenge. Try it with *your* friends!

## TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

See how many curiosity builders you and your friends can do in two weeks. Add your own ideas.

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Build a sculpture, catapult, or robot from recyclable materials.
- Write a letter to yourself from your favorite fictional character.
- Find the names of five trees or birds in your neighborhood.
- Ask a friend questions until you learn something new about him or her.
- Taste a food you've never tried before.
- Take a photo of the same spot outdoors at different times every day for a week. What do you notice?
- Draw a star pattern you can see near your home, and give it a fun name.
- Make a list of 10 places you want to visit. Find out more about each one.
- Play a song and paint or draw how it makes you feel.
- Interview the oldest person you know. What's the coolest thing he or she ever did?
- Look for five new things on your next trip to school.
- Invent a new board game or sport with your friends.
- Research a cool subject. Share five fun facts with friends.
- Make a video of a science experiment and share it with others.
- Visit a new section of the library or bookstore.
- Go on a hike and explore nature with a magnifying glass. Sketch what you see.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Learn to say hello in six different languages.
- \_\_\_\_\_



# BLAST OFF TO NEW HORIZONS

**W**hat if you had a chance to build a city on another planet? It would take creativity and imagination to pull off such an expedition. You can think about your future in the same way—let your dreams soar and create a world that’s as unique as you are. The first step is to plan big! See yourself achieving your most exciting hopes. Then break your goals into smaller

steps you can take. You’re laying a foundation for a fulfilling life, brick by brick. Choose hobbies, clubs, and service projects that support your goals. Find friends who cheer you on. Keep in mind the strengths that will help you reach new heights of success. Teamwork, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude will give you a solid start and help you blast off to amazing new horizons.

- 1 Choose       S       that challenge and excite you, but don't seem impossible.
- 2       T       down your goals.
- 3 To reach your goals, make a list of smaller       P       and tackle them one at a time.
- 4 Set a       T       for finishing each step.
- 5 If you need more       I      , adjust the dates and keep working.
- 6       A       yourself being successful.
- 7 Find a role       L       who has done something you admire.
- 8 Keep a       O       attitude, even if some things don't work out.
- 9 Say       R       for help.
- 10 Ask for       E       from someone you trust and respect when you're stuck.
- 11 If you make a mistake, figure out what you can       A       from it for the next time.
- 12 Be       N       that you can achieve your goals, one step at a time.



Model by Jeremy Pane  
Photo by Rick Doering

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# SIGNS OF GUIDANCE

Discovering your life's purpose is a mysterious and exciting challenge. A powerful way to get help is to pray for God's assistance. Next, think about your interests and ideas, and ask for advice from parents, teachers, or others you trust. Then take action. You could join a club, do a service project, or find out

more about careers that interest you.

Pay attention to things that bring you joy. For example, you may feel happy when you're performing music or solving math problems. If you're not sure yet, don't worry—keep exploring! Try memorizing this prayer. Once you know it by heart, you'll have it with you when you need a little help.

READ THE PRAYER AND LOOK AT HOW THESE WORDS ARE USED.



O Thou kind Lord! Grant that this youth may attain unto that which is the highest aspiration of the holy ones. Endow him with the wings of Thy strengthening grace—wings of detachment and divine aid—that he may soar thereby into the atmosphere of Thy tender mercy, be able to partake of Thy celestial bestowals, may become a sign of divine guidance and a standard of the Concourse on high. Thou art the Potent, the Powerful, the Seeing, the Hearing. —'Abdu'l-Bahá

- |                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Attain            | A. Hope or desire                  |
| 2. Aspiration        | B. Freedom from the material world |
| 3. Endow             | C. Receive, have a share of        |
| 4. Detachment        | D. Reach or achieve                |
| 5. Partake           | E. Give, provide                   |
| 6. Celestial         | F. Souls in the spiritual world    |
| 7. Bestowals         | G. Strong, powerful                |
| 8. Standard          | H. Gifts, honors                   |
| 9. Concourse on high | I. Emblem or banner                |
| 10. Potent           | J. Relating to heaven              |



THEN DRAW A LINE FROM EACH WORD TO ITS MEANING.

# MAGIC MIRROR

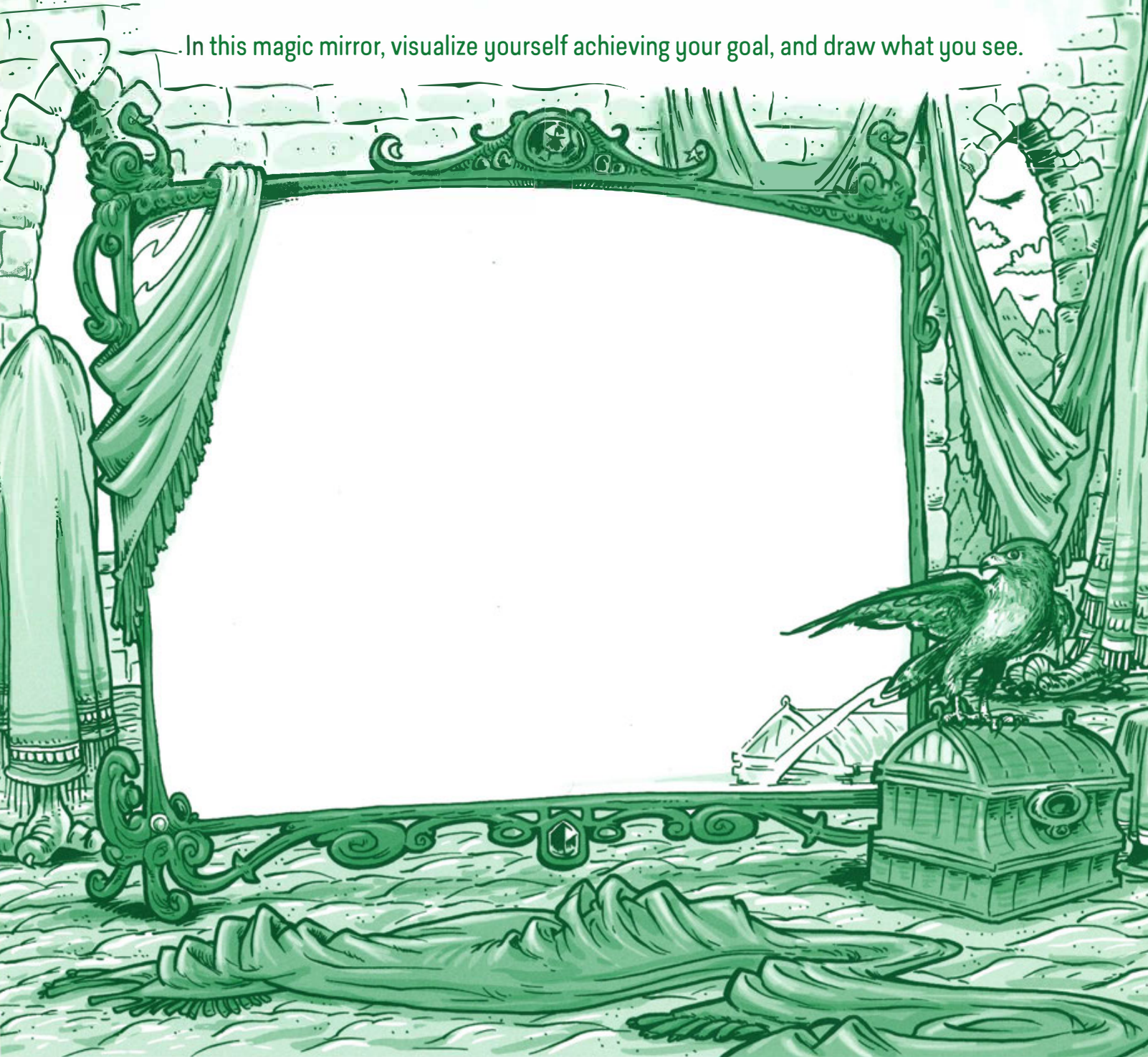
“We must strive with energies of heart, soul and mind to develop and manifest the perfections and virtues . . .” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

**W**hat do you dream of accomplishing soon? Maybe you want to learn a musical instrument and play your favorite songs. Maybe you’d love to get the lead role in the school play or become the best player on your team. No matter what your goals are, you’re more likely to succeed if you visualize yourself accomplishing them. Many people

use visualization to help them achieve their dreams.

Focus on one of your goals. Relax and imagine going through the steps to reach it. Think about actions you can take, things you might say, and people who could help. Imagine how amazing you’ll feel when you accomplish your goal. Now you’re really on your way!

In this magic mirror, visualize yourself achieving your goal, and draw what you see.



# SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

## Stanwood Cobb (1881–1982) Learning with Joy

By Gail Radley



**W**ith “an ample yard to play in . . . a delightful frogpond . . .” and plenty of trees to climb, Stanwood Cobb grew up in the countryside of Massachusetts. Born in 1881 into a family of seven kids, he spent hours canoeing, skating, and swimming. When he wasn’t taking long mountain hikes, he devoured books and learned Greek mythology and Latin from an older sister. He read the entire Bible at age 12. His passions for nature, learning, and faith would last a lifetime.

### Finding Faith and Joy

In college, Stanwood studied to be a Unitarian minister. In 1906, he visited what is now Green Acre Bahá'í School in Maine and learned of the Bahá'í Faith. He said, “within half an hour from that moment I became a confirmed Bahá'í . . .” Since the Faith has no ministers, Stanwood decided to be a teacher.

In 1907, his first job took him to the Middle East. There he met 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who led the worldwide Bahá'í community. Stanwood had been feeling depressed, but after a few private moments with 'Abdu'l-Bahá, his mood lifted. Stanwood wrote, “No matter how hard the going, I have always since then been glad to be alive.”

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá visited the U.S. in 1912, Stanwood saw him several times. In their final meeting, 'Abdu'l-Bahá hugged him and said three times, “Be on fire with the love of the Kingdom!” That fire ignited in Stanwood’s heart. He would never forget those words.

### Life Achievements

He met his wife, Nayan, in 1918, during another Green

Acre visit. “Her vital energy seemed to spark me,” Stanwood wrote. By this time, he had taught English and history at various schools. He disliked the state of most schools, although exciting new ideas were being discussed. School should be “alive and thrilling to [students’] intelligence” and help them feel “joyous,” he thought. Abolish the “strains of . . . tests,” treat “children as human beings.” Give them “longer recesses” and let them be outdoors!

One evening, he spent the night praying with a group of Bahá'ís. Suddenly, he felt inspired to bring educational reformers together to promote new teaching ideas. The result was the Progressive Education Association, founded in 1919. It encouraged letting students create, explore, and learn by doing. Stanwood considered it “the most important achievement of my life.”

That year, Stanwood and Nayan started the Chevy Chase Country Day School in Maryland. For 40 years, they taught kids, from toddlers to sixth grade. Many also went to their summer camp in Maine.

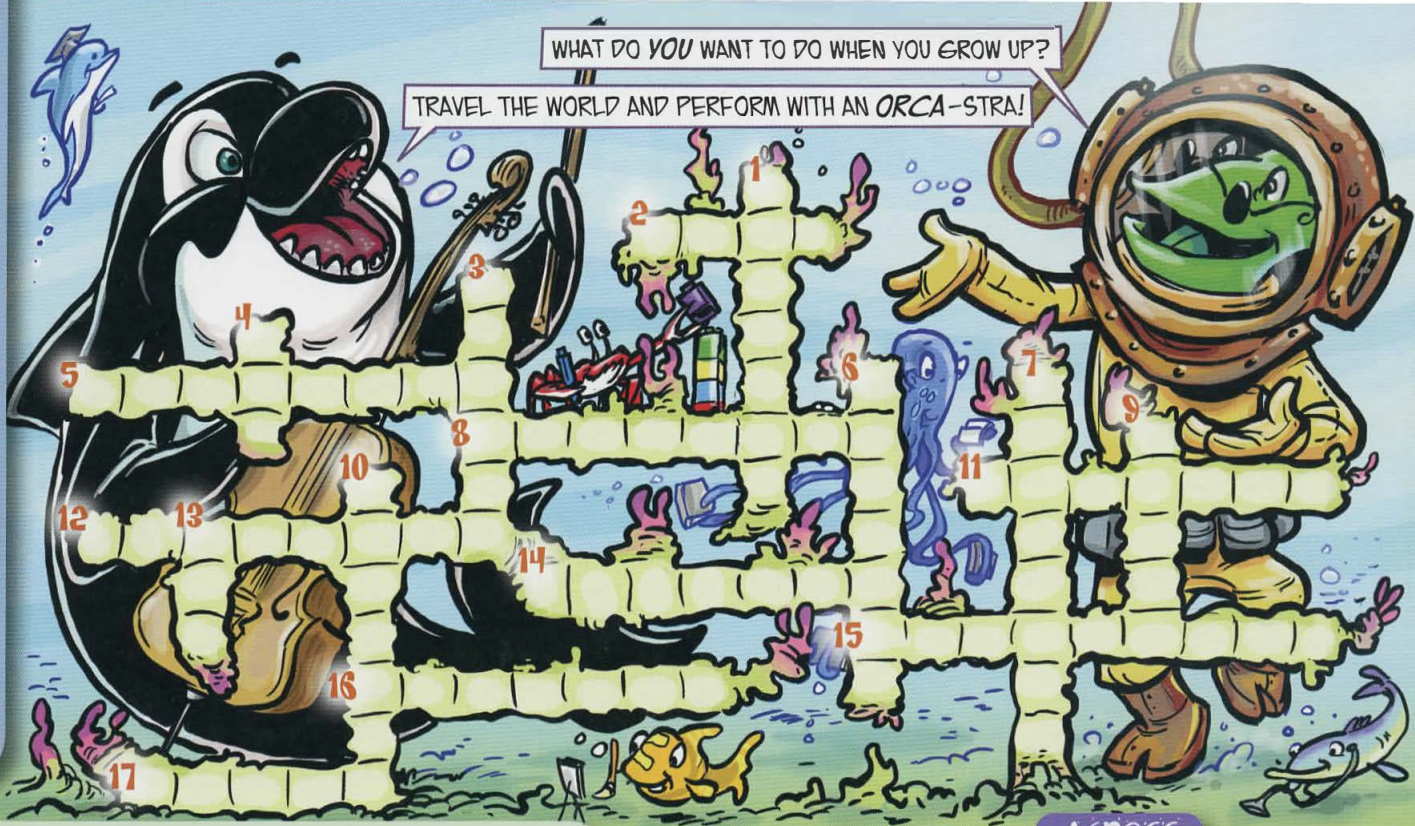
Stanwood wrote over 30 books on education, psychology, religion, and more. He became a Bahá'í leader in Washington, D.C. He helped to write and edit two Bahá'í magazines and often gave talks.

Everywhere, young people flocked to him, seeking his wisdom. They knew he believed in them and their power to help others. “May you be as eager-minded at 80 as you are at 18 . . .” he told them. “Let your years of life count something for humanity as a whole.”

Stanwood had fulfilled his dream of living a century when he died in 1982, at age 101.



Look for clues throughout the magazine.



DOWN

1. The Bahá'í Faith offers a \_\_\_\_\_ vision for our human family. (p. 21)
3. Many people use visualization to help them achieve their \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 25)
4. Luna realizes that the symbols in the cave are a \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 15)
6. The youngest son earned the cabin, along with his brothers' \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 7)
7. Stanwood Cobb said, "Let your years of life count something for \_\_\_\_\_ as a whole." (p. 26)
9. Choose hobbies, clubs, and service projects that support your \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 23)
10. Their dams and lodges are amazing feats of engineering and teamwork. (p. 29)
13. It may be years before you begin your career, but you can start thinking, exploring, and planning \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 16)

ACROSS

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is all over the universe. (p. 11)
5. Finding out what is meaningful to you can be like a \_\_\_\_\_ hunt. (p. 8)
8. Your enthusiastic \_\_\_\_\_ makes a big difference. (p. 9)
11. When you show people that you believe in them, you \_\_\_\_\_ those around you. (p. 4)
12. Amin and Amelia admire this virtue. (p. 13)
14. We can look beyond the \_\_\_\_\_ to see the people around us. (p. 6)
15. Each day is an adventure when you set out with \_\_\_\_\_ and an open mind. (p. 2)
16. Nathan Alan Davis thinks kids need skills of perseverance, \_\_\_\_\_, and a sense of humor. (p. 19)
17. Look for confirmations — \_\_\_\_\_ that you're headed in the right direction. (p. 24)

## FROM OUR MAILBOX



Brilliant Star is an empowering way to connect with other Bahá'ís around the world; I feel like I'm part of a community when I read it. It's hard here where I live, as I am one of two Bahá'í junior youth in the whole town, so I often feel isolated, but *Brilliant Star* gives me a boost; a sort of reason to keep going! There are bright plans for the future and things I can do right now to make a difference.

—Nadia B., age 13, British Columbia, Canada

## ANSWERS

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

Page 2: 1) Creative, 2) Truthful, 3) Resilient, 4) Joyful, 5) Grateful, 6) Adventurous, 7) Cheerful, 8) Friendly, 9) Mindful, 10) Curious, 11) Positive, 12) Trusting, 13) Hopeful, 14) Listening

Page 9: A) 7, B) 5, C) 8, D) 2, E) 1, F) 3, G) 4, H) 6

Page 10 – Boots at CR, compass at CR, diary at CL, first aid kit at BC, goggles at BL, ice axe at BC, map at CL, sextant at C, telescope at BC

Page 11: Arizona, U.S.; Komodo Dragon

Page 23: 1) goals, 2) Write, 3) steps, 4) date, 5) time, 6) Imagine, 7) model, 8) positive, 9) prayers, 10) advice, 11) learn, 12) confidence. 18 people

Page 24: 1) D, 2) A, 3) E, 4) B, 5) C, 6) J, 7) H, 8) I, 9) F, 10) G

Page 27: Blue at TL and TC, black and yellow at TL and CR, purple at TR and BL, purple and orange at BR and C, brown at BC and CL, gray and black at BC and BL, orange and black at BL and TR, yellow and gray caterpillar at CL and orange and gray butterfly at CR

# Eager Beavers

It's exciting to sink your teeth into a challenging new project. It can make you nervous, too. But with perseverance and patience, you may surprise yourself with what you can achieve.

In nature, beavers also show determination. Their dams and lodges are amazing feats of engineering and teamwork. Beavers cut down trees with their powerful teeth and drag them to build a dam in a waterway. They can see underwater with transparent

extra eyelids, and they can stay submerged for up to 15 minutes. Then, in the still water, they create a lodge of branches, mud, and rocks. One incredible lodge was 40 feet (12.2 m) wide! Underwater entrances lead to a safe, cozy home.

When you set goals, don't bite off more than you can chew, but don't water them down, either. Aim your sights high and have fun striving to build success.

Help this busy beaver bring a log to his family's lodge and join his siblings.

HOW DO BEAVERS CHECK THEIR E-MAIL?

THEY LOG IN!

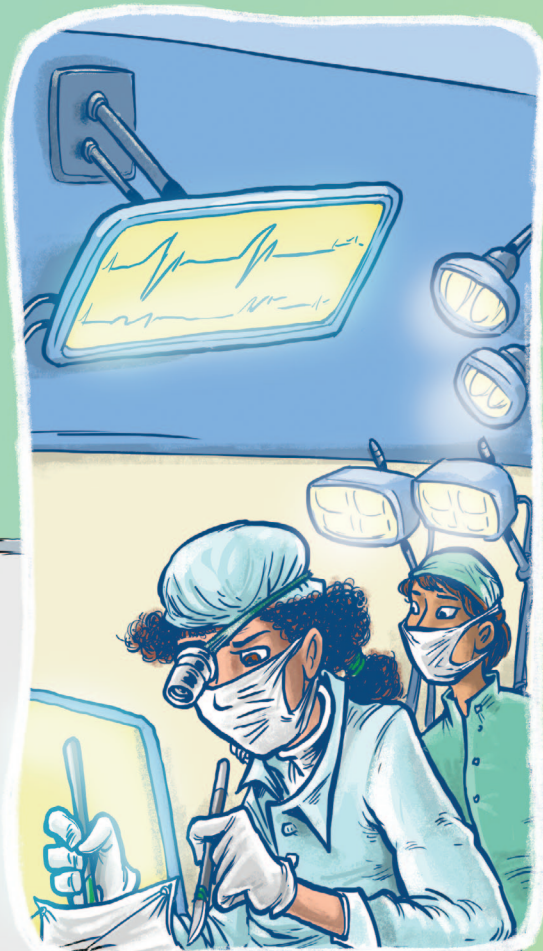
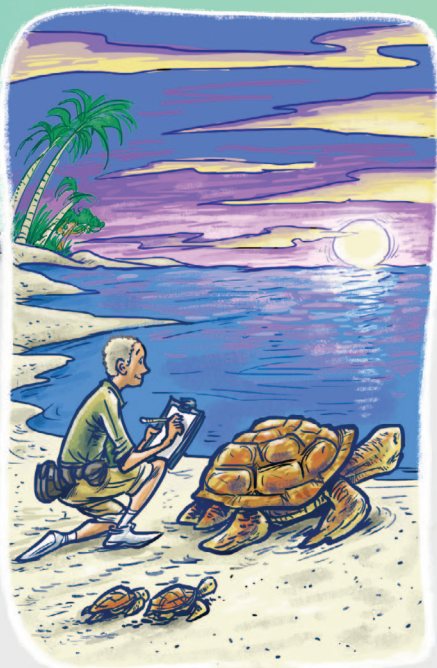
I MADE THIS MINI-MAZE. CAN YOU GET TO THE MIDDLE?

START HERE!

Family Lodge

“With clear vision we are enabled to struggle onward  
and upward, ever progressing in the paths of virtue . . .  
and becoming the means of light to the world.”

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá



## Brilliant Star

Finding Your Future

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