

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Brilliant Star

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Connecting Hearts



TIPS FOR COOL
CONVERSATIONS

BUILD HAPPINESS
EVERY DAY

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,

When you set up a row of dominoes, then tap the first one, what happens? It starts a chain reaction, one causing

the next to fall. Communicating with others is like that. If you're in a bad mood and you snap at someone, your negative feelings can be passed along to them.

On the other hand, your cheerful words and actions can start a wave of friendliness and compassion. You can brighten someone's day with a smile and a wave. You can lift up a friend who's sad if you listen with kindness and understanding. A friendly text message shows someone you're thinking of them.

In this issue, explore positive ways to communicate and connect with others. Find out what your body language is saying—even when you're not speaking. Learn how to say hello in 15 languages. Take a quiz on getting along with your siblings. Discover tricks for striking up cool conversations. And meet Janet Ruhe-Schoen, who loves to share stories about heroes from Bahá'í history.

You can change the world when you express your unique dreams, goals, and ideas. Who will you reach out to today?

LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ☆



NEWS ABOUT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION



Creating *Brilliant Star*'s new website at www.brilliantstarmagazine.org has been an important part of our work for some time. With *Brilliant Star* Online, we're reaching and connecting with more kids and families around the globe.

However, you may have noticed that your magazine has been late getting to your mailbox. We're excited to announce our plan for getting back on schedule. For the rest of 2015, each issue will cover four months, instead of two. And these new issues will have eight extra pages of fun.

After four expanded issues, we'll return to our bimonthly schedule for the January/February 2016 issue. If you have an annual subscription, you'll still receive the same number of issues.

Thanks for your patience with us as *Brilliant Star* grows to serve you better! For more details, check out:

www.brilliantstarmagazine.org/about/otd

Bee Creative

It might seem like honeybees talk to each other by buzzing, but did you know that they communicate by dancing? When a worker bee finds a good source of nectar, she returns to the hive to share her discovery. She shakes and shimmies her body in specific directions for certain lengths of time. This “waggle dance” tells her hive

mates the exact location of the flowers!

People communicate in creative ways, too. We express thoughts and feelings with arts such as poetry, dance, music, and painting. Art can be a powerful way to share your emotions or dreams. When it comes to communication, it's cool to *bee* creative!

Search for words about letting your creativity shine. Connect letters next to each other, going in any direction. Use the same letter only once in each word. You can use a letter again in a new word.

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE ...

LET'S HAVE A STING-ALONG!

I LOVE BEE-THOVEN!

I'M PABLO BEE-CASSO!

SMILE AND SAY BEES!

WHAT'S A BEE'S FAVORITE FRUIT? NECTAR-INES!



ACTING

COURAGE

DRAWING

IMAGINATION

MUSIC

PHOTOGRAPHY

CHOREOGRAPHY

CREATIVITY

DANCE

INSPIRATION

PAINTING

SCULPTURE



RILEY'S RAINFOREST

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

Joys of Journaling

Do you ever talk to yourself? A journal is a great way to do just that. It can help you sort through ideas, record memories, and express feelings.

Journaling can even improve your health. In one study, a group of students wrote about an upsetting event, while others wrote about something that wasn't emotional. Four months later, those who wrote about their deepest feelings had fewer sick days and visits to the doctor.

How does writing help? Some researchers believe that reflecting on feelings of pain or sadness can reduce stress. Lowering stress can lead to a stronger immune system and better sleep, which is when the body can heal and restore itself.



How you write is also important. The key is to go beyond just expressing feelings. Rather than only writing, "I was angry," describe *why* you felt angry. *What* did you learn from the experience, and *how* will you handle the problem in a positive way? That can help you resolve conflicts and plan future actions, like talking to a friend about what happened.

A notebook is a good place to share feelings that might be hard to talk about in person. But you don't have to write only about problems. You can also record your goals, dreams, and awesome experiences. Be sure to date your entries—it can be fun to look back later on. Give it a try. You might find that writing is *right* for you.

Explore & Soar: Express Yourself

There are lots of fun ways to explore journaling. Experiment with these specific types:

- ☐ Travel. Keep a notebook to record your adventures in new places.
- ☐ Dreams. Write about your dreams as soon as you wake up.



- ☐ Drawings. Use pictures to express your thoughts or record memories.
- ☐ Faith. Keep track of your favorite prayers and writings, and questions you have for God.
- ☐ Gratitude. Jot down three things you're thankful for each day.
- ☐ Nature. Go outside, connect with nature, and write about it.
- ☐ Vision. Write about your goals, wishes, and dreams for the future.

Curiosity Canopy



Did you know? Anne Frank, a Jewish girl living in the Netherlands during World War II, kept a journal for two years while her family hid from the Nazis. Her diary was later published in 67 languages! Anne wrote, "When I write I can shake off all my cares."

Correction: Our last issue stated that Helen Keller was born blind and deaf, but she actually lost her sight and hearing after an illness at 19 months.

Express Your Emotions

Have you ever been so mad you wanted to scream?
Or so happy you felt like you could fly? Or so mixed up
you felt you were lost in a maze?

One way to understand our emotions better is by journaling.
Writing can help us identify things like anger or fear and
explore ways to handle them. We can also write about happy

feelings and look for ways to focus on the good things in life.

We might think of some feelings as “bad” or “wrong,” but
emotions are just part of being human. How we express them is what’s
important. Writing can help us find words to explain what’s going on
inside our hearts and minds. Once we have the words, we can share
our feelings with others in a healthy way—and that feels amazing.

Three things that make me **HAPPY**:

I express joy by:

If happiness were a place, it would be:

I get **ANGRY** when:

If anger were weather, it would be:

Things that help me when I’m angry:

I was **SAD** when:

Sadness feels like:

When I’m sad, I like to:

I express **LOVE** by:

Love makes me feel:

If love were a sound, it would be:

This makes me feel **AFRAID**:

When I’m afraid, I talk to:

I feel better when I:



The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

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

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
in Tihrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as
a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the
"Black Pit" of Tihrán

1853–1863

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

1863 April 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.

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Declaration in the Garden of Ridván

In 1853, Bahá'u'lláh and His family endured a harsh exile to Baghdád, Iraq, from their homeland in Persia (now Iran). Though Bahá'u'lláh had done nothing wrong, Muslim leaders wanted to diminish His influence as a leader in the Bábí Faith. The Bábís followed a Messenger of God known as the Báb ("Gate" in Arabic), who taught that a new Messenger from God would soon arrive.

Many Bábís in Persia had been killed for their faith, and the Bábís living in Baghdád feared persecution. They didn't meet each other in public. But Bahá'u'lláh visited the Bábís and let people know that He was a Bábí. His courageous example inspired others, and they began to venture out. Soon people from all walks of life were drawn to Bahá'u'lláh's loving presence. They sought His wisdom and advice.

But in time, the Muslim authorities again felt threatened by Bahá'u'lláh's prominence in the city. In 1863, it was announced that He was being sent to Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). Those who knew and loved Him were devastated. People flocked to His house to say goodbye, but His home was too small. A friend invited Him to use his garden on the Tigris River. Bahá'u'lláh and some of the Bábís gathered in the garden on April 22, 1863.

Bahá'u'lláh's departure was a sad occasion, but something amazing happened on that day. Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Promised One foretold by the Báb. His followers



Bahá'u'lláh crossed the Tigris River to the rose-filled Garden of Ridván to say farewell to friends and to make a magnificent announcement.

were overjoyed. The farewell gathering became a wondrous spiritual occasion, and the garden became known as the Garden of Ridván ("Paradise" in Arabic).

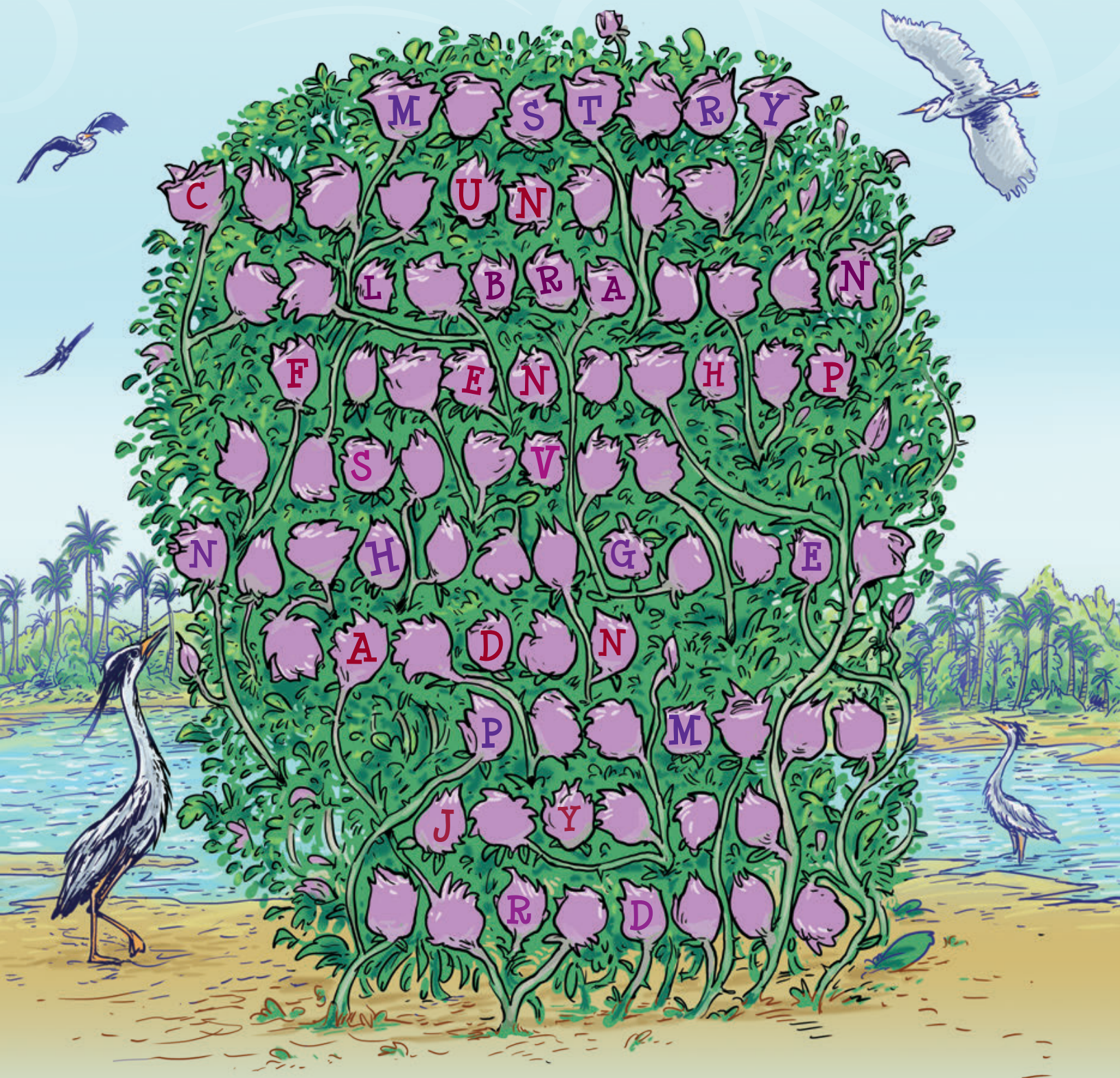
For 12 days, Bahá'u'lláh met with friends who visited Him in the garden, including the governor himself. He admired Bahá'u'lláh greatly and asked how he could help with His journey. Bahá'u'lláh only requested that the Bábís in Baghdád be treated with kindness. The governor readily agreed.

Each day, gardeners would pick roses and place them in Bahá'u'lláh's tent. The flowers were piled so high that people couldn't see over them! Bahá'u'lláh had the roses taken to friends in Baghdád. At night, He walked and chanted prayers among the songs of nightingales.

Today, Bahá'ís around the world joyfully celebrate the Festival of Ridván, which Bahá'u'lláh named the "Most Great Festival."

“In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love . . .” — Bahá’u’lláh

In the rose bush, discover words related to the story of Bahá’u’lláh’s declaration in the Garden of Ridván. Fill in the blank roses with letters. Connected roses have the same letter.





Sibling Solutions

It's a beautiful day, and your family is getting ready for a trip to the beach. Everyone pitches in to help make the food, pack the car, and find the beach gear.

But then things get a little sticky. Your brother borrowed your goggles last week, and now he can't find them. Your sister just gobbled



up the snacks you had packed earlier for the trip. Time to yell and slam your door?

Try talking calmly with your siblings instead. Ask your brother to help you brainstorm about where the goggles might be. Ask your sister to help pack new snacks. Resolving problems peacefully keeps the *fun* in family time.

Test Your Peaceful Powers

Which answers soothe sibling stress?

- 1 You need to get ready for school, but your brother is taking forever in the bathroom.
 - A. Pound on the door and yell.
 - B. Threaten to post goofy pictures of him online.
 - C. Plan a family meeting to work out a fair schedule.

- 2 Your sister announced that she has straight As.
 - A. Congratulate her, and suggest a way to celebrate.
 - B. Talk about all the trophies you've won for soccer.
 - C. Tell her that only geeks care about grades.

- 3 Your sister wants you to do her chores today, so she can go to a surprise party.
 - A. Tell her yes if she'll do your chores tomorrow.
 - B. Yell, "No way! You always try to get out of work around here."
 - C. Tie dye your new t-shirt in the tub she'll be cleaning tomorrow.

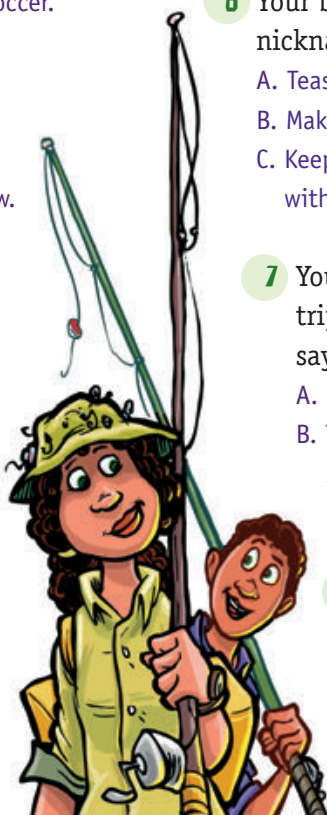
- 4 You're going to a game. Your little brother wants to come along, but you want some time alone with your friends.
 - A. Tell him to get lost.
 - B. Pretend to play hide and seek, then sneak out the back door.
 - C. Instead of arguing, offer a compromise, like playing with him later.

- 5 Your sister is going to the movies with friends *again*, but your parents say no to having your friends over to hang out.
 - A. Say, "No fair! Why does she get to do everything?"
 - B. Politely ask your parents when would be a good time to invite your friends over.
 - C. Send texts to your friends, complaining about your sister.

- 6 Your brother keeps calling you an embarrassing nickname from when you were little.
 - A. Tease him about his most embarrassing secret.
 - B. Make a list of names to call him in front of his friends.
 - C. Keep your cool. Tell him that you want to be treated with respect, and you'll do the same for him.

- 7 Your older brother is getting ready for a fishing trip. Your sister wants to learn to fish, but he says fishing is an activity just for men.
 - A. Practice hooking his clothes with a fishing line.
 - B. Tell him girls and boys are equal, and no one should be excluded from a fun activity because of gender.
 - C. Call him names and slam your door.

- 8 You find your sister jumping around with your violin, like it's an electric guitar.
 - A. Hide her favorite shoes.
 - B. Ask your mom to trade her in for a new sister.
 - C. Agree to ask before using each other's stuff.



CREATING JOY

“Let each morn be better than its eve and each morrow richer than its yesterday.” —Bahá’u’lláh

What would make today the best day ever? A big party with friends and family? Riding the fastest roller coaster you can imagine? Winning the competition you’ve been practicing for?

Big events are exciting, but they don’t happen often. To stack up the joy every day, fit in lots of little things that

are fun, interesting, and meaningful to you.

Happiness may pop up in unexpected places. Helping others, practicing diligently, or giving stuff away may not always seem fun, but in the right balance, they’re key pieces of a fulfilling life. Keep your eyes open for new ways to assemble happiness every day.

Be active



Skateboard

Care for nature



Turtle

Make art



Paintbrush

Connect to friends



Camera

Explore



Map

Help others



Cup

Practice a skill



Trumpet

Pray and be mindful



Prayer Book

Set goals



Trophy

FIND NINE THINGS THAT BUILD PATHS TO HAPPINESS.



ART OF BALANCE

Is it possible to have too much of a good thing?

When it comes to positive qualities such as kindness and love, it may not seem like it.

But even virtues can trip us up if we don't keep our balance. For example, it's great to be excited about your ability to spell, surf, or sing. But if you're not modest about your talents, that excitement might turn into arrogance.

On the flip side, if you're too humble, you might shy away from sharing your abilities with others. When you find the right balance, you can let your gifts shine without being self-centered.

Lots of virtues work as partners to help us practice moderation. When we focus on strengthening *all* of our virtues, staying balanced can be a breeze.

Fill in the letters to find eight pairs of virtues that can balance each other.



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

Swoop Up the Stairs

Skip the elevator and take the stairs. It saves energy for the planet and gives you a physical and mental boost.



WOW, REALLY?

The African Ruppell's griffon vulture is the highest-flying bird ever recorded, at 37,000 ft (11,277 m). That's as high as many airplanes fly.

OUR CONNECTIONS



Tropical rainforests, like the Amazon, are a treasure trove for humanity. They're home to millions of indigenous people and half of our plant and animal species. Rainforests provide food, plants that we use for medicine, and over 20% of the world's oxygen. They also absorb carbon dioxide pollution from the atmosphere. But they're threatened by logging, farming, and other human activities. Covering about 6% of the planet, they need our protection.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Dr. Chris Impey is an astronomy professor at the University of Arizona. He's published over 170 studies about the universe, galaxies, and quasars and won many teaching awards. His latest book explores the next century of space exploration. He says, "We're all interconnected, and at one with the universe."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Boats or "junks" like these have sailed for over 2,000 years. They're still used for fishing, commuting, and tours in Victoria Harbor, one of the busiest harbors in the world. This Asian metropolis is one of the cities with the fastest Internet speed. *Unscramble the letters to find its location:*

GHNO NGOK

AMAZING ANIMALS



On the island of Java in Indonesia, these primates live in small groups. They communicate through touch, visual signs, and calls. If they sense danger from predators, they alert each other with a "ghek-ghok-ghek-ghok" call. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

J A A N A N U R S

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?

Táhirih-Khánúm A.

Age: **14**

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

I want to be:
An FBI agent

This career interests me because:
I want to be sure that people are safe, and I would enjoy it a lot.

Virtue I admire most:
Kindness

Hobbies or sports:
Soccer and singing

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Love my jr. youth groups



Places I'd love to visit:
Costa Rica, Brazil, Barcelona, Iran, Trinidad

A hero or role model:
My mom and dad

If I get nervous speaking in public:
I try to take a few deep breaths.

If I could give a message to world leaders, it would be:
I wish we could have world peace and not have to worry about prejudice.

Three emotions I feel every day:
Happy, curious, and sad. Sometimes I feel sad when I hear about the things that are happening in the world. When I am happy, I feel very confident...

To express appreciation for family and friends:
I love to make gifts...

Taija P.

Age: **14**

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

I want to be:
Involved in history, art, and music

This career interests me because:
You can reach people through the arts...

Virtues I admire most:
Thirst for knowledge and compassion...

Hobbies or sports:
Piano, tap, Irish dance, orchestra, pick-up soccer, horses, poetry, reading...

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Jr. Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program, collective songwriting

If I get nervous speaking in public:
I just remember that my words have purpose.



When my feelings are hurt:
I pray... I try to stay patient and loving.

If I could give a message to world leaders, it would be:
Never forget what it is to be human, and never forsake education...

To express appreciation for family and friends:
I listen to them and respect them...

Three emotions I feel every day:
Gratitude, frustration, and joy



Maile S.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be:
A photographer

This career interests me because:
Our world is beautiful...

Virtue I admire most:
Happiness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
I love to provide service in any way and to make people happy.

Favorite animal or pet:
I love koalas.

Place I'd love to visit:
Africa

Hobbies or sports:
I like to sing and draw, play volleyball, tennis, basketball, soccer...

A hero or role model:
'Abdu'l-Bahá

When my feelings are hurt:
I will say a prayer or sing something.

If I get nervous speaking in public:
I will practice... or pray for assistance.

To express appreciation for family and friends:
I will leave them a little note, give them a hug, or even just say I love you.

Three emotions I feel every day:
Happiness, tiredness, and grateful... When I am happy, I feel really good.

Wen Jie P.

Age: **11**

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

I want to be:

An inventor who creates medical machines that will change the world, creating health

Virtue I admire most:

Friendliness

Hobbies or sports:

Soccer, playing ukulele with my band, reading

Favorite Bahá'í activity:

Going to Bahá'í junior youth groups

Favorite animal or pet:

Hammerhead shark

Place I'd love to visit:

Italy

I like to help people by:

Raising money for places in need or offering my helping ideas or . . . hands

When my feelings are hurt: **I think about happy things and try to talk to someone who I am close to, like a friend or a parent.**

If I get nervous speaking in public:

What helps me to calm down is to take deep breaths and to think about what the next step is.

If I could give a message to world leaders, it would be:

Please help people . . . who are in need . . .



“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

Adib J.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Québec, Canada**

I want to be:

A professional basketball player or a history teacher

Virtue I admire most:

Honesty. I like it when people don't hide things from me.

Hobbies or sports:

Basketball, saxophone, drama

Favorite Bahá'í activity:

Going to Haifa, Israel, every summer

Favorite animal or pet:

My dog, Pepsi

Place I'd love to visit:

China

I like to help people by:

Encouraging them so they do their . . . best in life

Favorite book:

The Kane Chronicles. It's all Egyptian mythology . . .



A role model or hero:

My dad. He is always strong, even in difficult times, and makes sure that the whole family is safe and happy. That's how I want to be.

To express appreciation for family and friends:

I tell them I love them and I won't let them down in life.

If I could give a message to world leaders, it would be:

Stop all the wars, prejudices, and the racism . . . I would tell them to start working harder on applying the Bahá'í principles . . .

Allene V.

Age: **10**

I live in:

South Australia

I want to be:

An author

This career interests me because:

I really love writing stories.

Virtues I admire most:

Respect and humour

Hobbies or sports:

Piano, taekwondo, reading, art, writing, cello

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Children's classes, Feast, holy days, Ayyám-i-Há*

Places I'd love to visit:

My parents' home countries (U.S. & Iran)

A hero or role model:

My mom and dad

A favorite book or song:

It's impossible for me to choose just one!

A favorite food:

Ash-e Reshteh (Persian soup with noodles)

When my feelings are hurt:

Usually I become quiet. And when it's my friends that have hurt me, I try to let them know it . . .

If I could give a message to world leaders, it would be:

Be kind and just, and try your best to help people.

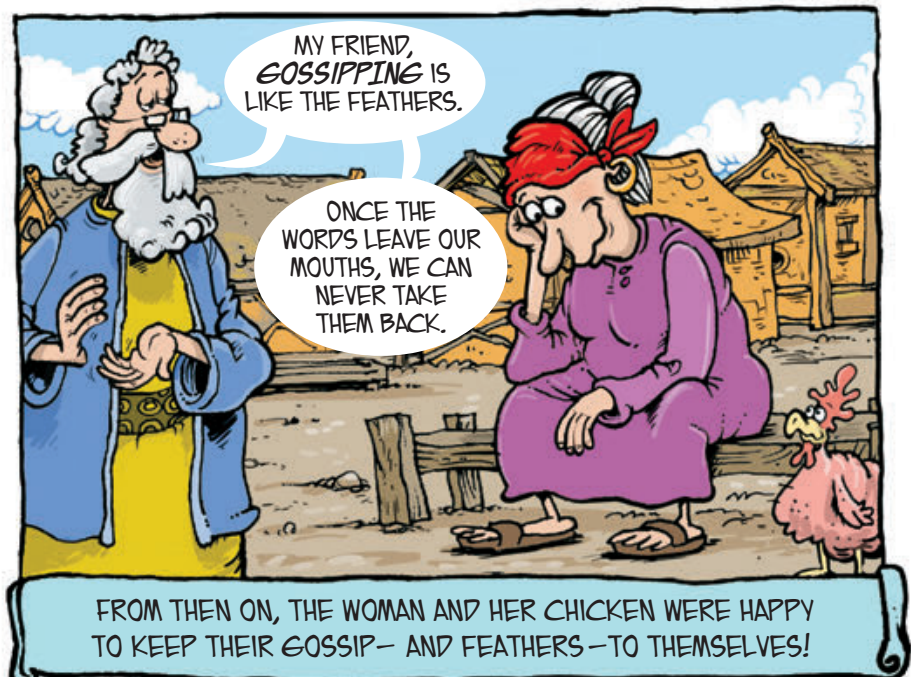
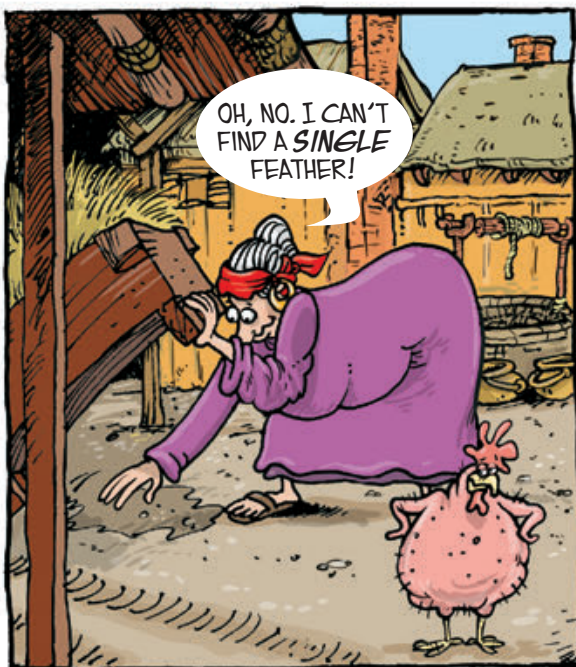
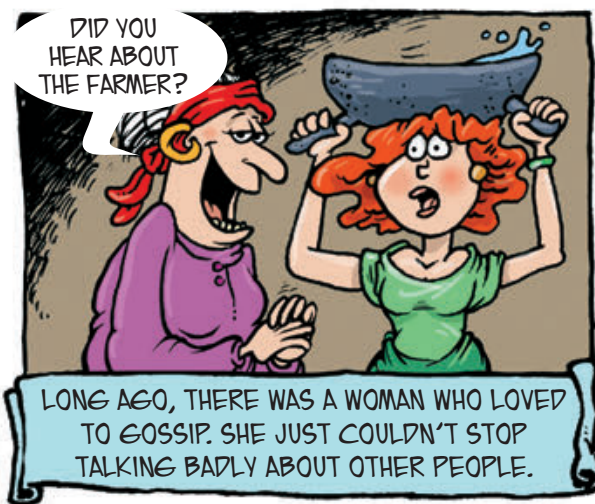


How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7–14, go to 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. 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).

*Feast is a Bahá'í community gathering with prayers, consultation, and fellowship; Ayyám-i-Há is a festival of hospitality, charity, and gift giving.

Like the Feathers



Think about someone who's fun to talk to. Conversations are more interesting when you know the other person and talk about things that tickle your imagination. But sometimes it's hard to figure out how to get started. One solution is to

keep a list of lively topics handy—in your head. Here are some ideas. Start with A, and unscramble the key word to spark a cool conversation. Find your way to Z. Memorize your favorites, and make up your own questions, too.

What's your favorite **A** _____ (LAMAIN)?

Would you rather be at the **B** _____ (CHABE) or in a bookstore?

Do you **C** _____ (LEOCLCT) anything?

What do you **D** _____ (MRADE) about doing as a career?

What would you like to fix about the **E** _____ 's (HARTE) environment?

If you could be **F** _____, (USOMAF) what would you want to be known for?

What's the best **G** _____ (TGFI) you ever received?

If you designed a **H** _____, (EUOSH) what would it look like?

If you created an **I** _____ (CIE MREAC) flavor, what would it taste like?

Do you know any good **J** _____ (KOJSE)?

What's the **K** _____ (NKSTEDI) thing anyone has done for you?

If you could instantly know another **L** _____, (LGUANGEA) what would you choose?

What's one of your favorite **M** _____ (SIMOVE)?

If you were going to change your **N** _____, (ANEM) what would you want it to be?

Would you rather be an **O** _____, (TOCPSUO) an orangutan, or an owl? Why?

What's your idea of a perfect **P** _____ (TYRPA)?

What's your favorite **Q** _____ (QATILYU) in a friend?

What's one of the best books you've ever **R** _____ (ARDE)?

What's your favorite **S** _____ (TROPS) or board game?

What are three things you're most **T** _____ (LUFKNHTA) for?

What's something **U** _____ (QENUIU) about you that few people know?

Where would you love to go on **V** _____ (TCIONAVA)?

If you **W** _____ (ONW) a million dollars, what would you do with it?

Would you rather **X** _____ (PEXOLER) outer space or the deep ocean?

What are you most excited about this **Y** _____ (ARYE)?

If you could have a **Z** _____ (LIZLINO) of anything but money, what would it be?





ASK A SPACE SCIENTIST

Our universe is full of mysteries, and some of the most mind-boggling are in space. Curious kids asked questions, and we sent them to two Bahá'í scientists who work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Have questions about space? Send them to brilliant@usbnc.org (with your name and age).



How fast is the fastest rocket? –Noura, age 11

Why is there gravity on Earth and not any gravity in space? –Safa, age 10

Hi, Safa,

Gravity is a force that is found everywhere—in space as well as on Earth. If you were orbiting the Earth on the International Space Station, the gravity force there is only a little smaller than it is on Earth. However, you would think there is no gravity there, because you would feel weightless. The gravity of the Earth is what keeps the space station orbiting the Earth and not flying off into deep space. You feel weightless, because everything in the space station is moving toward the Earth at the same speed, so it seems like there is no gravity. It's like being in freefall after jumping from an airplane—but because you're orbiting so fast, you never reach the ground.

—Steve

Hi, Noura,

The fastest rocket ever launched was the Atlas V (above), which carried the New Horizons probe into space. When it left Earth in 2006, the spacecraft was traveling 36,373 miles per hour. That's 63 times faster than a passenger jet. At that speed, you could fly all the way around the Earth in 42 minutes. Even going that fast, it took New Horizons nine years to reach Pluto. That's how big the solar system is. If you could walk to Pluto, it would take about 100,000 years!

—George

BACK IN TIME

In 1786, German astronomer Caroline Herschel (at right) became the first woman to discover a space object of this kind. She went on to find seven more and receive many honors. Fill in the blanks to find the item's name:



O E

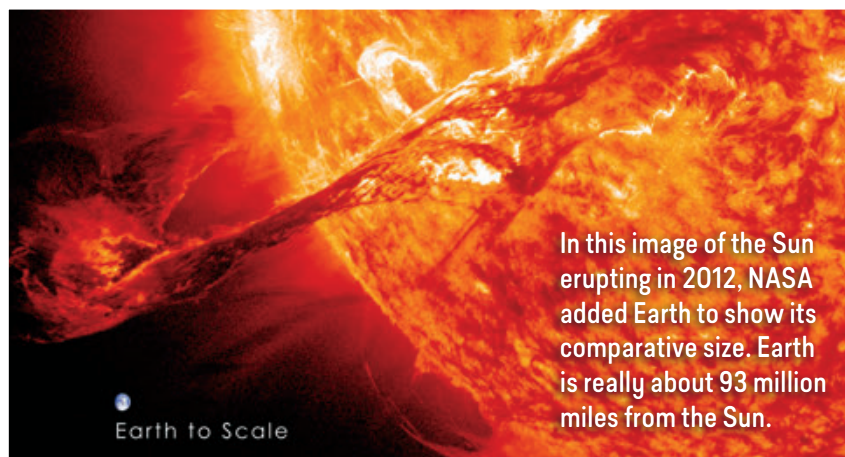
What was the Friendship 7?

- A) NASA's first class of astronauts
- B) First U.S. space capsule to orbit Earth
- C) Popular band from the 1970s
- D) The seventh rover to explore Mars

The answer is B: In 1962, John Glenn was the first American to orbit Earth, in the Friendship 7.



OUT OF THIS WORLD



In this image of the Sun erupting in 2012, NASA added Earth to show its comparative size. Earth is really about 93 million miles from the Sun.

Why is the Sun orange? — Domani, age 11

Hi, Domani,

In space, the Sun looks white. White light is the combination of all the colors of the rainbow. On Earth, sunlight is scattered by the air, water, and dust in our atmosphere. The longer the path the light has to travel through the atmosphere, the more it gets scattered: purple first, then blue, then green, yellow, orange, and red. When overhead, the Sun looks yellow. But when it's near the horizon at sunset or sunrise, the path of the light through the atmosphere is longer and the yellow light is scattered away, making the Sun look orange. The image above was produced by superimposing two wavelengths of ultraviolet light that we can't see, so scientists colored them yellow and red to get the pretty orange color.

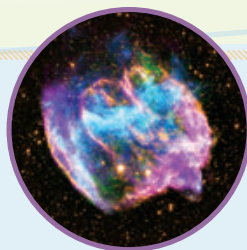
—George

COSMIC QUIZ

A supernova is:

- A) A cluster of galaxies
- B) A super bright group of stars
- C) A sports car that can go over 200 mph
- D) A star's destructive explosion at the end of its life

The answer is D: When a large star gets old and runs out of fuel, it collapses into its core, then explodes. Above is a remnant of a supernova called W49B, from 26,000 light-years away!



STEVE SCOTTI is a research engineer at NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, U.S. He works to develop lighter, stronger materials and structures for aircraft and spacecraft. Watching the first astronaut launched into space inspired his interest in space exploration. He enjoys sharing his enthusiasm about science and space with kids.



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



BAXTER AND BRIDGET

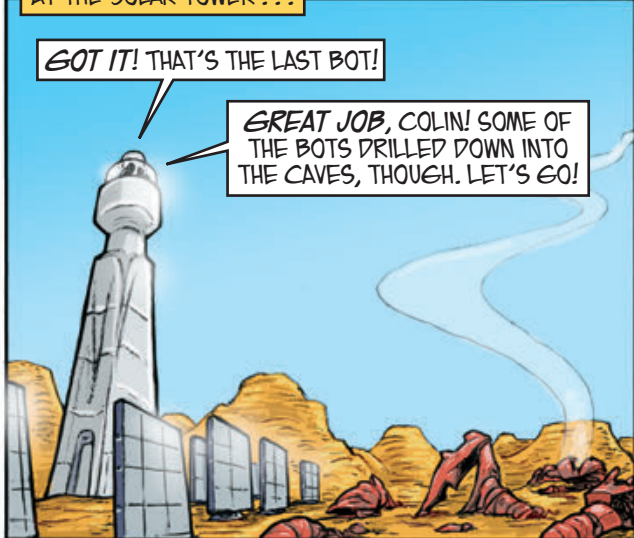
LIGHTNING & LUNA

SCORPION BOT BATTLE

#65



AT THE SOLAR TOWER ...



GOT IT! THAT'S THE LAST BOT!

GREAT JOB, COLIN! SOME OF THE BOTS DRILLED DOWN INTO THE CAVES, THOUGH. LET'S GO!

OUTSIDE THE SECRET CHAMBER ...



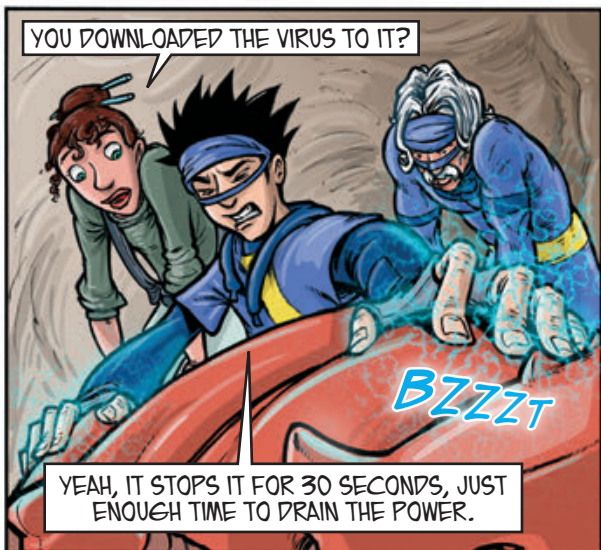
WE'VE GOT TO ... STOP IT ...

AGHH!



MINNAH, CHRONOS, HANG ON!

LIGHTNING, HELP!



YOU DOWNLOADED THE VIRUS TO IT?

BZZZZT

YEAH, IT STOPS IT FOR 30 SECONDS, JUST ENOUGH TIME TO DRAIN THE POWER.



THIS IS LUNA. I NEED BACKUP! NOW!

GO, LIGHTNING! SHE'S IN THAT CHAMBER.



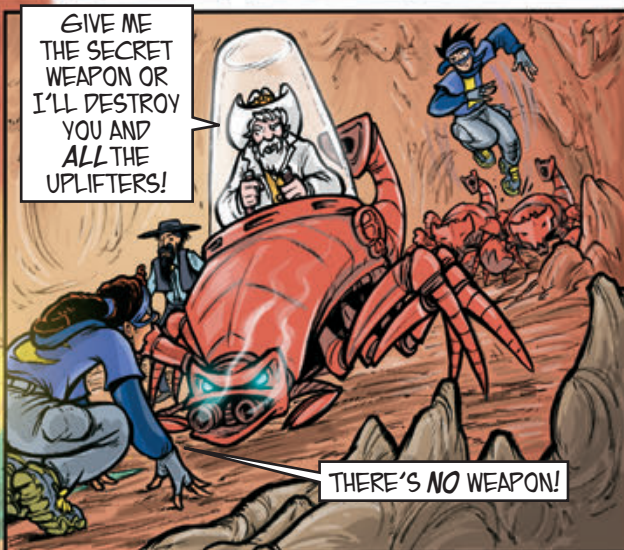
WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE CAVE PAINTINGS!

HE'S AIMING FOR YOU!

LOOK OUT!

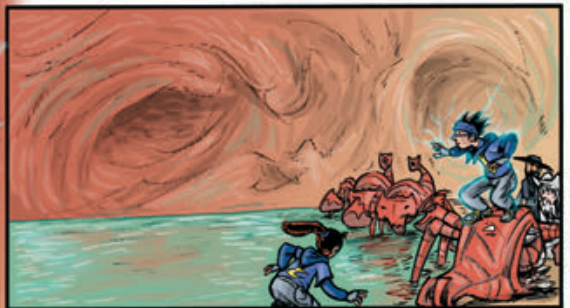
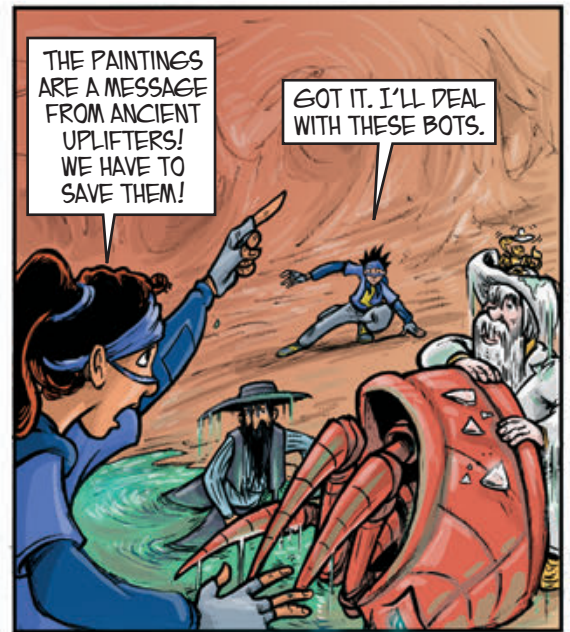
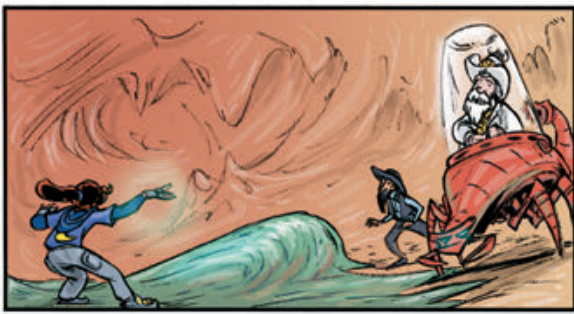


ZAAAAAP



GIVE ME THE SECRET WEAPON OR I'LL DESTROY YOU AND ALL THE UPLIFTERS!

THERE'S NO WEAPON!



Game On!

Make a Foosball

You and your friend are playing an intense game, testing the plays you've practiced. Your next shot feels awesome—you're one point away from the win. Suddenly, your friend scores three. Your confidence dives. Do you quit playing? Accuse your opponent of cheating? Or praise them for a great game?

Being a good sport is a real victory. It's more fun for everyone when you treat others as you like to be treated.

Instead of taunts and trash talk, be encouraging. When you win, don't gloat, and if you lose, congratulate your opponent with a smile.

If competition gets too stressful, practice and beat your own record. Share your skills and cool moves with other kids learning your sport.

Make this portable game, and bring laughter and friendship wherever you go!



You'll Need

- shoebox about 8" x 10" (20.3 x 25.4 cm)
- eight 10" (25.4 cm) wooden skewers
- table tennis ball
- ten 3 1/4" (8.3 cm) wooden clothespins with springs
- paint (two colors) and paintbrushes
- water
- wrapping paper
- duct tape
- glue
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- craft / utility knife (and an adult to help)

- 1 Paint five clothespins one color and five another color. Make sure clips still open.



- 2 Cover box in wrapping paper and secure with glue. Wrap lid separately (use to store game).



- 3 Clip two clothespins to a skewer and stand pins up. Place skewer against long side of box. Use ruler to draw a line across box, 3/4" (1.9 cm) above skewer. Repeat on opposite side of box.



Game



- 4 On line, mark box's center. Draw dots 1" (2.5 cm) and 3" (7.6 cm) to left and right of center. Repeat on opposite side of box.



- 7 For goals, ask an adult to help cut a 2" x 3 1/4" (5 x 8.3 cm) hole centered at each end of box.



- 5 With an adult's help, poke knife point through each dot. Insert pencil and twist to widen holes.



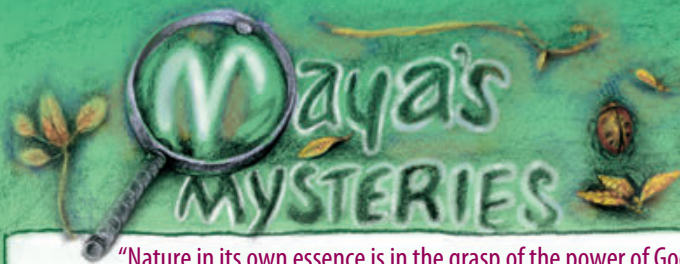
- 8 Clip three pins of same color to each central skewer. Add two pins to each remaining skewer so row colors alternate. Space pins evenly along tape.



- 6 Put a skewer through holes on each side of box, with points inside. Each pair of skewers should overlap about 6" (15.2 cm). Secure pairs with duct tape, leaving 1" (2.5 cm) from box's sides tape-free.



To Play: Each player picks a pin color. Drop ball in middle. Rotate or shift skewers to control ball and score goals. If ball stops out of reach, nudge it to nearest pin. The winner scores five goals first.



"Nature in its own essence is in the grasp of the power of God ..."
—'Abdu'l-Bahá

NATURE WALKS
ARE MEDICINE
FOR MY MIND,
BODY, AND
SPIRIT!



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Do you love being out in nature? I do! It's amazing to breathe fresh air and feel the warm sunshine on my face. I also love looking for birds and other animals.

Did you know that spending time in nature is

good for your health and happiness? It can reduce negativity, sadness, and stress. So when school gets tough, I go hiking. I always feel better afterward.

What nature activities do you love most? Try these out, and add your own.

CONNECT WITH NATURE CHALLENGE

Challenge your family and friends to see how many outdoor activities you can do in two weeks. Add your own ideas, too.

Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

- ☐ Look for constellations on a starry night.
- ☐ Fill a bird feeder for your feathered friends.
- ☐ See how many different plants you can find in a yard or park.
- ☐ Go on a sound hunt. How many things can you hear?
- ☐ Make bark rubbings with crayons and paper.
- ☐ Spot 10 different creatures on your next nature walk.
- ☐ Find a bird's nest or an animal's burrow.

- ☐ Discover some animal tracks.
- ☐ Find shapes in the clouds.



- ☐ Collect six cool-looking rocks and stones.
- ☐ Search for wildflowers—how many colors and scents can you discover?
- ☐ Find a reflection in a body of water.
- ☐ Make a boat out of leaves or twigs.
- ☐ Make a sculpture with sand or mud.

- ☐ Spy a spider's web.
- ☐ Draw a picture of your favorite spot outdoors.
- ☐ Use sticks and rocks to make earth-friendly music.
- ☐ Plant some seeds in a garden or container.
- ☐ Grab a magnifying glass and investigate a tree's leaves.

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____



BUMPER CAR BASH

"The fact that we imagine ourselves to be right and everybody else wrong is the greatest of all obstacles in the path towards unity . . ." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

S MASH! BAM! You and your friend steer your bumper cars into each other. WHAP! Your friend reverses, then another car backs into you. Now you're stuck in a traffic jam. In bumper cars, you can't really get anywhere.

It's similar when friends have conflicts. What if you hear that a friend is gossiping about you? If you get angry or just stop talking, hurt feelings can spin out of control. Your

friendship might get knocked off course.

Instead, take a pit stop. Talk to your friend in private, when you're both calm. Find out if you have the story straight. Rumors can lead to big mix-ups. Truly listen and look at things from each other's point of view. Be honest about your feelings. With respect and patience, you can break out of confusion and get back on the road to harmony.

Find 14 words that put the brakes on conflict. Then circle them in the puzzle, searching up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally.

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





WHICH UPLIFTER ARE YOU?



Wouldn't it be awesome to have superpowers like Lightning, Luna, and the other Uplifters? You'd stand up to Erasers who cause trouble around the world. Imagine being able to fly, turn invisible, or have super vision.

You may not have those amazing abilities, but you do have superpowers for helping humanity. Is someone bullying

a friend? Rely on your powers of justice and courage to speak up. Tough homework? Use diligence and creativity to finish and have fun. Fighting with a friend? Loyalty and listening can help you work it out. You can even team up with others to help solve global problems—like climate change or poverty.

When you use your virtues and talents as a force field, you can be truly heroic.



THE UPLIFTERS: A GLOBAL TEAM OF SUPERHEROES



LIGHTNING

He flies and has electric powers and super vision. Luna's brother.



LUNA

She flies, turns invisible, controls waves, and breaks codes. Lightning's sister.



PULSAR

A dedicated leader of the Uplifters. He has super hearing and intuition.



ZAPPO

She's an enthusiastic technology wizard with brilliant engineering skills.

QUIZ

CIRCLE THE ANSWERS THAT BEST FIT YOUR SUPERHERO STYLE.

1. One of my strongest qualities is:

- a. Loyalty
- b. Courage
- c. Determination
- d. Imagination

2. When I'm leading a team, I:

- a. Make plans and organize
- b. Take action right away
- c. Help the team work together
- d. Work behind the scenes



3. One thing I'd love about being an Uplifter is:

- a. Traveling the world to help others
- b. Succeeding on missions
- c. Being a mentor to new Uplifters
- d. Coming up with the best technology for the teams

4. My favorite Uplifter tool is:

- a. The flying Uplifter pod
- b. The uniforms with all of their cool tools
- c. The voice-controlled uPad
- d. All of them!



5. When I'm in a group that's consulting about a problem:

- a. I listen carefully first
- b. I jump right in and share new ideas
- c. I make sure everyone has a chance to speak up
- d. I research all the facts

6. When I'm afraid:

- a. I think of my friends and family
- b. I stay positive and think about my goals
- c. I stay strong, because others rely on me
- d. I focus on tools and skills that can help

7. On a secret mission, I really shine at:

- a. Thinking ahead and being prepared
- b. Using my instincts and acting fast
- c. Encouraging and directing others
- d. Using high-tech tools

8. The most challenging thing about being an Uplifter:

- a. Fearing for the safety of my family and friends
- b. Not acting fast enough
- c. Sending teams on dangerous missions
- d. Outsmarting the Erasers' technology

9. At parties, I like to:

- a. Hang out with a few friends
- b. Make new friends
- c. Listen to music and dance
- d. Check out people's gadgets and swap tech tips

10. At the library or bookstore, I go straight to books about:

- a. Travel
- b. Art and design
- c. Leadership
- d. Science

11. For a career, I'd love to:

- a. Be a doctor
- b. Be an artist or architect
- c. Be a coach or counselor
- d. Invent new gear

12. My idea of a relaxing day:

- a. Hanging out with my friends and family
- b. Painting and dancing
- c. Going to a concert
- d. Touring a science museum



SCORING

CHECK YOUR SCORE TO FIND OUT WHICH UPLIFTER YOU'RE LIKE.



Mostly As: You're organized, responsible, and super loyal to your family and friends. You enjoy travel and learning about new things. You plan before you act. You're a lot like LIGHTNING.



Mostly Bs: You're artistic, creative, and brave. You're quick to use your powers to investigate problems and defend others. You have an optimistic attitude. You're a lot like LUNA.



Mostly Cs: You're a natural leader with strong insight. You encourage teams to cooperate and develop new strengths. You appreciate music. You're a lot like PULSAR.



Mostly Ds: You're curious, and you love to try out new gadgets, tools, and software. You like to help people with technology. You're a quick learner. You're a lot like ZAPPO.

Janet Ruhe-Schoen



PHOTO BY GIL MURO

Have you ever loved a character in a book or movie so much that you imagined you were *with* them? As a kid, Janet Ruhe-Schoen dreamed she was flying with Peter Pan. She used her vivid imagination to create poems and stories. Later, she worked as a journalist in the U.S. and Chile.

Janet's ability to envision people she'd never met helps her write books that bring Bahá'í heroes to life, such as the poet and martyr Táhirih, who courageously promoted the equality of women and men in Iran in the 1800s. "Just to think about those people!" Janet says. She would "pray about them so as to know how to write about them . . ."

Her latest book is about Louis Gregory and other Bahá'ís in the early 1900s who worked to end racism "in a segregated society torn by race warfare . . ."

Janet lives in New York with her husband, Chris, where her creativity also thrives in poetry and collage art.

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

A: I was raised in a Jewish family, and I was extremely challenged by that, because . . . there [were] always the stories in memory of the tragedy of the Holocaust, which was terribly heartbreaking . . . And there was also much doubt in the family and even by the rabbi of our synagogue . . . [about] the actual existence of God . . . The rabbi actually told me, God does not hear you when you pray . . .

I really only found my way past it when I began to read different scriptures for myself and think about and ask myself, why isn't there a Prophet for today? And then when I was 18, I found the Bahá'í Faith, and that answered my question.



Left: Janet started writing poetry when she was about 11 years old.

Right: In her 20s, Janet enjoyed experimenting with photography.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: Playing pretend with costumes. We had a costume drawer. We had . . . grandma's and mother's and aunt's old jewelry and things . . . I loved that, because I loved doing creative dramatics, and I loved going to acting class.

Q: How did you get started in writing?

A: When I was in sixth grade . . . my teacher . . . wrote a poem on the blackboard . . . We discussed it in the class . . . And I really loved that . . . That night, I woke up in the middle of the night. And I wasn't even afraid of the dark for once, because I was thinking of a poem . . . I wrote a poem about the sunrise . . . and I brought it in to Mrs. Thomas, the teacher, to show her . . . And she was thrilled.

Questions and
Answers with an
Inspirational Bahá'í



*PAINTING BY IVAN LLOYD

Left: Janet published a biography of the inspiring poet Táhirih, a Bahá'í heroine for women's education. Táhirih was martyred in 1852, when she was about 35.

Below: In her new book, Janet profiles pioneers of race unity in the U.S., including the African American lawyer and activist Louis Gregory.

Q: What three qualities are most important for a successful writer?

A: Perseverance and perseverance and perseverance. And read a lot . . . Don't think you can just write and not read a lot of books. Forget it. You've got to read everything, a lot of books and magazines. You've got to love to read!

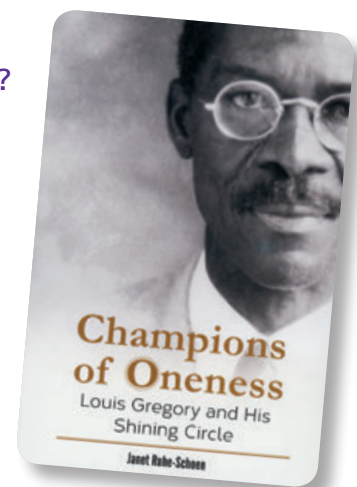
Otherwise, do something else. Because reading is like the gas going into your car. You need those words. You need not just the information. You need the music of the language.

Q: What's your wish for *Brilliant Star's* readers?

A: That . . . each become[s] a brilliant star in their own right, as brilliant as they can *possibly* be, shining light and love on everyone. Because the world needs it, and they will benefit from it too.

Q: What can we learn from the Bahá'í champions of race unity in the early 1900s?

A: We can learn a great deal of . . . courage and faith, because they were met with opposition . . . by society, by their friends, by their families, even by people within their own faith . . . You could get killed. If you were walking down the street, a white person and a black person, you could get attacked . . . and not just down south . . . So the real danger . . . was ever-present.



Q: You worked for many years as a journalist in the U.S. and Latin America. What did you like most about journalism?

A: You get to meet all these people and talk to them. And in Chile, it was amazing, because I would go and talk to them in Spanish . . . I met all these Chilean actors, scientists, these really fascinating people . . . I would . . . go around Santiago to all these . . . parts of the city that I never would have gotten to otherwise, and taking strange forms of transportation, and it was really adventurous.

Q: This issue of *Brilliant Star* is about communication. If a person is shy about speaking up, what can they do to build confidence?

A: Learn to trust yourself . . . You are the authority on what you know . . . If you are a kid . . . that loves dinosaurs . . . you know a lot about dinosaurs, and probably you know more about dinosaurs than a lot of other people. And so . . . don't be afraid to listen in when people are talking about something that interests you greatly. And don't be afraid to say what you know about it, or what you think about it, or ask questions about it . . .

When Your Body Talks...

“When the spirit is fed with holy virtues, then is the body joyous . . .” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

When you pass a friend in the hall at school, you may smile and wave at each other. Without a word, you convey friendliness. But what if the person waves with a frown? What are they saying?

We constantly send messages with our body language—facial expressions, gestures, posture, and tone of voice. When you’re aware of what your body is saying, you can avoid sending mixed messages.

When your words say one thing and your body says something different, people can get confused. For example,



you may want to make new friends at a party, but you might not realize that your crossed arms and stern expression are saying, “Leave me alone!” When someone growls, “I’m not mad!” with clenched teeth and tight fists, it’s hard to believe their words.

Body language has different meanings across cultures. You might be greeted with a hug in Mexico and a bow in Japan. Check out these tips for positive nonverbal messages in U.S. culture.



Body Talk Tips



Posture

Sitting or standing up in a straight, relaxed manner tells people that you’re alert and interested. Being slouched or hunched over may convey that you’re bored, tired, or upset. Crossing your arms and legs is called a closed posture, and it tells people to stay away. An open posture, with arms and legs uncrossed, invites interaction.

Gestures

Positive gestures make you appear friendly and approachable. You might nod while listening or invite someone to join you with a beckoning hand. Fidgeting, biting your lips, or putting your hand over your mouth give an impression of anxiety or disinterest.



Face

Your facial expression can show lots of emotions, from happiness to fear. An expression that matches your actions makes it easier for people to relate to you. Be aware of your resting face—how you look when you’re not interacting with anyone. A pleasant resting face helps people feel good around you.



Appearance

Your clothing, neatness, and cleanliness send a message to others. You might wear casual clothes to hang out with friends and a more formal outfit at a wedding. Being clean and neat, no matter what you’re wearing, sends positive signals.

Eyes

Making eye contact shows that you’re confident, sincere, and engaged. Avoiding someone’s eyes may convey fear, disinterest, or dishonesty.



When you’re aware of how your body talks to others, you can express yourself more clearly and confidently.

What Do People *Hear*?

Understanding body language is a vital skill we use every day. It helps us make friends and get along with others. You interpret nonverbal signals when you talk to a kid who has an open posture and friendly expression, instead of one who's hunched over and scowling. If your brother is

frowning with concentration over a school project due tomorrow, you know it's not a good time to ask him to play a game.

You use these "listening" skills to interact with everyone around you. When you send and interpret signals successfully, your relationships can be clear and harmonious.

At this block party, what makes the nonverbal messages positive, neutral, or negative? Circle the 10 people whose positive, friendly body language is clearly visible.



POET'S PEAK

Have you ever been awed by a brilliant sunset or powerful ocean waves? A poem can bring to life what you see, hear, smell, or touch. Enjoy the poems below. How do they make you feel? Try writing your own poem about a color, place, or anything that captures your imagination.

REDWOODS

BY BENJAMIN N., age 11



Massive trunks tower in the sky
Their branches made from rubies of blood red hue.
Their arms shelter you from the sun
Transforming the leaves to glowing emeralds
Spiraling down on you.
Splotches of sapphire sky are supported by the trees
Swaying ever so slightly
In the mellow breeze.
The branches try to snatch the clouds from the sky
But soon they start to cry
And icy pellets fall unrelenting from the sky.
The blue is now gray
And the gale makes the trees dance and sway
Lightning illuminating the fray.
The branches creak and moan
As icy missiles strike home.
The gray lightens
And the wind picks up blowing the clouds away
Ever so slowly unveiling the blinding light of day.
The wind starts to relent
And the forest wins the battle
But it has not won the war
For only some are safe from the men with axes.
But for now the ancient giants of the forest are safe and sound
And no matter what will stand their sacred ground.



BLUE

BY KAITLYN B., age 11



Blue has scores of shades
and a multitude of tones.
Aquamarine, Sky Blue, Cobalt, Slate Blue, and Cyan
just to name a few.
Flowers the color of sapphires
adorn the fields and gardens of our world.
Blue birds sing their heartwarming songs
in the trees that soar into
the heavens so high.
Waterfalls reflecting the sky's azure blue
play a soothing melody on
stone and earth.
My favorite powder blue sweater
and leggings
keep me warm under frigid winter skies.
The oceans of sea and teal blue
lap on to the shore
seeking warmth from their
icy depths of slate blue,
even though it's mid-summer.
The sky, infinite and vast,
has fluffy, powder white clouds
floating in a gigantic, light blue sky.
Then the clouds are blown away by a slight breeze.
Rain flows down from the sky.
My purple umbrella
has rain drops pelted down on its surface.
As a rain drop falls, I see a hint of blue
a royal, REGAL, cobalt blue.
Turns out, it was just a car passing by.
Blue
It can trick the eye
but it can be *real*. So, so *real*.

Charge Up Communication

“Let them see no one as their enemy, or as wishing them ill, but think of all humankind as their friends . . .” — ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

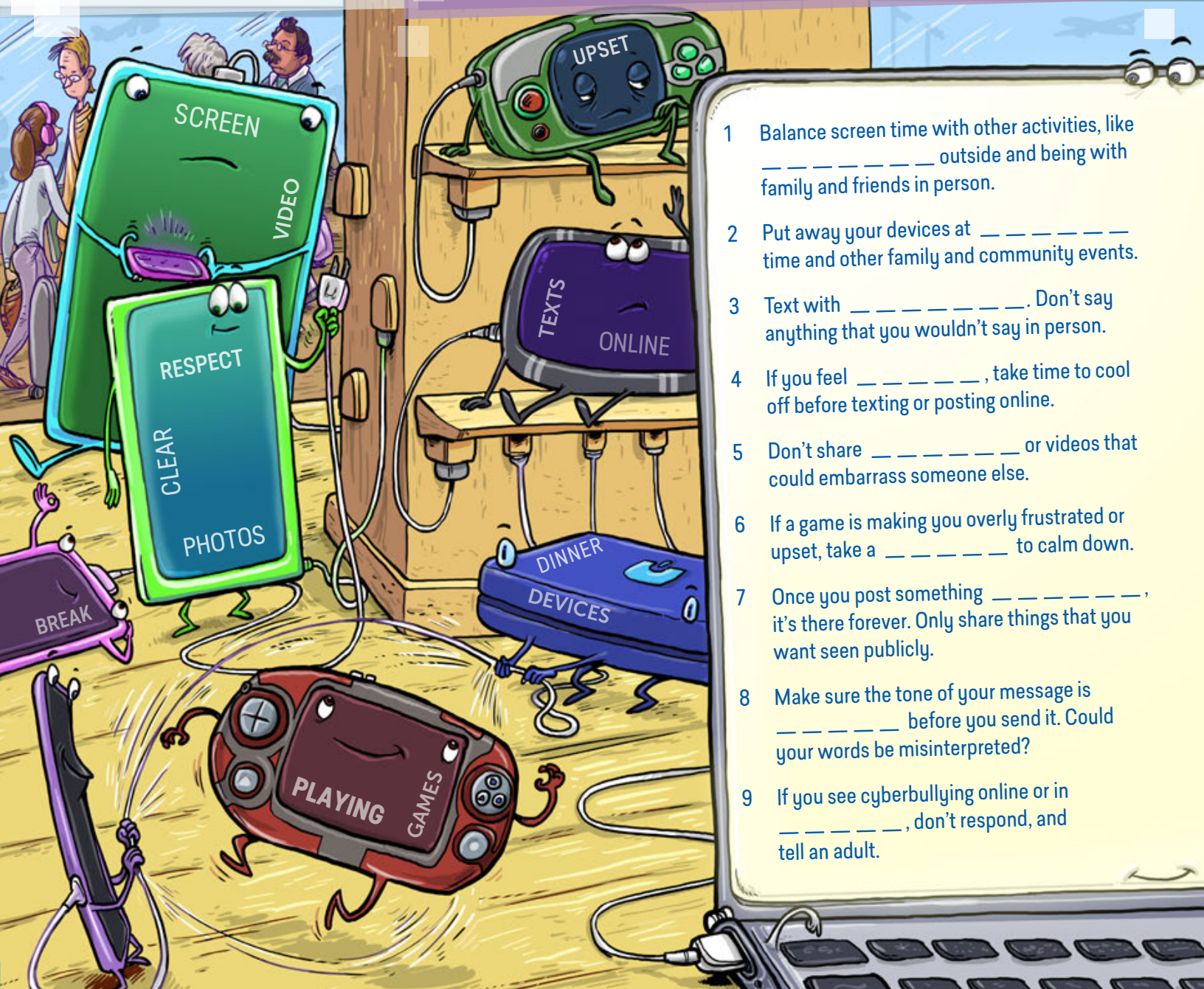
Smartphones, tablets, and other digital devices are awesome tools. They help us connect with friends, explore new worlds in a flash, or chill out with cool activities.

But they can be hard to put down. Have you ever tried talking to someone who keeps looking at their screen instead of listening? No fun. Our devices can distract us from important

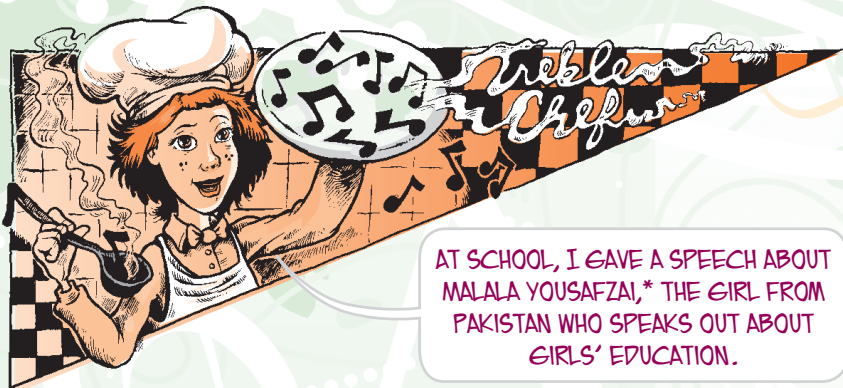
things—like a friend who needs help or fun family time. But we can choose to use technology wisely. Keep in mind what’s most important to you. Would you rather beat your best score or build memories with your favorite people?

It takes strength and smarts to use your tools wisely. With moderation, we can enjoy screen time and keep our relationships—online and offline—fully charged.

Find the words to complete tips about wise screen time.



- 1 Balance screen time with other activities, like _____ outside and being with family and friends in person.
- 2 Put away your devices at _____ time and other family and community events.
- 3 Text with _____. Don't say anything that you wouldn't say in person.
- 4 If you feel _____, take time to cool off before texting or posting online.
- 5 Don't share _____ or videos that could embarrass someone else.
- 6 If a game is making you overly frustrated or upset, take a _____ to calm down.
- 7 Once you post something _____, it's there forever. Only share things that you want seen publicly.
- 8 Make sure the tone of your message is _____ before you send it. Could your words be misinterpreted?
- 9 If you see cyberbullying online or in _____, don't respond, and tell an adult.



MUSIC CAFÉ

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

AT SCHOOL, I GAVE A SPEECH ABOUT MALALA YOUSAFZAI,* THE GIRL FROM PAKISTAN WHO SPEAKS OUT ABOUT GIRLS' EDUCATION.

SHE INSPIRES ME AND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. SHE EVEN WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE! AFTER I LEARNED ABOUT HER AMAZING STORY, I REALLY DO FEEL LIKE I **CAN** MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD. I FEEL STRONG WHEN I IMAGINE...

I AM MALALA

By Alastair Moock and Debbie Lan

'Til ev-ery child can go to school I am Ma - la-la, you are Ma - la-la too_ 'Til free-dom, peace and
 jus-tice rule I am Ma - la-la, you are Ma - la-la too_ I am Ma - la-la 'til the sun has shone 'Til dig-ni-ty__ and truth
 __are known I am Ma - la-la 'til the day is new I am Ma - la-la, you are Ma - la-la too_ 3rd time, to Coda 8
 Interlude A
 I raise up__ my voice for an e-qual chance To live and learn and grow_ To be who_ I want to be
 __and ex-lore The things I want to know Ma - la-la - la - la Ma - la-la - la I am Ma - la-la, you are Ma -
 1. B 2. B E D.S. al Coda A
 la-la too_ Ma - la-la too I am Ma- Ooo Ma-la-la Ooo Ma-la-la Ooo Ma-la-la Ooo Ma-la-la Ooo

VERSE 2

One among many raising up my voice
 I am Malala, you are Malala too
 Speaking for all the girls and boys
 I am Malala, you are Malala too

CHORUS

INTERLUDE

CHORUS

Ooo Malala

* Read about Malala Yousafzai in our May/June 2014 issue, p. 23

Global



Greetings

Whether you say Hi, Aloha, or Shalom, a friendly greeting builds peace. But there are about 7,000 languages spoken on Earth! It's no wonder that communicating can sometimes be a challenge. What if all seven billion people could easily talk to each other? You could share your thoughts with anyone from Argentina to Zambia.

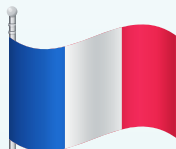
The Bahá'í Faith says that if we all learn a universal language in addition to our native languages, we'll feel at home anywhere in the world. In the meantime, exploring languages can give us a glimpse of Earth's diversity. Below, kids are getting ready for an international festival. Help them match each greeting with its country.



China (Mandarin)
_ I _ A _



Finland (Finnish)
_ _ _ E



France (French)
_ _ _ O _



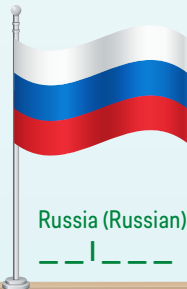
Germany (German)
_ A _ _



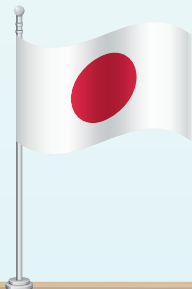
India (Hindi)
_ _ _ _ E



Iran (Persian)
_ _ _ A _



Russia (Russian)
_ _ I _ _



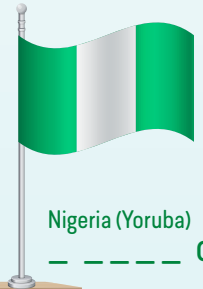
Japan (Japanese)
_ O _ _ _ _ A



Kenya (Swahili)
_ _ _ _ O



South Korea (Korean)
A _ _ _ _ _ AA _ _



Nigeria (Yoruba)
_ _ _ _ _ O



Italy (Italian)
_ _ A _



Philippines (Tagalog)
_ A _ U _ _



Chile (Spanish)
_ _ _ A



United Arab Emirates (Arabic)
_ _ _ A _ _ _ _ U _



E PELE O PRIVET HALLO KONNICHWA NAMASTE TERVE JAMBO
BONJOUR NI HAO AS-SALAM 'ALAYKUM ANNYONG HAASEYO SALAM

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Roger White (1929–1993)

By Gail Radley

"I really do not understand the madness which leads people to write books," poet Roger White wrote to friends. "I keep meaning to swear off." But Roger kept writing. He published 10 books of poetry and prose. He also wrote many funny and uplifting letters to friends worldwide, writers and other artists among them.

The oldest of four children, Roger was born in Toronto, Canada, in 1929. Although his family moved three times during his childhood, he considered his childhood happy, "cloudless years." He did well at school and began writing poetry as a teenager. At 18, his first collection of poems was published. More early poems would see print years later.

Roger's family was Catholic. Although his parents seldom attended church, Roger often went, taking his sister Eileen along. Even as a young man, Roger was a deep thinker. In his early 20s, he began to doubt God's existence. It felt like "winter setting in," he wrote in a poem. But as winter gives way to spring, his thoughts would change again.

Renewed Faith

One day, "out of sheer boredom," he went to a Bahá'í meeting. He studied the Faith for two years before deciding to become a Bahá'í in 1951, at about age 22. "My friends said I was nuts," he said. His parents hoped he would outgrow it. Some felt he had turned away from Christianity. But Roger's



decision was careful. "Through the Bahá'í Faith," he wrote, "I came to love and appreciate Christ as I had never done before."

Shortly after accepting the Faith, Roger returned to a town north of Toronto, Belleville, where he'd spent part of his childhood. He was the town's first Bahá'í.

Soon, others in Belleville joined the Faith. One of them, Helen, became Roger's wife. When Roger was offered a job editing the daily record of debates in the Canadian Parliament, the couple moved to Ottawa.

The marriage ended after 10 years. To start over, he moved to Vancouver and worked for the Supreme Court of British Columbia. In Vancouver, he met two visiting Bahá'ís, William and Marguerite Sears. Life would never be the same.

Service Around the World

As a Hand of the Cause of God,* William ("Bill") Sears was a busy Bahá'í leader, often traveling to speak about the Faith, assist other Bahá'ís, and write. One night after giving a speech, Bill went to bed early. He needed an assistant, Marguerite said, to lighten his workload and save his health. Roger agreed to take on the job. "You may alter my grammar . . ." Bill told him later, "but don't rewrite my jokes!"

Roger helped Bill in Africa and California for five years. In 1971, Bill planned a six-month trip and

suggested that Roger work for the Universal House of Justice, the governing body at the Bahá'í World Center in Haifa, Israel.

"You know, of course, Roger, that this is goodbye," Bill said, when Roger agreed.

"What do you mean?" asked Roger.

"Do you think the Universal House of Justice, once they hear about all the wonderful things you do, your multiple skills, and what a remarkable Bahá'í

you are, will ever let me steal you back again?"



Roger worked for Hand of the Cause of God William Sears.

Roger stayed at the World Center for 20 years. He had always worked with words, but now his communication blossomed. He did secretarial work and also managed the publishing department, helping produce several important reference books.

Power of Art

Israel, with its many holy places, reawakened the poet in Roger. He started writing poems and short pieces on the lives of various Bahá'ís. His work was published and noticed around the world. One reader commented, "Roger's words helped me realize I am not alone." His words sparked others' imaginations. Some set his poems to music, others gave dramatic readings or based paintings on them. Roger was thrilled.



For 20 years, Roger served at the Bahá'í World Center in Israel. He wrote and edited, and he managed the publishing department.

"Art heals," he explained. "It says: care, grow, develop, adapt, overcome, nurture, protect, foster, cherish . . . It invites us to laugh, reflect, cry, strive, persevere. It says rejoice!" He felt that artists were "a gift" to their communities.

To care for his ailing mother and in poor health himself, Roger returned to Canada in 1991. With his typical humor, he wrote a poem about leaving Haifa.

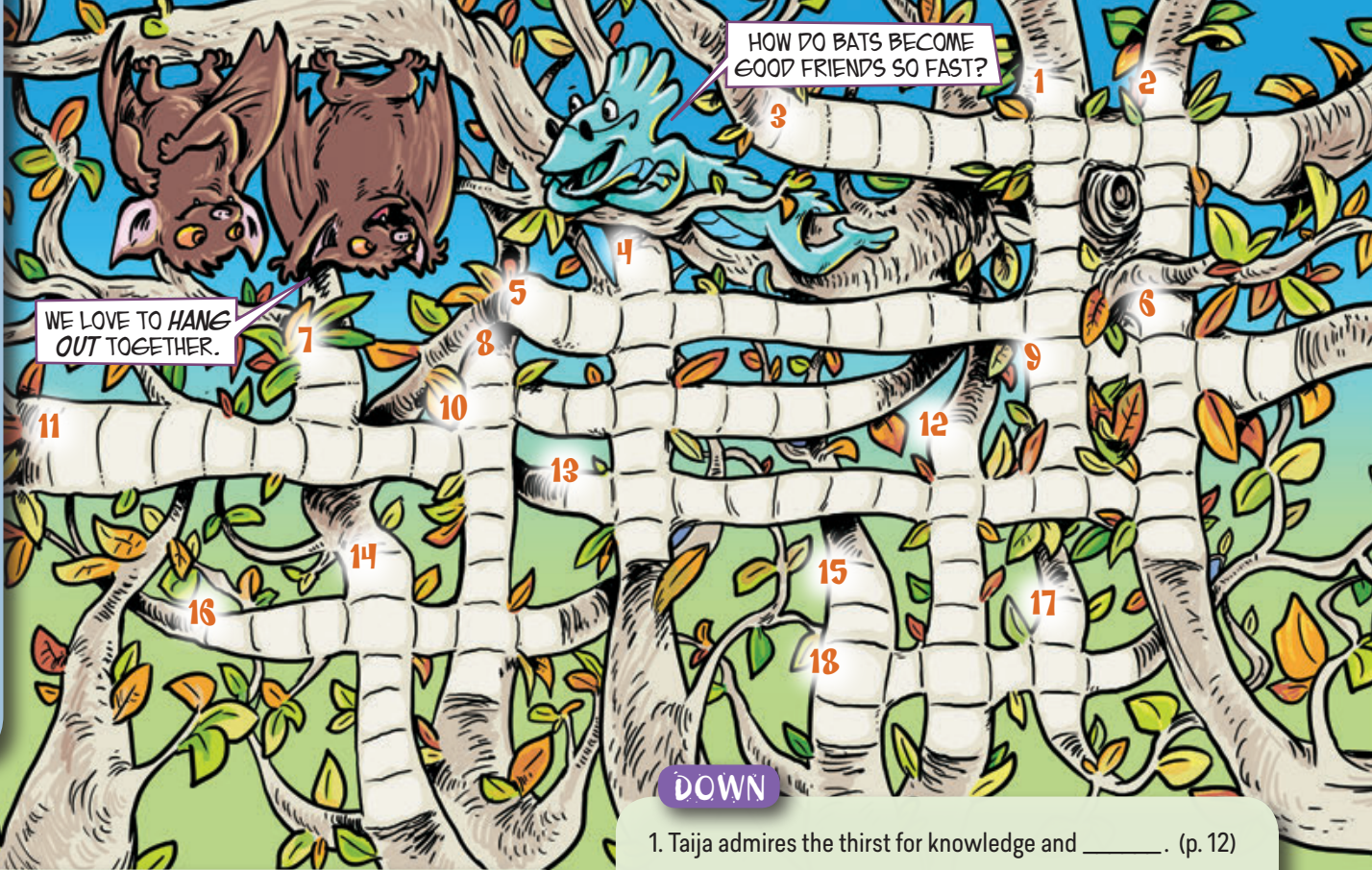
*Those who his company eschew
complain, "His parting's overdue".*

*While those who count his presence dear
protest, "He was too briefly here".*

*Still others mutter with a yawn,
"Oh, was he here? So, has he gone?"*

The Universal House of Justice praised his 20 years of "devoted and invaluable services." They added, "Your talents and abilities have won the admiration and respect of all of us."

Back in Canada, he continued sharing the Faith with others, started a poetry writing group, and published another book. Peaceful and content near life's end, Roger commented that he'd done everything he'd wanted to do. His family at his side, Roger died in April 1993, leaving the gifts of his heart and mind in print for generations to treasure.



WE LOVE TO HANG OUT TOGETHER.

HOW DO BATS BECOME GOOD FRIENDS SO FAST?

ACROSS

3. We can choose to use _____ wisely. (p. 31)
5. Home to half of our plant and animal species (p. 11)
9. Being a good _____ is a real victory. (p. 20)
10. _____ are just part of being human. (p. 5)
11. Keep your eyes open for new ways to assemble _____ every day. (p. 9)
13. Janet says this is an important quality for a writer. (p. 27)
16. Keeping a _____ can improve your health. (p. 4)
18. Spending time in _____ can reduce stress. (p. 22)

DOWN

1. Taija admires the thirst for knowledge and _____. (p. 12)
2. We send messages with our _____ language. (p. 28)
4. Can work as partners to help us practice moderation (p. 10)
6. Taija, Táhirih-Khánúm, Maile, and Wen Jie all play _____. (pp. 12-13)
7. Resolving problems peacefully keeps the _____ in family time. (p. 8)
8. Ridván is the Most Great _____. (p. 6)
12. A force that's found everywhere, in space and on Earth (p. 16)
14. Art can be a powerful way to share your emotions or _____. (p. 3)
15. Allene's message to world leaders: "Be _____ and just..." (p. 13)
17. Roger White says this heals. (p. 35)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



Brilliant Star helps me [in] a lot of different ways ... It gives a lot of helpful tips. They teach how to balance between being spiritual and intellectual. It makes me feel that I have more than my family to rely on ... I would like a theme to be about people who are shy (people who don't have the courage to speak) ...

—Rizvan S., age 13, North Carolina, U.S.

ANSWERS

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

Page 7: Mystery, community, celebration, friendship, festival, nightingales, garden, promise, joyous, paradise

Page 8: 1) C, 2) A, 3) A, 4) C, 5) B, 6) C, 7) B, 8) C

Page 9: Skateboard at C, turtle at BL, paintbrush at CR, camera at TL, map at CR, cup at CR, trumpet at BC, prayer book at CL, trophy at C

Page 10: 1) teamwork, leadership; 2) humble, confident; 3) brave, careful; 4) humorous, dignified; 5) honest, tactful; 6) forgiving, just; 7) hardworking, playful; 8) optimistic, realistic

Page 11: Hong Kong, Javan langurs

Page 15: animal, beach, collect, dream, Earth, famous, gift, house, ice cream, jokes, kindest, language, movies, name, octopus, party,

quality, read, sport, thankful, unique, vacation, won, explore, year, zillion

Page 16: Comet

Page 29: Smiling man at TL, woman with open arms at TC, woman shaking hands at TC, man waving at TR, man with glasses at CR, woman at CR, woman with plate at BR, kid at BC, man with dog at BC, girl near grill at C

Page 31: 1) playing, 2) dinner, 3) respect, 4) upset, 5) photos, 6) break, 7) online, 8) clear, 9) texts

Page 33: 1) Ni hao, 2) Terve, 3) Bonjour, 4) Hallo, 5) Namaste, 6) Salam, 7) Privet, 8) Konnichiwa, 9) Jambo, 10) Annyong haaseyo, 11) E pele o, 12) Ciao, 13) Kamusta, 14) Hola, 15) As-salam 'alaykum



TECHNO TANGLE

aMAZEing
ADVENTURE

Your BFF isn't responding to your text because she's busy. Wait, is it because she's mad at you? Did she take your joke the wrong way? You text her, "Call me. Miss you!" Eek! You just sent that to someone you met last week.

Texting and e-mail are easy ways to connect. But they can also lead us into a tricky web of garbled expectations and missed

signals. To navigate this cyber-maze, you need to power up your judgment and wisdom. When do you turn off your phone, so you can focus on other things? How do you know it's time to talk to a friend in person to avoid misunderstandings? How do you recognize cyberbullying that needs an adult's help? It's easy to get lost in cyberspace!

END

Help these two friends glide through the maze of circuitry. Watch out for the cyber monsters of misunderstanding!

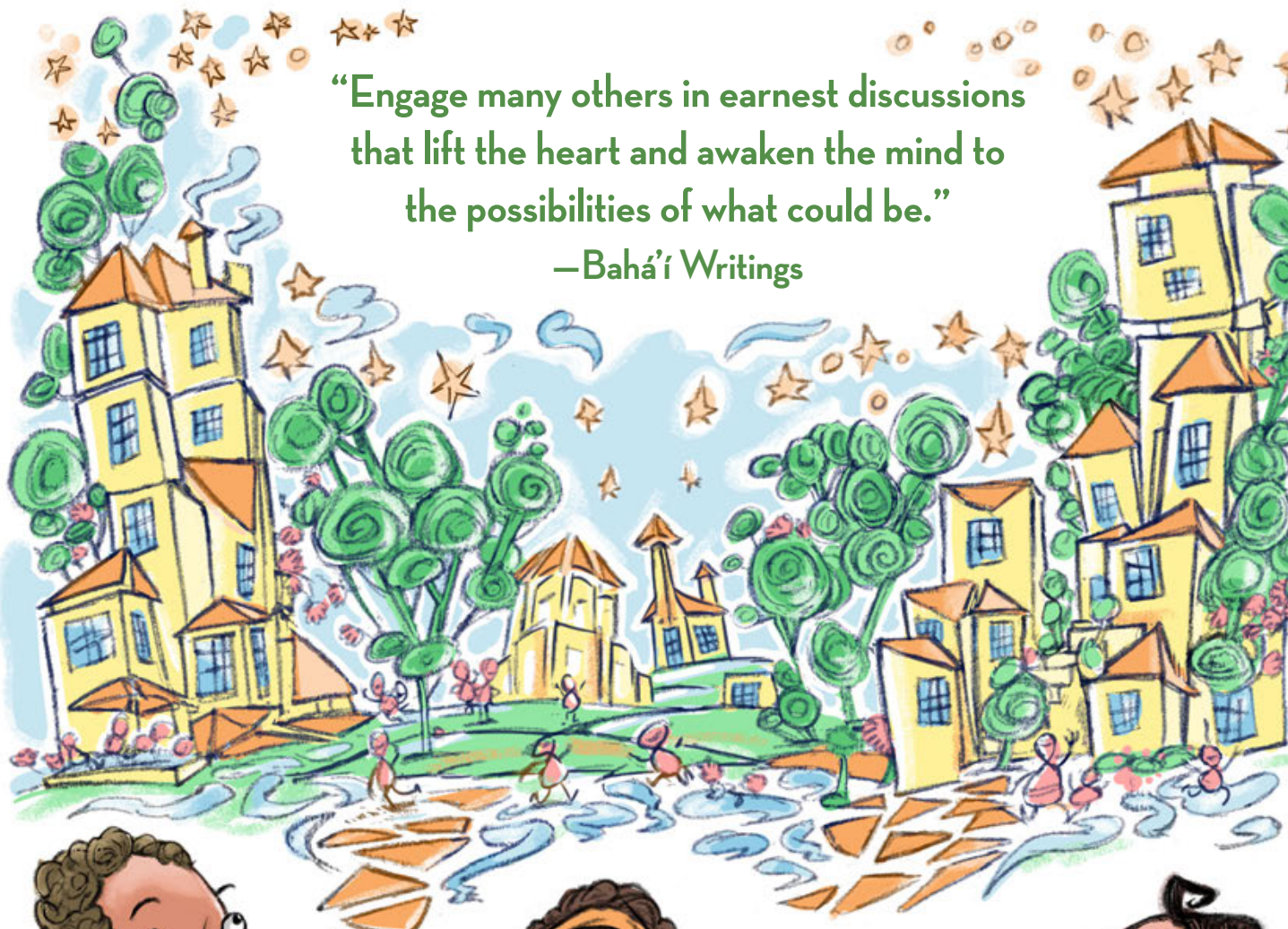
BIGG'OL
BULLY

CAUZA
CONFUSION

MISTAKEN
MEAZZ

GOSSIPY
GIGALOT

START



“Engage many others in earnest discussions
that lift the heart and awaken the mind to
the possibilities of what could be.”

—Bahá'í Writings

Brilliant Star

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