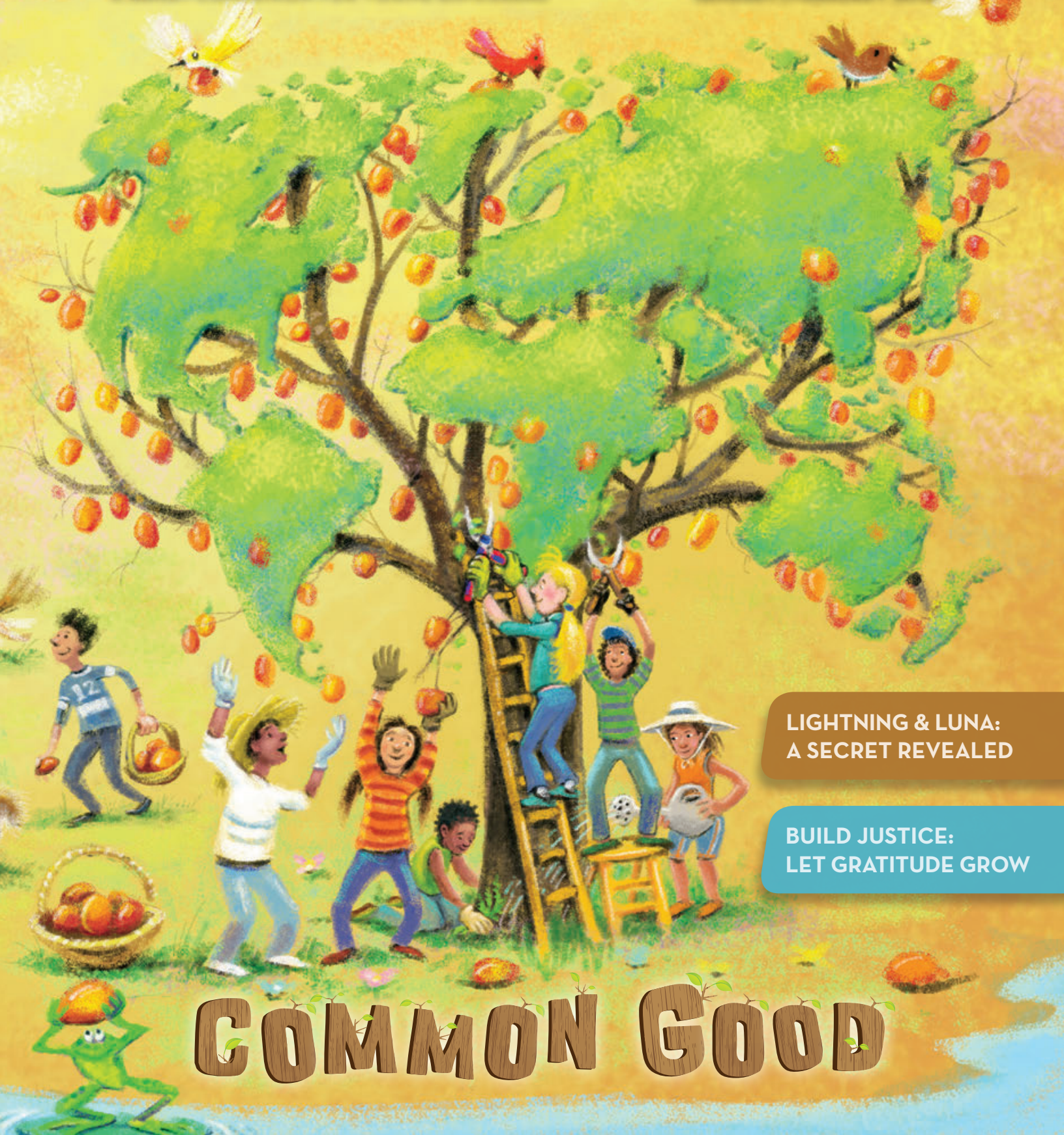


Brilliant Star

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014



**LIGHTNING & LUNA:
A SECRET REVEALED**

**BUILD JUSTICE:
LET GRATITUDE GROW**

COMMON GOOD

Brilliant Star

BAHÁ'Í NATIONAL CENTER

1233 Central Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201 U.S.

847.853.2354 ★ brilliant@usbn.org

Subscriptions: 1.800.999.9019

www.brilliantstarmagazine.org

Published bimonthly by the

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States

Amethel Parel-Sewell EDITOR/CREATIVE DIRECTOR

C. Aaron Kreader DESIGNER/ILLUSTRATOR

Amy Renshaw SENIOR EDITOR

Susan Engle ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Annie Reneau ASSISTANT EDITOR

Foad Ghorbani PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

MANY THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS:

Kia Bagha • Jander Black • Lisa Blecker • Beth Blenz-Clucas
Navah Eshraghi • Annie Leonard • Gabe Maldonado
Doug Marshall • Luvuyo Matolo • Farshid Mazloom
Kai McClelland • Donna Price • Gail Radley • Brady Rymer
Dr. Stephen Scotti • David Smith • Enola Talbert
Dr. June Manning Thomas • Austin Thomason • Bill Walker

ART AND PHOTO CREDITS

Original illustrations by C. Aaron Kreader, unless noted

By Lisa Blecker: Photos for pp. 6, 16; Coloring for p. 7

By Foad Ghorbani: Art for pp. 9, 24, 25, 27

Historical photos courtesy National Bahá'í Archives, unless noted

STORY AND ACTIVITY CREDITS

By Amy Renshaw: 2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 29

By Susan Engle: 12, 18, 20, 23

By Annie Reneau: 3, 5, 8, 9, 22

By Lisa Blecker: 6, 16

By Donna Price: 7, 11, 14, 27

SUBSCRIPTION RATES AND RENEWALS

To order or renew a subscription, contact Bahá'í Subscriber Service:

Toll-free: 1.800.999.9019 / E-mail: subscription@usbn.org

Standard U.S. rates: \$18 (One year); \$32 (Two years)

International airmail: \$38 (One year); \$68 (Two years)

Canada and Mexico: \$28 (One year); \$48 (Two years)

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome submissions and ideas from contributors of all ages.

Contact us for editorial themes or submission guidelines.

RIGHTS, PERMISSIONS AND CLASS USE

All content in this magazine is copyrighted by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S. or by individual contributors. For permission to copy or translate material, contact: *Rights and Permissions*, **Brilliant Star**, 1233 Central St., Evanston, IL 60201. Teachers may photocopy pages in limited quantities for classroom use. "Brilliant Star" and issue date must be present on all copies, and proper credit given to the copyright owner.

INTERNET RESOURCES AND INTERNET SAFETY

When Internet resources are provided as references, we make every effort to choose reliable websites, but we do not endorse or account for all content in these websites. We urge caution and parental guidance when using the Internet. For more information about Internet safety, visit www.wiredsafety.org

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.

WHAT'S INSIDE COMMON GOOD

FAVORITE FEATURES



Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

His refreshing influence transformed 'Akká.



Nur's Nook

Make a piggy bank to bring creativity to your coins.



Riley's Rainforest

The secret of happiness



We Are One

Explore and care for the place we all call home.



Radiant Stars

Get to know kids who shine, like you.



Lightning & Luna: Episode 60

Grandma and Grandpa reveal a secret.



Maya's Mysteries

Create a kite and soar through challenges.



Stargazer: Dr. June Manning Thomas

What makes her passionate about city life?



Treble Chef's Music Café

Fill your heart up with song.



Shining Lamp: William Henry "Harry" Randall

Sharing his wealth brought him joy.



Cosmo's Corner

A crossword and more from our favorite chameleon



aMAZEing ADVENTURE

Discover the message in the magical books.

NEW DESTINATIONS

2

Jungle Generosity

Find the compassionate capuchin monkeys.

4

Need It or Want It?

Discover the difference.

5

Tree of Thanks

Draw the gifts in your life and let gratitude grow.

7

Learning to Lead

Hear ye, hear ye! Hints for a happy kingdom

9

Seeds of Change

Quiz yourself on challenges around the world.

10

Goal for the Global Team

When we cooperate, everyone wins.

17

Growing a Better World

What secrets do the rice grains hold for the future?

21

Materialistic Monster Mayhem

Choosing moderation over madness

22

'Abdu'l-Bahá's Love for the Poor

In the coins, find clues about how to care for others.

23

Good Sea-tizens

Using virtues leads to smooth sailing.

24

Sujan's Gifts

Can one person make a difference?

27

Hoshi's Adventures: Cool Currency

What do salt, shells, and whale teeth have in common?



DEAR FRIENDS,

We all need some essential stuff: food, water, clothes, a home.

Other things can bring us joy:

books, toys, bikes, cookies. But how do

we decide how much is enough? How do we know when we're *too* focused on stuff? And how do we help millions of people who don't even have the basics?

Creating economic justice around the world is a mind-boggling puzzle. We have one Earth, and we need to share our resources fairly. Many people are working on solutions. The best ones involve compassion, consultation, and innovation—and lots of love.

In this issue, help figure out the puzzle. Create a cool piggy bank for saving money to donate. Identify what you *need* versus what you *want*. Quiz yourself on challenges we face as a global family. Read a folktale about the power of giving. And meet Dr. June M. Thomas, who trains students to help cities solve big problems.

Talk to your family and friends about how to be part of the solution. Working together, we *can* build a better world—one piece at a time.

With love from **Brilliant Star**



PRINTED IN THE U.S. ON AN FSC®-PAPER

Jungle Generosity

Some of the coolest creatures to swing through Peru's Amazon rainforest are the capuchin monkeys. They're known for being smart and curious. Some choose the best stones and use them as tools for cracking open tough palm nuts to eat.

Capuchins use their smarts to help each other, too. In one study of their behavior, they were paired up and offered food. A monkey could choose a slice of apple just for itself—

or it could choose to reward itself *and* its partner. Most often, the monkeys chose treats for two.

Acting with others in mind is best for all creatures, including people. For a peaceful planet, our entire human family needs access to food, water, shelter, education, and other essentials. All living things are connected—and we have one Earth to share. We can discover a lot of wisdom in the wilderness.

Find 19 capuchin monkeys in the Peruvian rainforest.

FOR THEIR
BODY SIZE,

CAPUCHIN MONKEYS
HAVE ONE OF
THE LARGEST
PRIMATE BRAINS.



Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Water Wisdom

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

Can you imagine living without clean water?

In 1868, Bahá'u'lláh arrived in the prison-city of 'Akká (in what is now Israel). He'd committed no crime, but the Turkish sultán (king) imprisoned Him in an attempt to stop His Bahá'í teachings.

'Akká was a dreadful place. Bahá'u'lláh said it was described as "the most desolate of the cities of the world, the most unsightly of them in appearance, the most detestable in climate, and the foulest in water." It was said that a bird flying over it would fall dead from the stench!

At first, the people of 'Akká treated Bahá'u'lláh and the Bahá'ís badly. But in time, Bahá'u'lláh's innocence became clear. High-ranking people sought His wise advice. Even the governor became His admirer.



This aqueduct outside of 'Akká was repaired at Bahá'u'lláh's request. An aqueduct is a bridge-like structure that carries water to an area.

One day, the governor asked Bahá'u'lláh what he could do for Him. Bahá'u'lláh asked nothing for Himself, but requested that the town's broken aqueduct be repaired, to bring fresh water to the people.

The governor immediately agreed to His request. When the aqueduct was finished and clean water started flowing, the people of 'Akká rejoiced.

How much do you know about water in our world? Take this quiz to find out.



In India (top), half of the rural water supply is unsafe to drink. Drought and tribal conflict make water difficult to obtain in Ethiopia (bottom).

1. About 78 million people around the world don't have access to safe, clean drinking water.

TRUE • FALSE

2. The average distance women in Asia and Africa walk to collect water is 3.7 miles (6 km).

TRUE • FALSE

3. 60% of the world's population lives on the driest half of the planet.

TRUE • FALSE

4. 97% of Earth's water is too salty to drink safely.

TRUE • FALSE

5. About 4,000 kids die every day from illnesses caused by unsafe water.

TRUE • FALSE

ANSWERS: 1) False. It's actually about 780 million. 2) True. 3) False. It's 85% of the population. 4) True. Drinking too much salt water can be deadly. 5) True.

NEED It or WANT It?

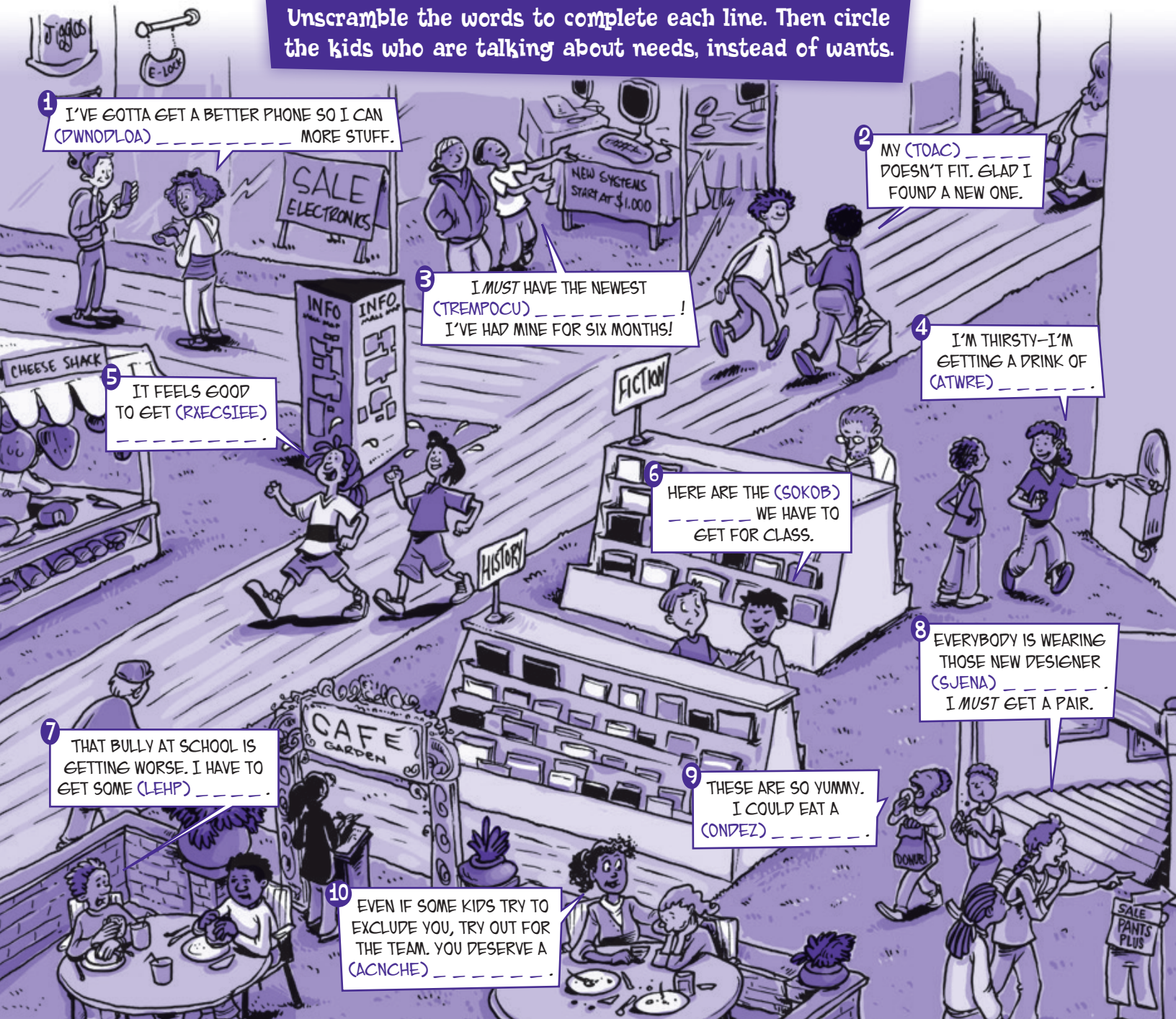
When we use the words “want” and “need,” it’s easy to mix up their meanings. A **need** is something that’s essential for you to be healthy, safe, educated, or treated fairly. A **want** is something you’d like, but you can live without it.

Sometimes advertisers make new gadgets or clothes look so exciting, you feel like you really need them to survive. But with careful thought, you can tell the difference between needs and wants. You

might decide to go ahead and buy a new game you want, if you think it’s worth the price. Or maybe you’ll save your money or donate some to charity.

When you can tell the difference between wants and needs, it’s easier to make tough decisions about money and stuff. You know that having cool stuff can be fun or helpful, but it’s not the most important thing in life. Your family, friends, and spirit are your true wealth.

Unscramble the words to complete each line. Then circle the kids who are talking about needs, instead of wants.



TREE OF THANKS

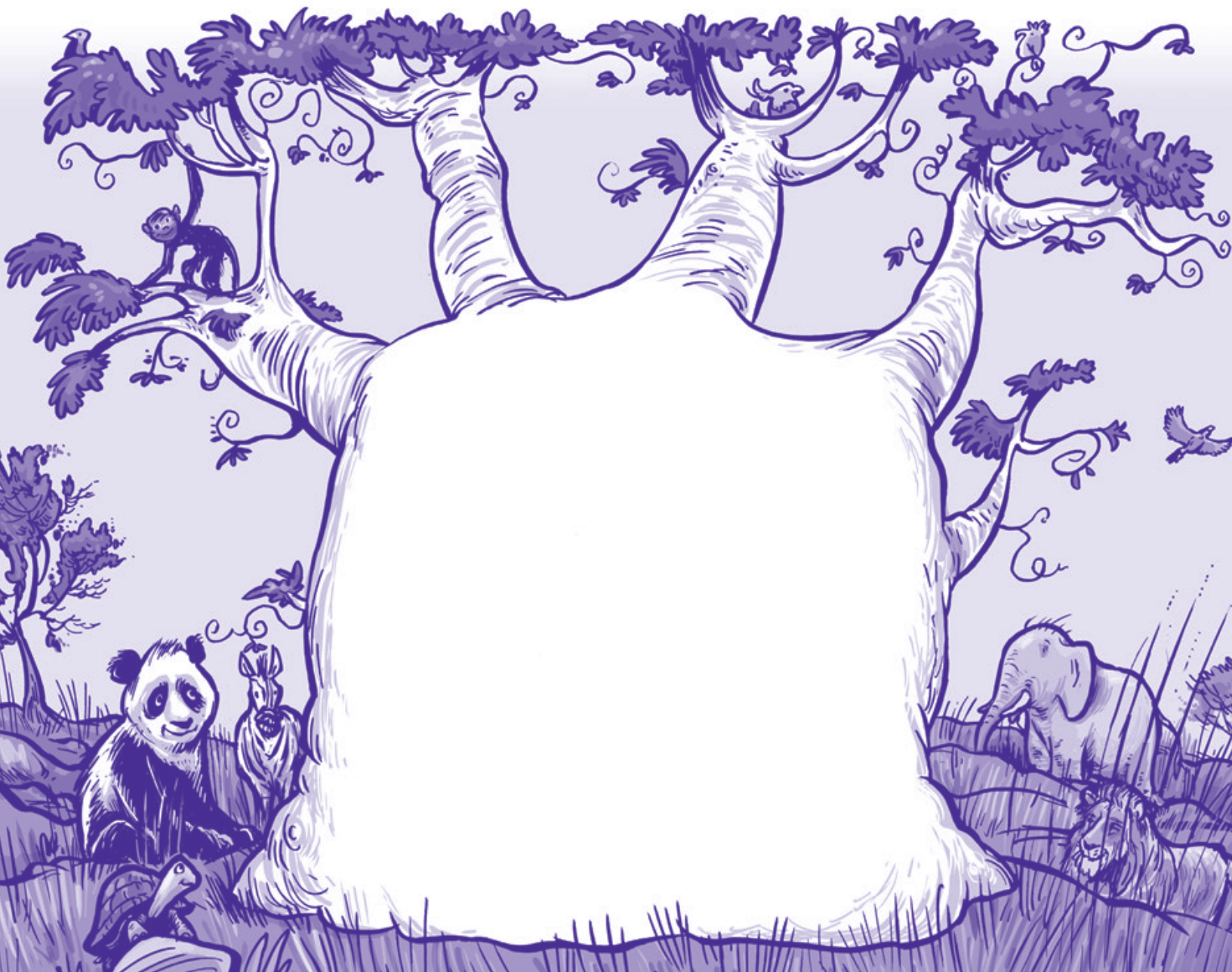
“Material comforts are only a branch, but the root of the exaltation of man is the good attributes and virtues which are the adornments of his reality.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

When someone gives you an awesome gift, you might write a sincere thank-you note. We feel grateful when we’re surprised by cool presents.

But what about the gifts you receive every day? You might not think of writing a thank-you card for the home you live in, the food you eat, or the school you go to—but just imagine life without them.

In the same way that a trunk gives a tree stability and strength, your basic needs help you grow strong. They make it possible for you to enjoy life’s “fruits,” or things that you want, but that aren’t required for your survival—like a new music player or the books you’ve had your eye on. When you’re grateful for your needs *and* your wants, life is much sweeter.

Inside the tree trunk, draw your basic needs—things you’re thankful for that you must have to keep your body, mind, and spirit healthy. On the branches, draw fruits with your wants inside—things you have that you’re thankful for, but could live without.





Saving For Service

Global challenges such as poverty, pollution, and natural disasters may seem overwhelming. But with the power of creativity, people are finding new ways to work together and solve problems.

With creativity, a doctor can discover the next medical breakthrough, a performer can uplift hearts, and a scientist

can invent an earth-friendly fuel. Have you thought about the many careers that can help our global human family?

Even before starting a career, you can help others. You can volunteer your time and help raise funds for charities. Start by making this piggy bank and decorating it imaginatively. Use it to store money you collect with your acts of service.

Make a Bank

You'll Need

Clean 2-liter plastic bottle with cap • 5 1/4" x 15" (13.3 x 38.1 cm) strip decorative paper • paper scraps • glue • hole punch • sharp box cutter or craft knife (and adult to help) • pipe cleaner • scissors • four empty thread spools or jumbo beads • permanent markers • optional: wiggle eyes

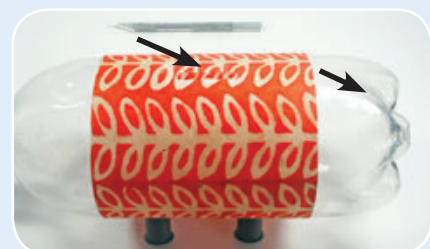
- 1 Glue strip to bottle. Let dry.



- 2 For legs, glue two spools about 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) apart. Glue two other spools directly opposite. Let dry.



- 3 Turn bottle over. Ask adult to use box cutter to make 1 1/2" x 1/4" (3.8 x .6 cm) slot in center of bottle (for coins) and 1/4" (.6 cm) slice near bottom (for tail).



- 4 Punch two holes in scrap paper and glue paper dots on cap for nose.



- 5 Cut ears from paper. Fold at base of each ear to make tabs. Make small cuts in tabs so edges will lie flat. Glue to bottle.



- 6 For tail, insert one end of pipe cleaner into smaller slit. Wind around marker.



MY PIGGY BANK WEIGHS A TON.
WHAT CHARITY ARE YOU SAVING FOR?



- 7 Add face and decorate. Then feed your piggy bank with your savings!



Learning to Lead

"Charity is pleasing and praiseworthy in the sight of God and is regarded as a prince among goodly deeds." —Bahá'u'lláh



What makes an excellent leader? Being confident? Having a positive attitude? Thinking creatively? Good leaders need all kinds of skills, from communication to planning to inspiring others. One of the most important qualities is treating all people with justice and respect. Leaders of countries need to help everyone get access to the basics, such as food, water, shelter, health care, and education. They have to create fair laws

and spend money wisely. People can make a difference by choosing our leaders carefully.

But you don't have to be a prince or princess to get things done. There are leaders everywhere. At school, at home, in service activities, and on sports teams, leaders encourage others to work together and solve problems peacefully. Develop your leadership skills, and you'll make positive changes in your own realm.

These leaders are discussing service projects that help keep their kingdom happy. Write the correct number next to each project name.

1 CREATIVE LEADERS PUT THEIR IMAGINATION INTO ACTION.

2 A NATURAL LEADER RESPECTS THE EARTH AND TAKES CARE OF ITS CREATURES.

3 A KNOWLEDGEABLE LEADER ENSURES EDUCATION FOR ALL.

4 HELPING PEOPLE WORK WITH NUMBERS ADDS UP TO SMART LEADERSHIP.

5 COMPASSIONATE LEADERS MAKE SURE PEOPLE HAVE HEALTHY FOOD.

6 FAIR LEADERS TREAT ALL PEOPLE EQUALLY.

7 HEALTHY HABITS GIVE A KINGDOM STRENGTH AND ENERGY.

8 INNOVATIVE LEADERS USE SCIENCE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

A Math Magicians

B Fitness Fun House

C Knights of Nutrition

D Jury of Justice

E Superb Science

F Protectors of Our Planet

G Arts in Action

H Wizards For Wisdom



RILEY'S RAINFOREST

"Send down ... from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing..." —Bahá'u'lláh

What Money Can't Buy

Have you ever seen a really cool game or an awesome pair of shoes that you just *had* to have? Did you imagine how happy you'd feel once you got it? How long do you think the happiness lasts?

Research shows that buying material things doesn't lead to ongoing happiness. In fact, people who are more materialistic—who focus too much on money or possessions—tend to be *less* happy than others. But why is that?

One big reason may be that people get used to things very quickly. New and exciting purchases soon become old. Then people seek the thrill of buying something else. They become stuck in a cycle, getting something bigger or better, but without feeling lasting joy afterward.

One way to break that cycle of materialism is to practice gratitude. People who are grateful for the



things they have—whether it's a comfy bed or a family member with four paws—are happier and more satisfied with their lives. Rather than focusing on the things they don't have, grateful people enjoy the things they *do* have. They're less likely to want more things or expect stuff to provide happiness. They're already content.

So next time you find yourself wanting something, think of what you already have to be thankful for. Whether it's your parents, your bicycle, or your chocolate treat, the key to happiness is right there in your own heart.

Explore & Soar: Thankful Thinking

Being grateful is a choice. Try these ways to add some more gratitude to your attitude:

- ☐ Keep a gratitude journal. Write down at least three things each day that you're grateful for.
- ☐ Appreciate the simple things—like the joy of reading a good book.
- ☐ Let Earth wow you with gorgeous sunsets, fresh air to breathe, and lakes and oceans to play in.



Curiosity Canopy



It's estimated that U.S. kids see over 40,000 commercials per year—just on TV alone! Ads are designed to make you buy things you may not need or want. They also imply that having stuff will make you happier. Mute the ads or go outside for a breath of fresh air!

- ☐ Give thanks for your body and the amazing things that it can do. Take care of it with healthy eating and plenty of activity.
- ☐ Thank your parents, siblings, and other family members for their care and kindness.

SEEDS OF CHANGE



“Direct your whole effort toward the happiness of those who are despondent, bestow food upon the hungry, clothe the needy, and glorify the humble.” –‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Have you ever tended a garden? For a healthy, plentiful harvest, you need to provide each plant with the right amounts of sun, soil, and water. Making the world a better place takes careful planning, too. We have to learn about our challenges, figure out what needs to be done, set goals, and take action.

In 2000, the United Nations set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to improve people’s lives by

2015. In many places, basic needs for food, health, and education are still not met. We need to keep working together to fix that.

You can be part of the seeds of change by learning about these goals and sharing your time or money. You can say prayers for those suffering from malnutrition or prejudice. With determination, we can cultivate a happier, more peaceful future.

DECIDE IF THESE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE OR FALSE.

- 1 There is not enough food to feed everyone on our planet.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

- 2 The number of hungry people is more than the populations of the U.S. and Europe combined.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

- 3 About 1.2 billion people have no access to electricity.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

- 4 Worldwide, 90% of kids attend primary school.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE



- 5 Vaccines and mosquito nets can help kids avoid life-threatening diseases.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

- 6 Since 1990, severe poverty (the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day) was cut in half.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

- 7 On average, women hold about 50% of the seats in Congress, Parliament, and other government groups.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

- 8 Heart disease is the greatest risk to people’s health worldwide.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

- 9 About 10% of the world’s population does not have access to basic sanitation, such as bathrooms or latrines.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

- 10 In the developing world, 863 million people live in unhealthy or overcrowded slums.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE



ANSWERS: 1) False. There's enough food, but many lack access or money to buy it. 2) True. 3) True. 4) True. But 57 million kids still aren't in school. 5) True. 6) True. But 1.2 billion still live in extreme poverty. 7) False. It's about 22% worldwide. 8) False. Hunger and malnutrition are the biggest health risks. 9) False. Over 35% lack basic sanitation. 10) True.

Goal for the Global Team

"Show forth fellowship and love, consideration and generosity and loving-kindness to every community on earth." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

"The team sets up a low strike from a long range. Now . . . what a brilliant finish! GOOOOOOOAL!" To score a goal on the soccer field, players need to work together with teamwork, sportsmanship, and encouragement.

It's the same in our global community. To solve problems like poverty, violence, and oppression, we have to cooperate. And just like on a winning team,

everyone has a vital role to play.

Around the world, kids and junior youth groups use their strengths to make a difference in their communities. Through awesome service projects, they get the ball rolling to raise money and help the world in creative ways.

You're an important member of our global team. You can have a big impact. So jump up and take the field!

This soccer tournament combines "fun" and "fundraising." Find nine items that can help change the world.



Brave Ball



Creative Camera



Cooperative Coach



Trophy of Truth



Flag of Friendship



Grateful Gloves



Positive Pump



Field Marker of Fairness



Wise Water Jug



EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

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

WE
ARE
ONE

EARTH-SAVING TIP

Don't Let It Go!

Balloons are fun, but don't release them outdoors. Some can short-circuit power lines and travel hundreds of miles. They can endanger marine life and other animals.

WOW, REALLY?

If everyone on Earth consumed resources at the same rate as the U.S., we'd need three to five planets!

OUR CONNECTIONS



When you can't finish your food, does it go in the trash? Every year, over a billion tons of food is wasted—that's about a third of Earth's food! Meanwhile, over 800 million people go hungry. Wasting food wastes money, land, fuel, labor, and water. You can help use food wisely. Take only what you need. Share large servings and use leftovers for new meals. Plant a small garden of fruits and veggies, and share your harvest.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Annie Leonard, Executive Director of Greenpeace USA, is an activist and expert on using stuff wisely. Her movie and book, *The Story of Stuff*, explore global consumption and sustainability. She was a 2008 *Time* Hero of the Environment and says, "Nothing is more important than finding a way to live together—justly, respectfully, sustainably, joyfully . . ."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



This city near Mt. Fuji is the world's largest metropolitan area, with over 35 million people. It's the capital of its island nation and a major global business center.

Unscramble the letters to find its location:

Y O O K T , A P A N J ,

AMAZING ANIMALS



These animals have a great field of vision—they can almost see behind them without turning their heads. They can recognize humans, as well as faces in their flock. Fill in the blanks to find their name:

H P

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?

Enola T.

Age: **11**

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

I want to be: **Anything that involves music**

Virtue I admire most in people: **Kindness**

Hobbies or sports: **Playing board games**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Community service**

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

If I had a million dollars, I'd: **Give some to charity and then buy something for my parents and my cat.**



I like to help people by: **Making them happy**

If I were leader of a country, to end poverty and hunger: **I would have donation bins and [give] unused things to people in need.**

Blessings I'm grateful for: **My amazing voice, because when I sing, it makes people happy. I am also grateful for my family, because everyone, including my cat, encourages me to follow my dreams. Lastly, I am grateful for food, because some people don't have enough...**

If stranded on a desert island, I would want: **Food and water, [to]... have a better chance of survival... a shelter to stay safe and dry in... At least two of my best friends...**

Kia B.

Age: **13**

I live in: **Bologna, Italy**

I want to be: **Ornithologist or biomedical engineer**

Virtue I admire most in people: **Persistence, because I am not very good at it!**

Hobbies or sports: **Tennis and FPV (first-person view) flight**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **19 Day Feast,* because you get to meet new Bahá'ís and celebrate the new month... (The food is always good!)**

Favorite animal or pet: **The Bird of Paradise [and] my pet rabbit... Hazel**

Blessings I'm grateful for: **My house, because I have a safe, warm, and trouble-free shelter. My family, who has helped me... and my friends...**



If stranded on a desert island, I would want: **Flashlight... knife to get through brambles, bushes... Plus my best friends, Emanuele and Bjorn.**

If I had a million dollars, I'd: **Give \$500K to the poor... and \$100K to the Bahá'í Funds. The rest I would invest for my... future. I would spend some of it...**

If I were leader of a country, to end poverty and hunger: **I would ask other countries [and]... the United Nations for help. And build wells just in case of water shortage.**



Luvuyo M.

Age: **12**

I live in: **Swaziland, S.E. Africa**

I want to be: **Inventor and designer of robots**

Virtue I admire most in people: **Creativity**

Hobbies or sports: **LEGOs and soccer**

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

Places I'd love to visit: **All around the world**

I like to help people by: **Encouraging them**

Blessings I'm grateful for: **My dog, Rock, because I always wanted a dog. Going to Haifa [Israel] for pilgrimage, because I was able to visit the Shrines. And meeting new friends while in Haifa, because we clicked right away.**

When I learn money: **[I] talk with my parents.**

If I had a million dollars, I'd: **Give some to my parents, some to the Bahá'í Fund, and to the community to help fix the road.**

If I were leader of a country, to end poverty and hunger: **I would use the money to find ways to help the poor. I would ask questions to find out the solution.**

Jander B.

Age: 12

I live in: Texas, U.S.

I want to be:

An actress and a lawyer

Virtue I admire most in people:

Kindness

Hobbies or sports: **Drawing, acting, reading, tennis, running, swimming**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Junior youth group

Favorite animal or pet:

Harp seal

Place I'd love to visit:

New Zealand

Blessings I'm grateful for:

My awesome parents: they have given me great opportunities in life. Having a safe place to live: I have seen other children that did not have this blessing, and seeing their situations was very

humbling. Junior youth group: getting together with other Bahá'ís and having fun while helping the community.

When I earn money:

I consult with my parents, and then make a decision based on that discussion.

If I were leader of a country, to end poverty and hunger: **[I would treat] the soil (if it wasn't productive), and [make] sure everyone knew how to grow a different crop. I would also provide education...**



"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

Gabe M.

Age: 10

I live in: New Jersey, U.S.

I want to be: **An author**

Virtues I admire most in people:

Creativity and kindness

Hobbies or sports:

Helping others and playing soccer

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Going to Bahá'í children's classes and Feast

Favorite animal or pet:

My lizard

Place I'd love to visit:

Hawaii. I love the beach!

I like to help people by:

Showing them new ways to do things

If I had a million dollars, I'd:

Give $\frac{3}{4}$ of the money to charity, and I would keep $\frac{1}{4}$ for myself.

Blessings I'm grateful for:

My family, because they love and care about me.



... My friends, because they're always there for me, and they always make me smile ... My relative wealth, because I am very lucky to afford food and clothing.

If stranded on a desert island, I would want:

My family, because I need someone to love ... Food/ water to survive ... My house, to stay safe from the harsh climate.

If I were leader of a country, to end poverty and hunger: **I would try to create an invention that solves world hunger and gives money to the world.**

Kai M.

Age: 10

I live in:

North Carolina, U.S.

I want to be: **A singer or a fashion designer**

Virtue I admire most in people:

Kindness

Hobbies or sports:

Drawing and singing

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Raising money for the Fund, singing with the One Human Family choir, and going to Feast*

Favorite animal or pet:

Fancy rats

I like to help people by:

Saying prayers for them

Blessings I'm grateful for:

The Bahá'í Faith, my friends, and my family, because they all have taught me so much.

When I earn money:

I would save part of it, spend part of it on something I wanted, and give part of it to the Fund.

If I had a million dollars, I'd:

Use it to go to Africa to help build homes for people that had lost their home.

If I were leader of a country, to end poverty and hunger:

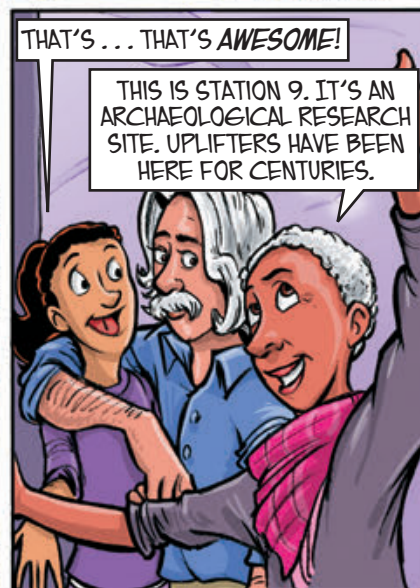
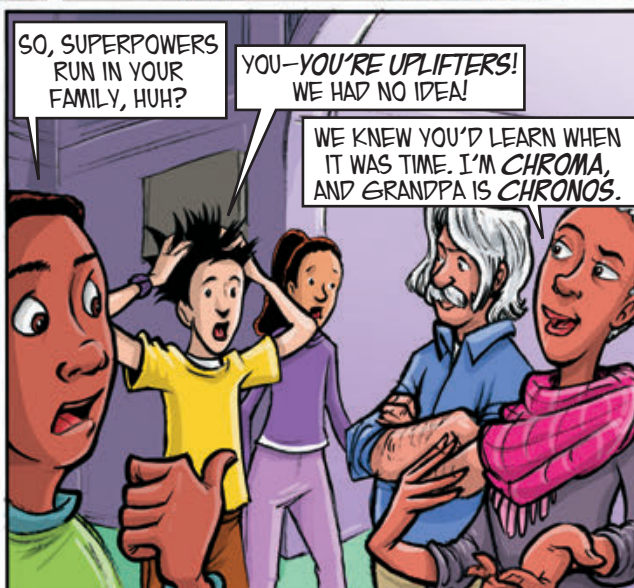
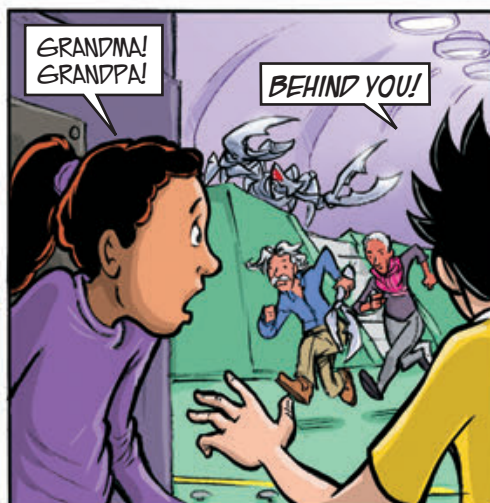
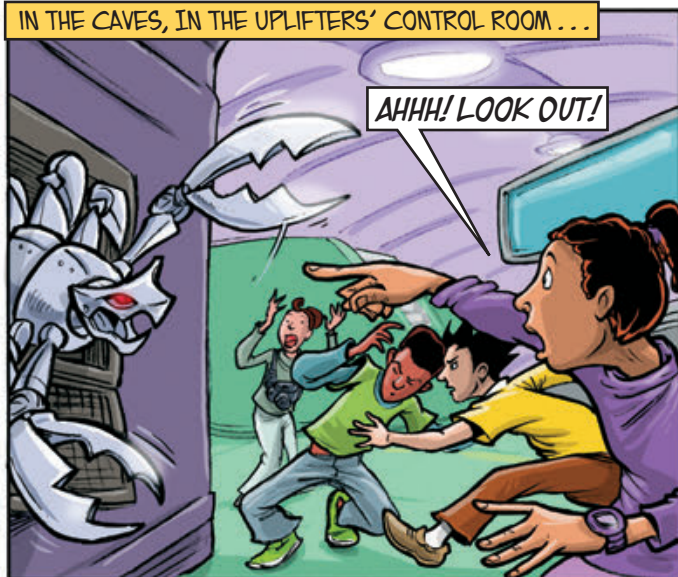
I would give food to the hungry and create jobs for people so they can earn money to end poverty.



How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7–14, go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org and choose "Explore," "Bahá'ís & Friends in Action," then "Radiant Stars." Click "Apply Now" and fill out the form. Or e-mail us at 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).

IN THE CAVES, IN THE UPLIFTERS' CONTROL ROOM...





WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THESE ROBOTS CAME FROM.

SOOO CREEPY!

I'LL SEE IF I CAN BOOT IT UP AND LOOK AT ITS PROGRAM.



HQ CALLS STATION 9...

WE GOT AN ALERT ABOUT A DISTURBANCE THERE. WHAT'S WRONG?

YES. WE'RE UNDER ATTACK BY ERASERS, BUT WE DON'T KNOW THEIR PLAN.

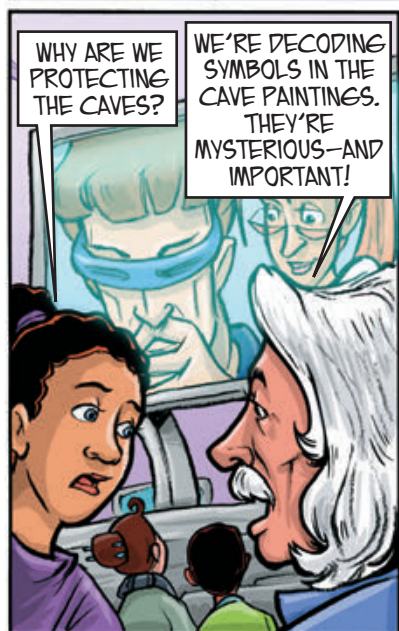
WOW—YOU'RE ALL THERE?



THE ERASERS MIGHT HAVE DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF THE CAVES!

MY SISTER, AURORA,* KNOWS ABOUT THEM.

I'LL FIND OUT IF SHE TOLD THE ERASERS.



WHY ARE WE PROTECTING THE CAVES?

WE'RE DECODING SYMBOLS IN THE CAVE PAINTINGS. THEY'RE MYSTERIOUS—AND IMPORTANT!



WE NEED HELP HERE.

WE'LL SEND AS MANY UPLIFTERS AS WE CAN. MOST ARE FIXING AURORA'S MESS IN THE ARCTIC. LUNA, RETRACE THE ROBOTS' PATH IN THE DESERT.

STAY INVISIBLE.



LATER...

THIS IS ALL SO CRAZY. WAIT—ARE YOU GONNA ERASE OUR MEMORIES?

DON'T WORRY. YOU WON'T FEEL A THING—

HE'S KIDDING. IF YOU AGREE TO HELP AND PROTECT THE UPLIFTERS' WORK FOR PEACE, YOU'RE NOW UPKEEPERS.



COOL SUIT. DOES IT MAKE YOU INVISIBLE?

NO, THAT'S ONE OF MY POWERS.

THAT'S CRAZY AWESOME!

THANKS FOR BEING SO SUPPORTIVE, GUYS.



BE CAREFUL!

HOW CAN WE HELP?

THERE'S LOTS TO DO. LET'S GO.



ARE ALL THE SUPER SCORPIONS READY?

JUST ABOUT.

WHEN WE FIND THE UPLIFTERS' SECRET WEAPON, THE WORLD WILL BE MINE!



"A bird has two wings; it cannot fly with one. Material and spiritual science are the two wings of human uplift and attainment." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

MY BIRD KITE
AND I CAN
REALLY FLY!



WINGS FOR FLIGHT!

Birds have powerful wings. Did you know that people do, too? One wing is our material strengths, and the other is our spiritual strengths. We need both to soar in life.

One way we use our material wing is with scientific inventions. When we build spaceships or amazing buildings, that's our material wing in action.

Our spiritual wing flies when we practice virtues,

such as justice and caring. Virtues help us use technology wisely. For example, vehicles and buildings that use wind or solar power can express moderation and respect for the environment.

Just as birds need two wings to fly, we need to balance our material and spiritual wings to glide through the winds of life's challenges.

Create this wind-powered toy that really flies!

Make a Bird Kite

You'll Need: Paper bag approx. 5" x 9 3/4" (12.7 x 24.8 cm) • pencil • scissors • two bamboo skewers • wire cutters • sandpaper • glue • three strips tissue paper—1 1/2" x 2 ft (3.8 x 61 cm) • three small craft feathers • paint, paintbrush, or construction paper scraps • roll of string

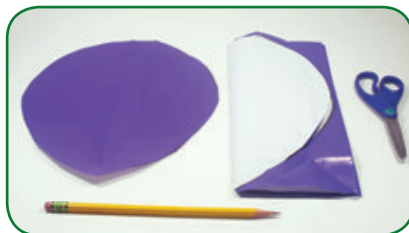
- 1 Open bag. Cut along one vertical corner's crease and bottom creases to remove bag's bottom.



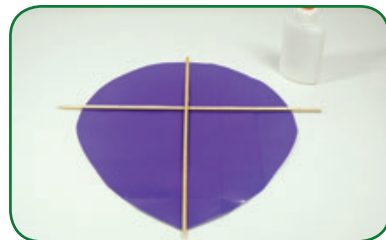
- 2 Fold paper in half. Fold again in same direction.



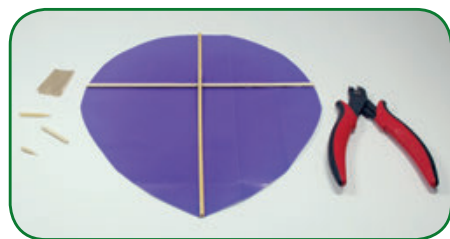
- 3 From folded edge, draw half teardrop shape that nearly touches edges. Length should be shorter than skewer. Cut shape to reveal two teardrops, but use only one.



- 4 Glue skewers to kite in a "T" so horizontal skewer rests across upper third portion of kite. Don't glue spot where skewers meet. Let dry.



- 5 With help from an adult, use wire cutters to cut off skewers at kite's edges. Sand ends flat.



- 6 With paint or paper, make bird's beak, eyes, and designs. Glue on feathers and strips of tissue paper for tail. Once dry, knot string to center of "T." Now it's ready to fly!



How It Works

A kite's shape makes air move faster over the top side. That causes the air pressure on the top of the kite to be less than the pressure on the bottom. The difference in pressure creates the force that lifts the kite into the air.





Growing a Better World



"Every human being has the right to live ... Nobody should die of hunger ... one man should not live in excess while another has no possible means of existence." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Today, 842 million people suffer from hunger and poverty. Solving this crisis is one of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) created by the United Nations in 2000. While much progress has been made toward goals set for 2015, more work has to be done.

One key to ending hunger and poverty is agriculture. Most of the world's poor live in rural areas, and many are

farmers. But problems like war and climate change make it difficult to grow food. Extreme heat, droughts, floods, and higher sea levels cause big challenges for farming.

Scientists are finding ways to improve soil and seeds, handle pests, and manage water. Volunteers help farmers use new methods, while respecting their culture and their needs. By working together with unity, we can grow a better world for all.

Over half of the world depends on rice for food. Unscramble the letters on the rice grains to find verbs that help a service project succeed. Then write the words on the blank grains. The first letter is provided in green.



Dr. June Manning Thomas



How would you feel if you went to a restaurant and the server refused to take your order? Or if you were turned away from a movie theater because of the color of your skin? These are two examples of racism that Dr. June Manning Thomas lived with growing up in a small town in South Carolina, U.S. Going to big cities had a "magical appeal" because they gave her more freedom from segregation.

June focused her energy on school and won national academic awards in high school and college. She earned a doctorate degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Michigan. As a professor, she trains students to help cities solve many kinds of problems, including job loss, poverty, and discrimination.

Q: What was your most challenging experience as a kid?

A: Integration of the local white high school . . . when I was 14 . . . I was aware of the civil rights movement, because our hometown was a hotbed of marches and protests . . . I thought that you would just go to school, and everybody would be friendly, because . . . they would be your classmates . . . That's not what happened . . . It was pretty bad from beginning to end . . . It was not just bullying. We were essentially ostracized.

Q: How did your family encourage you in your career choice?

A: [My parents] were both college professors . . . I was raised helping my mom grade papers . . . I must have been 10 [or] 12 years old, so I was sort of trained in it . . . Our whole world was the faculty and staff of this black college.



Left: June, age 11, with her parents and sister, Michelle, in South Carolina in 1961.

Right: In high school, June was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar. She went to a ceremony with U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson in Washington, D.C.



Q: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited your hometown during the civil rights movement. What impact did that have on you and your community?

A: He could move audiences very easily . . . I just remember the feeling of excitement and optimism, because it was such a righteous movement, and we all felt that God was on our side and that right was on our side, and that eventually, the nonviolent . . . civil rights movement . . . would triumph. And so it was just an enormous feeling of happiness.

Q: Given the work that you do, which deals with so many issues of social and racial injustice, how do you maintain a sense of hope?

A: I'm a Bahá'í . . . I'm disturbed by what I find, but it doesn't define my vision or my view of what I'm looking at. So I understand that all of this . . . can be traced back to a lack of understanding of human destiny and to disunity . . . You have to build up the community that has a chance of helping to save the world.

Questions and

Answers with an

Inspirational Bahá'í

Q: What is urban planning and what inspired you to get into it?

A: We train people that work on very practical ways of improving cities and suburbs . . . Growing up in the small-town South, cities were always special places to me where we could find relative freedom . . . Going to Miami meant being able to go to the same movie theaters as everyone else . . . being able to get a hamburger at a Burger King . . . And then when I was in college . . . [I took] a course in urban sociology . . . I just really loved the combination of the ability to affect human places, but to do it from a perspective of social justice.

Q: How would you define economic justice?

A: I think economic justice means that everyone should have the ability to receive the kind of education and training that would allow them to earn a livelihood.



Top: Dr. Richard W. Thomas, June's husband, is a professor emeritus of history at Michigan State University. They have both served as Bahá'í leaders and work to promote race unity and social justice.



Bottom: After working for months on a project about increasing jobs, June's students presented their results in a Detroit factory in early 2014.

Q: What are some of the biggest challenges in cities today, and what is needed to solve them?

A: Most of my work . . . has been on Detroit. And Detroit is sort of symptomatic of U.S. cities . . . [that have] continued to spread out and out and out, and [we] are warming the planet to an alarming degree, in large part because of automobiles . . . There are two main problems. One is how do we stop people from this continual [urban] sprawl that is a big environmental damage . . . And the other . . . is what happens to the people left behind in central cities, and how do we make their lives livable when the city itself has pretty much emptied out, which means there is no money for basic services . . .

Q: What are some of the most important life skills you think kids need in today's world?

A: To know why we are on Earth, what the purpose of our life is—and that if [you] have that—that will protect . . . against materialism and a lot of different temptations . . . How do you set goals and reach them? How do you overcome stress? How do you survive bullying? . . . Part of the purpose of knowing the purpose of your life is knowing how to serve. So how do you decide to serve humanity?

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

A: Happiness and self-confidence . . . You know, the only way to have that kind of happiness and self-confidence is just to immerse yourself in creating yourself as the best person you can be, which means human virtues . . . It means truthfulness and loving everyone and not giving in to hate and just being the best person you can be.



MUSIC CAFÉ

"Music, sung or played, is spiritual food for soul and heart." —Bahá'í Writings

WE'RE HAVING A "TEAMING UP FOR TOMORROW" CELEBRATION AT THE MUSIC CAFÉ. COME ON OVER!

WHEN ANYONE BUYS A TURNOVER, TRUFFLE, OR TART, HALF OF THE MONEY IS DONATED TO REPLANTING TREES AND SAVING WILDLIFE. AT THE END OF THE MONTH, WE'LL HAVE A SPECIAL CONCERT TO SING ABOUT...

TOMORROW'S PEOPLE

Lyrics by Brady Rymer • Music by Brady Rymer and Seth Farber

1 Sing - ing for to - mor - row's peo - ple Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion Fill your heart up with the_

2 Sing - ing for to - mor - row's peo - ple In - spired by the ju - bi - la - tion Hap - py fa - ces fill the_

4 sound crowd Sing - ing for to - mor - row's peo - ple Be a part of the so - lu - tion 'cause the world keeps_ turn ing

 Sing - ing for to - mor - row's peo - ple Mak - ing us a re - so - lu - tion Build it up and don't tear it_

8 Chorus I feel that_ Bet - ter days are com - ing A new_ morn - ing shines_

 _'round _down

13 I feel that_ Bet - ter days are com - ing And they're yours and mine_

19 Ah_ Ah_ Ah_ Ah_ Ah_ Ah_ Ah_ Ah_

26 I feel that_ Bet - ter days are com - ing A new_ morn - ing shines_

31 I feel that_ Bet - ter days are com - ing And they're yours and mine_

Materialistic Monster Mayhem

In movies, TV, or even real life, do you see people who seem to get everything they want? They have tons of cool clothes and gadgets. They ride in expensive cars or take luxurious vacations. You might hear the jealousy monster growling, "It's not fair!"

If you compare your family to others, you'll always find people who own more stuff than you. But focusing on possessions can lead to sadness. Your true wealth is in the love, laughter, and unity you share with family and friends.

The ads all around us can make us crave stuff that's newer, better, and more expensive. Focus on fun that really lasts—like hanging out with people you love, being in nature, or creating art. When you appreciate your real treasures, you can scare away the monsters of materialism.

Help these monsters choose moderation over the madness of wanting more. Look for words going forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

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

GENEROUS GIANTS

COMING
SOON

APPRECIATION • BALANCE • CHARITY • CONTENTMENT • FAIRNESS
GENEROSITY • GRATITUDE • MINDFULNESS • MODERATION
NATURE • NOBILITY • SELF-CONTROL • SERVICE • SIMPLICITY

'Abdu'l-Bahá's Love for the Poor

No deed of man is greater before God than helping the poor," said 'Abdu'l-Bahá, during his 1912 visit to North America. As the leader of the Bahá'í Faith at the time, he traveled and gave talks in the U.S. and Canada to share the Bahá'í teachings of peace, oneness, and generosity.

One of his many stops was the Bowery Mission, a shelter for the homeless in New York City. 'Abdu'l-Bahá asked that some of his money be exchanged for coins. Juliet Thompson and another Bahá'í carried bags of coins to the mission. About 400 homeless men gathered.

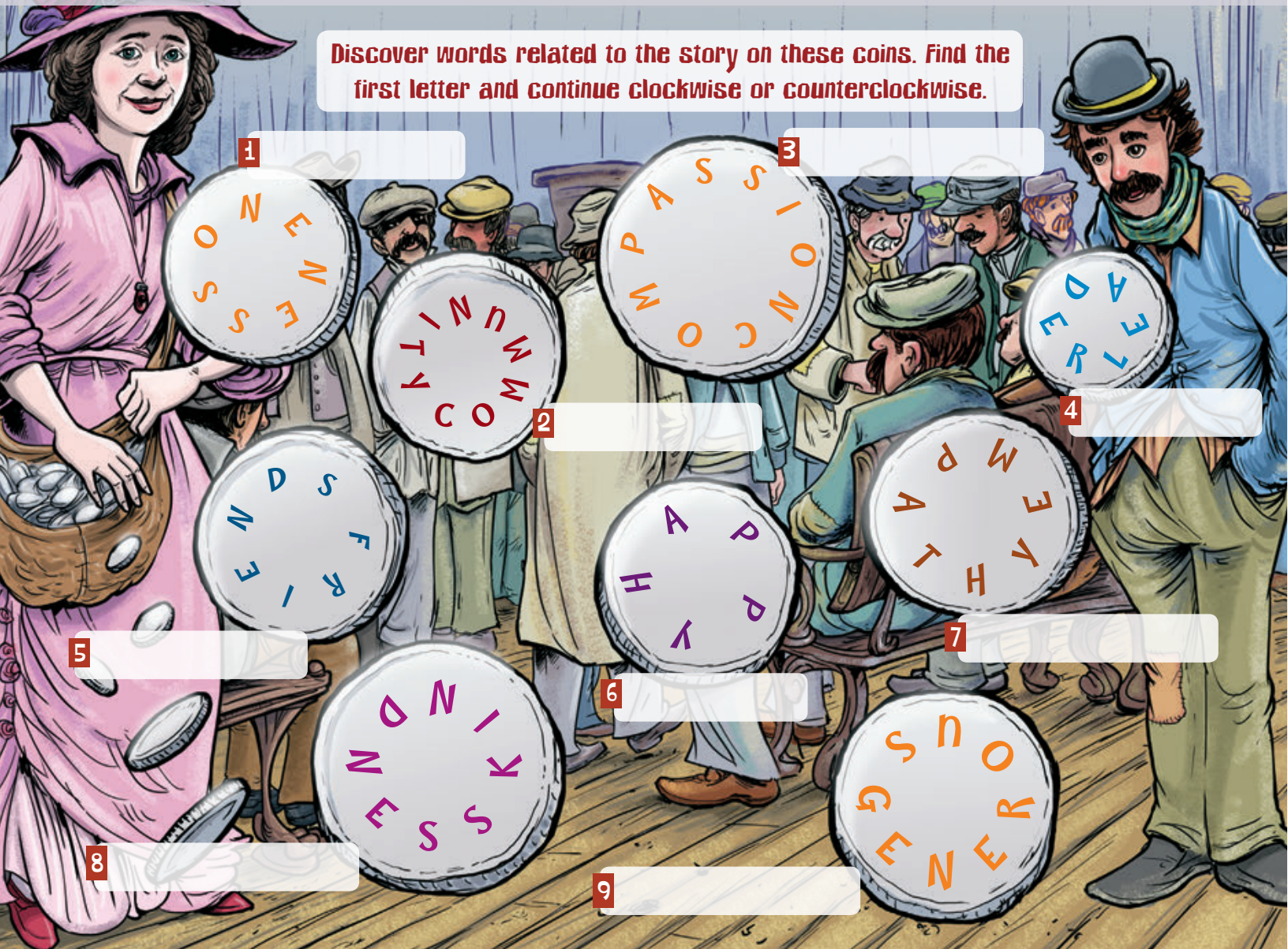


'Abdu'l-Bahá began, "Tonight I am very happy, for I have come here to meet my friends. I consider you my relatives, my companions..." He spoke of God's love for them, and how Messengers of God like Jesus and Bahá'u'lláh had been poor themselves.

"Although in the material realm you are poor," he said, "yet in the Kingdom of God you are precious."

After his talk, 'Abdu'l-Bahá greeted the men, shook their hands, and gave them coins. Today, people still get help at the Bowery Mission, where 'Abdu'l-Bahá showed his compassion for the poor.

Discover words related to the story on these coins. Find the first letter and continue clockwise or counterclockwise.



GOOD SEA-TIZENS

In Marineville, citizens of the sea are really making waves. Some are eager graduates from the College of Compassion, sharing their new skills of trustworthiness and integrity. One creature swims out to help a young school of fish. Another dives to help save the coral reef he calls home. One more checks a list of promises she's made to make sure she's keeping

them. The tide begins to turn in a positive direction.

Not everyone is going with the flow of these good qualities. Some churn up the sands of greed and dishonesty, turning things murky. But in time, the efforts of good sea-tizens will catch on! They can be such shining examples for others. Being truthful and reliable helps to keep all creatures' spirits afloat.

Fill in the names for eight positive friends. Then find each negative family member who's still working toward good sea-tizenship!



Sujan's Gifts

Adapted from an Indian folktale



Long ago, in India, a young grass-cutter named Sujan lived a simple life, alone in a tiny hut. He spent his earnings wisely and saved rupees in a jar, hoping to one day marry and start a family. At night, he prayed for peace in his homeland, which had long been at war with a neighboring kingdom.

The villagers said that King Nalin, who ruled the land, had failed to send a gift to Queen Ashna when she took the throne, as was the custom in the nearby empire. The queen was offended and thought King Nalin did not accept her as an equal. Their conflict quickly became a war, bringing sadness and fear to both lands.

Every day, Sujan passed the wide Dosti River that separated the two kingdoms. Both sides of the river were lined with poor villagers who had lost much due to the war. One day, Sujan decided to help. He counted his rupees and filled a pouch with coins. He took it to a courier boy and said, "Please take this to King Nalin. Ask him to use it to help the poor families along the Dosti River, and tell him I pray for *shanti*."

A few days later, the courier returned with a gift from the king—a dozen golden bangles! "What? What should I do with these?" gasped Sujan.

"You could sell them."

Sujan looked at the bracelets, thinking of all who were suffering in the war. He had an idea. "Take them to Queen Ashna and ask her to help her people along the Dosti River. Tell her I pray for *shanti*."

"But she and her people are barbarians!"

Sujan said firmly, "We're all human. Kindness may help bring peace."

The courier sped through Queen Ashna's land. He wanted to avoid her savage people. But he saw with surprise that Queen Ashna's kingdom and people were much like his own. The queen accepted the gift and sent Sujan a trunk of the finest Indian silk, embroidered with proud peacocks.

"What's going on here?" exclaimed Sujan. He sent the magnificent silk to King Nalin, along with another plea to help the poor.

The courier returned with a lotus blossom made of pearls—a symbol of honor. Sujan groaned, "What do I do now? I'm caught in a web of stuff I don't need. Please, take this to the queen. Tell her that all I *really* want is *shanti*."

At the palace, the courier heard the queen say, "Sujan must want *something* for himself. Why does he only ask for peace?"

"It could be a trick," her advisor said.

"I will send a gift he can never repay," declared the queen. Her servants brought a life-size marble sculpture of an elephant. She ordered, "Take this to Sujan—it is a symbol of power. Tell him *shanti* will come when King Nalin admits he was wrong."

The courier's horses slowly dragged the elephant to Sujan. Sujan's mouth dropped open. "I've never dreamed of such a thing!" he said. "Please, take it to King Nalin."

When the king saw the elephant, he too was astonished. "Whoever this Sujan is, he shows loyalty. Summon him, and I will make him an advisor." He sent Sujan a dozen *real* elephants, each carrying a tapestry!



Sujan was horrified. "Elephants? And he wants me to move to the palace? I just want to live in peace."

"You can't turn down the king," said the courier.

"But when he sees I'm not wealthy and well educated, he'll think I've fooled him. He'll throw me in the dungeon—or worse. Take these to the queen. I'll pray for an answer."

When the queen saw the powerful elephants, she smiled. "I *must* meet Sujan. Where can I find him?"

"He—he—has been invited to be an advisor in King Nalin's court," the boy stammered.

"Such a noble man belongs in *my* court. I will go there with my guards. Take a message to the king."

The courier was relieved to meet Sujan on the road, and they hurried to the king's palace. The queen's carriage soon arrived. All bowed low as King Nalin rode out to meet her.

"King Nalin," Queen Ashna said sternly, "I wish to see the one called Sujan."

King Nalin looked at her in surprise. "What do *you* want with Sujan? In fact, I wish to meet him myself." He told the courier, "Bring Sujan to me."

The courier mumbled, "I—uh—that is, Your Majesty—"

Sujan stepped forward. "Your Majesties, I am Sujan. I'm honored by your invitation. I sent those gifts to convey my prayers for shanti."

The queen said suspiciously, "How could *you* send the gifts? You are just a peasant. A grass-cutter, I see."

Sujan told them how he had wanted to share his



savings to help the war-torn families along the river. The queen said, "Well, if your king had been as considerate when I took the throne, we would not be at war."

The king said, "If you had inquired, instead of hurling insults, you would have known it is not our custom to send gifts to a new ruler. We hold a festival instead. One was held in *your* honor."

"I never knew that!" the queen said angrily.

"You called me a selfish pig and seized my land before I could say a thing!" the king yelled.

Bowing even lower, Sujan dared to interrupt. "Please, Your Majesties, your gifts show that you are *both* generous and good. Maybe it's time for a new start."

The queen and king glowered at him, then began to relax. The queen said, "You have a pure heart, Sujan. Few would let such wealth pass through their hands. Perhaps I will consider your advice."

And so Queen Ashna and King Nalin began to talk. In time, they established peace, and everyone rejoiced. Sujan became an advisor after all, and he was given the job of rebuilding the land along the Dosti River. He urged the king and queen to work together. To the surprise of all, they grew to enjoy each other's company. They were later married!

And though he was happy for the king and queen, Sujan did *not* send them a wedding gift.



SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

William Henry "Harry" Randall (1863–1929)

Spirit of Generosity

By Gail Radley



Who would have guessed that the young man cleaning the steamship office's spittoons would become its president? Perhaps his father, a prosperous Boston businessman who urged his son to earn his own success. Starting at the bottom didn't discourage Harry Randall. With hard work and determination, he became president of the company.

He was just as focused on his education. Though illness forced him to leave college, Harry studied with a tutor for years. He never stopped learning. Deeply interested in religion, he read and prayed regularly.

In 1911, at age 48, he discovered the Bahá'í Faith. A year later, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Bahá'í leader then, visited Harry's home. Harry felt drawn to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the new faith.

Bahá'ís invited Harry to the inn that is now Green Acre Bahá'í School in Maine, U.S. The Bahá'í owner, Sarah Farmer, held popular peace conferences and invited speakers of diverse beliefs. When 'Abdu'l-Bahá visited, he said Green Acre would have a great school and temple someday. Eager to help, Harry told his wife, Ruth, "I have found the place . . . for constant service—maybe my life's work . . ."

Becoming a Leader

Without a word, Harry often paid Green Acre's bills and funded repairs himself. He had grown wealthy, and in 1915, he started his own company with a fleet of ships. He was glad to put his money to good use.

Harry helped Sarah until she died in 1916, and he served Green Acre throughout his life. He freely



Harry at Green Acre Bahá'í School in 1918. Martha Root (at left) was Harry's dear friend. She also shared the Bahá'í Faith around the world.

donated to Bahá'í and personal projects. Harry hated to refuse anyone. He also became a national Bahá'í leader and gave talks about the Faith around the U.S. and in Canada.

When the Randalls visited 'Abdu'l-Bahá in what is now Israel, in 1919, Harry asked for guidance. He could retire and support his family simply, or work and give more to the Faith.

The "best way," 'Abdu'l-Bahá replied, is "half your time in business, half for the Cause . . . and serve God all the time."

Changing Times

Harry took 'Abdu'l-Bahá's advice to heart. When his partners wanted him to agree to a dishonest business practice and limit his Bahá'í activities, Harry left his shipping company, cutting his income drastically.

Then Harry invested in a new factory, hoping to recapture success. But the factory burned to the ground. He lost nearly everything. Always the giver, he had to learn to accept help from others. He adjusted without complaint.

In his final years, even in poor health, Harry helped with Green Acre, studied and taught the Bahá'í Faith, and assisted others. Harry focused on what was best for the Faith. He embraced life with joy and laughter.

"I have great trust in you," 'Abdu'l-Bahá had once said, "my love is with you always. You may ask for anything you want!"

"I want only the flame of your love eternally in my heart, to make me steadfast and serve Thy Cause and the friends of God," Harry replied.

'Abdu'l-Bahá gazed at him. "Your wish is granted . . ."

Hoshi's Adventures:

COOL CURRENCY

Hi! Hoshi here. On the *Mystic Explorer* at www.brilliantstarmagazine.org, I've traveled to amazing places. And I've discovered all kinds of cool money. Why do people need it?

For thousands of years, humans traded stuff. But if you want to trade a chicken—well, how would you carry it in your pocket? People started using coins and paper money. Today,

smartphones, plastic cards, and other tools zip money around electronically.

The coolest thing about money is its power to help people. It can fund schools, libraries, and hospitals. Countries can help other nations deal with earthquakes or tsunamis.

There are over 160 kinds of currency, like the Zambian kwacha and the Polish zloty. We can learn a lot about the mysteries of money!

FILL IN THE MISSING LETTERS TO CHECK OUT MY DATA ON EARTH MONEY!

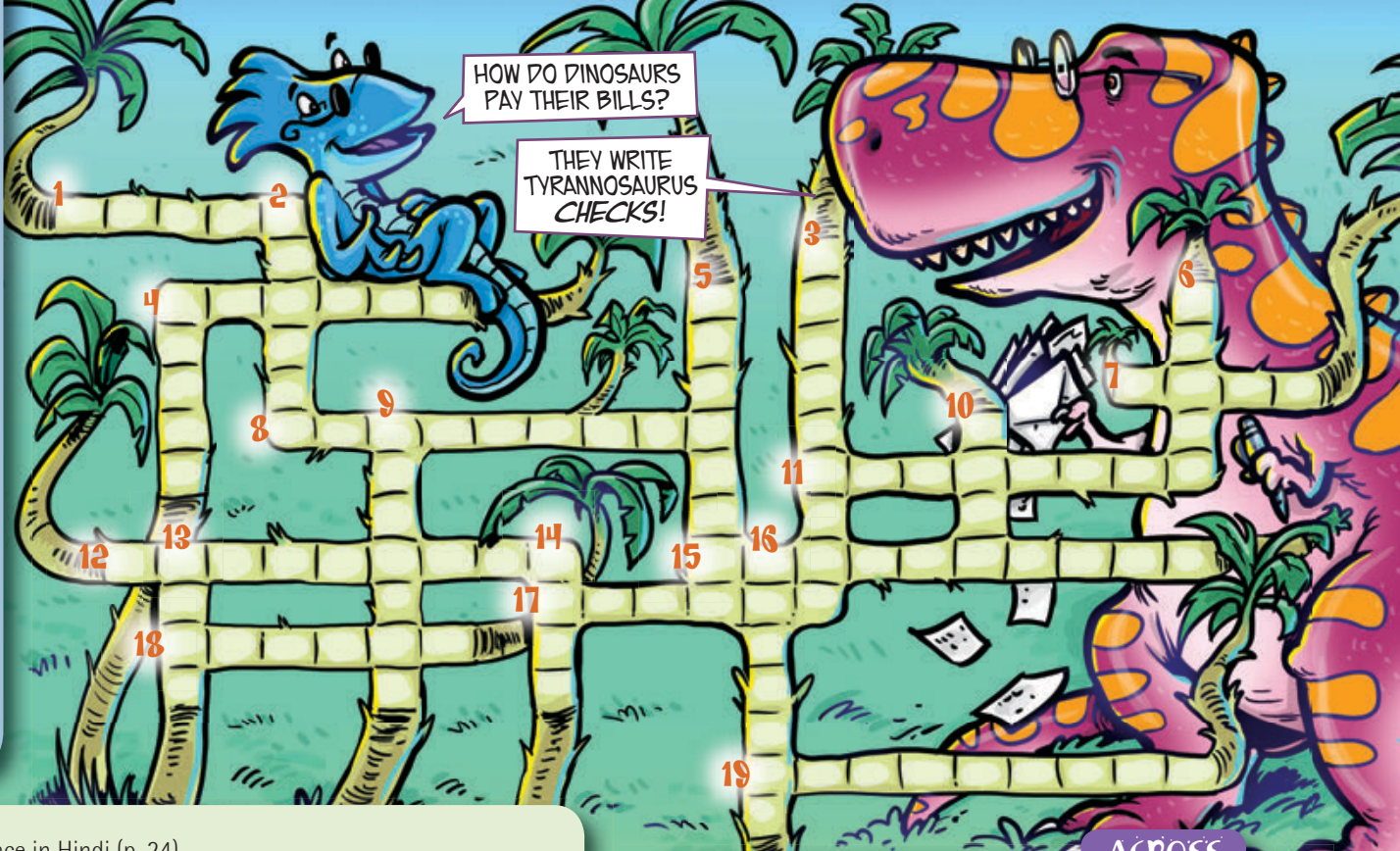
- Humans have used cattle, salt, shells, grain, furs, and even whale **T** **E** for money.
- A few people earn \$3 to \$9 million a month! In Bangladesh, a factory **W** **K** can earn as little as \$68 a month.
- The **S** **U** and collection of coins and other money is called numismatics.
- Ancient Aztecs of Mexico valued **H** **O** **L** **A** **E** and used the cacao bean as money.
- Only three **O** **E** **N** have been on circulating U.S. coins: Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, and Sacagawea.
- The U.S. cent is mostly zinc, with some **C** **O** **E** **R**. It costs almost two cents to make.
- Eighteen countries use a **O** **M** **M** **O** currency, the euro.
- If all purchasing power could be divided **E** **U** **A** **Y**, it's estimated that each person would get about \$10,000 (U.S. dollars).
- The Chinese started printing **A** **E** **R** money over 1,000 years ago.
- The first official **O** **I** **S** appeared over 2,500 years ago, in what is now Turkey.



Artifacts > Ancient Chinese coins



Symbols > Earth currencies



ACROSS

2. Peace in Hindi (p. 24)
3. All living things are _____. (p. 2)
4. Many millions of people around the world don't have access to safe, clean drinking _____. (p. 3)
5. Bridge-like structure that carries water to an area. (p. 3)
6. Harry Randall helped _____ Acre Bahá'í School throughout his life. (p. 26)
9. _____ help us use technology wisely. (p. 16)
10. The world's largest metropolitan area is near Mt. _____. (p. 11)
13. Over half of the world depends on _____ for food. (p. 17)
14. Eighteen countries use this currency. (p. 27)
16. One of the most important qualities of being a leader is treating all people with justice and _____. (p. 7)

1. "Knowledge is as _____." (p. 29)
4. Your family, friends, and spirit are your true _____. (p. 4)
7. The coolest thing about money is its power to _____ people. (p. 27)
8. Turning _____ is one of Luna's superpowers. (p. 15)
11. _____ monkeys are known for being smart and curious. (p. 2)
12. One way to break the cycle of materialism is to practice _____. (p. 8)
15. Luvuyo and Gabe both admire this virtue in people. (pp. 12–13)
17. The _____ Nations set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to improve people's lives by 2015. (p. 9)
18. When Dr. June M. Thomas was growing up, going to big _____ had a magical appeal. (p. 18)
19. Ancient Aztecs of Mexico valued _____ and used cacao beans for money. (p. 27)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



"I would choose [as a theme] helping people in need, because lots of people out there are homeless, don't have enough food and/or water, or need to walk with bare feet because they are poor . . . or where they live doesn't have enough.

—Navah E., age 12, Oregon, U.S.

Editors' Note: Navah, your suggestion was part of why we focused on the theme of economic justice. Thanks for speaking out!

ANSWERS

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

Page 2: 1 at TL, 2 at TC, 3 at TR, 3 at CR, 1 at BR, 2 at BC, 2 at BL, 3 at CL, 2 at C

Page 4: 1) download, 2) coat, 3) computer, 4) water, 5) exercise, 6) books, 7) help, 8) jeans, 9) dozen, 10) chance; circled: 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10

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

Page 10: Ball at C, camera at C, coach at CR, trophy at CL, flag at TC, gloves at BC, pump at BR, field marker at CL, water jug at CL

Page 11: Tokyo, Japan; Sheep

Page 17: 1) listen, 2) consult, 3) cooperate, 4) empower, 5) communicate, 6) learn,

7) share, 8) create, 9) discover, 10) understand, 11) respect, 12) invent

Page 22: 1) oneness, 2) community, 3) compassion, 4) leader, 5) friends, 6) happy, 7) empathy, 8) kindness, 9) generous

Page 23: 1) sharing – selfish, 2) dedicated – devious, 3) trustworthy – tricky, 4) caring – callous, 5) encouraging – envious, 6) sincere – sneaky, 7) giving – greedy, 8) peaceful – pushy

Page 27: 1) teeth, 2) worker, 3) study, 4) chocolate, 5) women, 6) copper, 7) common, 8) equally, 9) paper, 10) coins

Page 29: uplift, Knowledge

When we can all open a book and explore the wonders of learning, humanity will truly soar.

“Arts, crafts and sciences _ _ _ _ _ the world of being, and are conducive to its exaltation. _ _ _ _ _ is as wings . . .” –Bahá’u’lláh



“World citizenship encompasses the principles of social and economic justice, both within and between nations; non-adversarial decision making at all levels of society; equality of the sexes; racial, ethnic, national and religious harmony; and the willingness to sacrifice for the common good.”
—Bahá’í International Community



Brilliant Star

Common Good • Vol. 45, No. 6

AN AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

Explore our new website:

www.brilliantstarmagazine.org