

Brilliant Star

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

MAY/JUNE 2012



'ABDU'L-BAHÁ'S
GREAT VOYAGE

HEROES OF THE HEART

LIGHTNING & LUNA'S
50TH EPISODE

Brilliant Star

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Brilliant Star magazine invites all kids to explore the Bahá'í Faith. It is the second most widespread religion in the world, with more than five million Bahá'ís.

The Bahá'í Faith 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 that all religions come from one God. Bahá'ís work to bring peace and unity to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, **'Abdu'l-Bahá**, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

Brilliant Star encourages kids to bring their virtues and talents to light, and use them to make the world a better place. **Brilliant Star** is produced bimonthly by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S.

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We sometimes provide Internet resources to encourage readers to explore a topic, or to share our references. While we make every effort to choose reliable websites, **Brilliant Star** does not endorse or account for all content in referenced websites. Furthermore, we urge caution and parental guidance when using the Internet. For more information about Internet safety, visit www.wiredkids.org/wiredkids_org.html

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HEROES OF THE HEART

MAY/JUNE 2012

NEW DESTINATIONS



DEAR FRIENDS,

If you could wave a magic wand and create a better world, what would it look like? Close your eyes and imagine it.

Your vision is vital to solving humanity's challenges. To bring justice, peace, and happiness to all, we have to *believe* it's really possible.

Then it's time to take action! When people work together, magic *does* happen. It takes effort—and you can make a big difference. Maybe you'll raise money for families in poverty. Or you could create a poster about ending prejudice and racism.

Whatever your talents, you can use them to help. Along the way, you'll have fun making friends and learning new skills.

In this issue of **Brilliant Star**, explore ways to make your dreams of peace a reality. Meet Layli Miller-Muro, who seeks justice for women and girls. Take a quiz to find your volunteering style, get service project ideas, design a Bahá'í Temple, and keep your goals on track with a train craft.

When helping others, you can start small—just remember to dream big!

With love from **Brilliant Star**



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Find clues for service in the pile of peppers.



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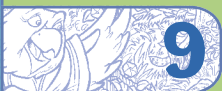
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Food for All



"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

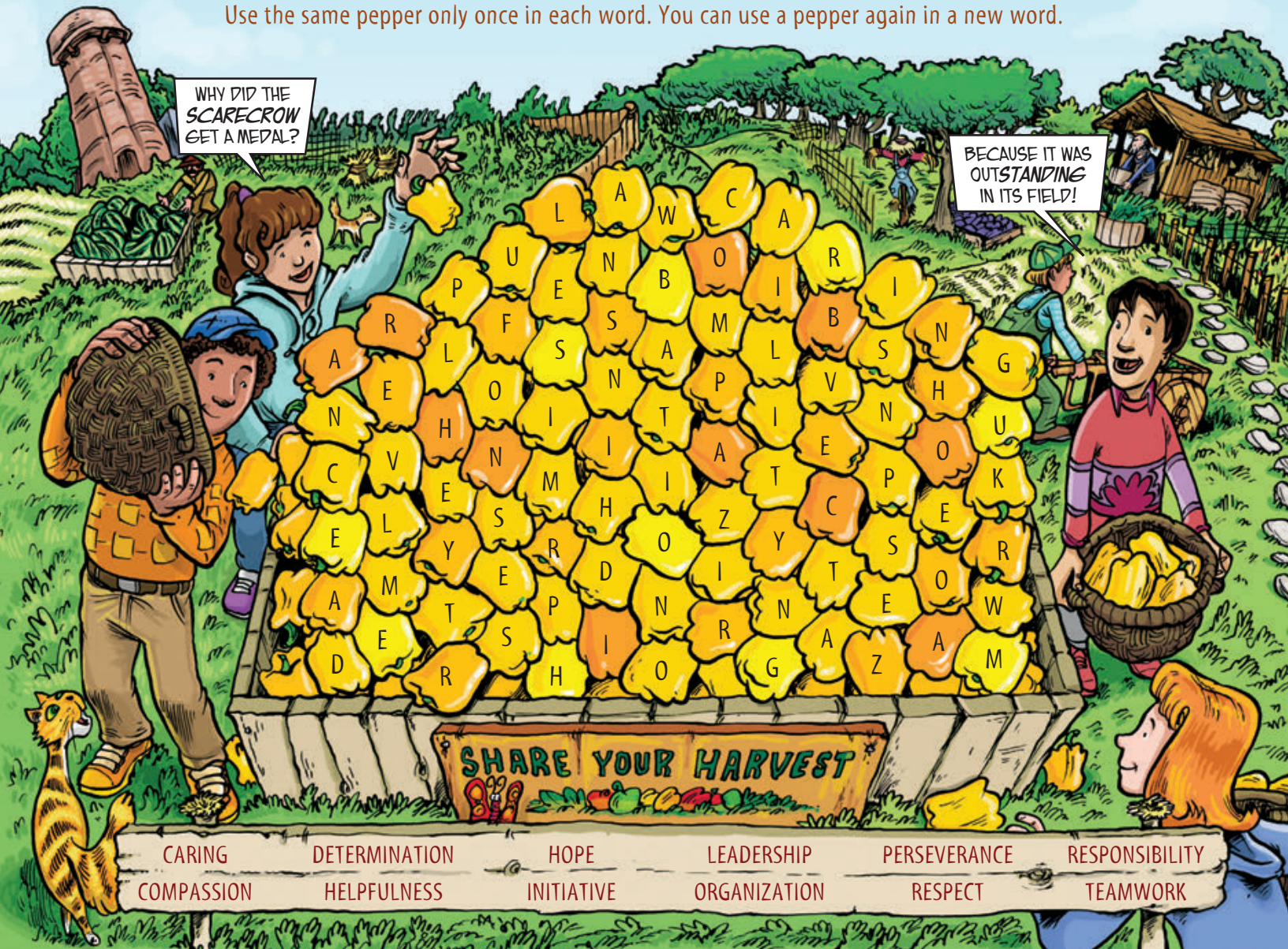
Did you know that there are more hungry people in the world than the populations of the U.S., Canada, and the European Union combined? Around the world, 925 million people don't have enough to eat. Hunger can lead to malnutrition, which can keep people from growing, learning well, and fighting off disease. Food is one of our most basic needs, and every person should have access to it.

Most hungry people live in developing countries, but

most communities have people in need. There are lots of ways you and your family and friends can help. You could tell people about a food drive and collect donations. Sort supplies at a local food pantry. Lend a hand at a community garden. Or help gardeners share their extra fruits and veggies with those who can use them.

When we work together in service, huge problems like hunger get a little smaller. Helping even one person get enough food has a big impact.

These kids are collecting fresh food for people in their community. Search the peppers for virtues that help us serve others. Connect letters next to each other, going in any direction. Use the same pepper only once in each word. You can use a pepper again in a new word.



A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

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

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in 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 Insisting on Justice

Art by Foad Ghorbani

If you had something precious stolen from you, what would you want done about it?

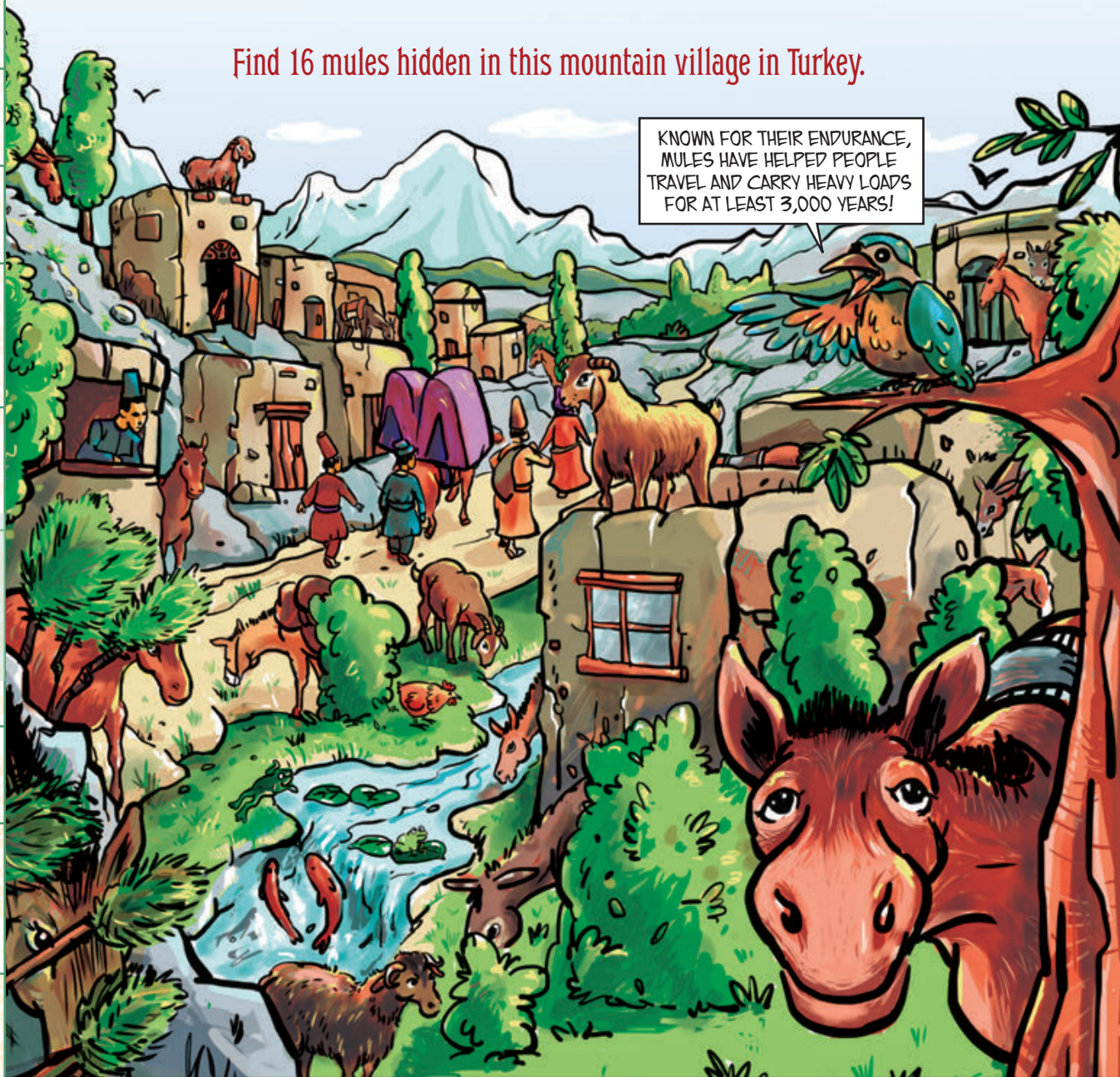
In 1863, while traveling from Baghdád to Constantinople (now Istanbul), Bahá'u'lláh met a mule driver whose mules had been stolen. Distraught, the man begged Bahá'u'lláh for assistance. The area swarmed with thieves, and it was rare to recover stolen property. But Bahá'u'lláh told the man that He would help him. Bahá'u'lláh met with village

officials, who said finding the mules would be nearly impossible, and they offered to pay for them. But Bahá'u'lláh said, "Those same mules must . . . be returned to their owner."

Seeing Bahá'u'lláh's insistence on justice, the officials finally sent out a search party. The mules were found and returned! It was a feat so rare in the area that everyone was astonished. Bahá'u'lláh rewarded those who helped find the animals with beautiful gifts.

Find 16 mules hidden in this mountain village in Turkey.

KNOWN FOR THEIR ENDURANCE, MULES HAVE HELPED PEOPLE TRAVEL AND CARRY HEAVY LOADS FOR AT LEAST 3,000 YEARS!





RILEY'S RAINFOREST

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

Dealing with Feelings

When you hear of people suffering in the world, how do you feel? Sad or frustrated? Inspired to help? Afraid it could happen to someone you love? All of the above?

It's natural to feel lots of different emotions when you learn about war, poverty, disasters, hunger, and other struggles. Anyone can get overwhelmed. That's not all bad. In fact, **empathy**—understanding others' feelings—is an important part of helping people. But you can't let fear or despair take over and keep you from taking action.

A good first step for coping with difficult issues is to pray. Even just a few quiet moments asking for God's assistance and guidance can bring you peace. If you're worried or sad, putting your feelings into words can be soothing. You may be surprised at how much better you feel after talking to a parent, teacher, or



trusted friend. If you aren't sure how to start, try writing or drawing in a journal first.

Another way to overcome distressing emotions is to find a way to lend a hand. Collect food for your local food pantry or run a race to raise money for a cause that's important to you. Being of service can replace feelings of hopelessness with helpfulness.

Global problems can be stressful, but praying and volunteering in your corner of the world can ease some of the burden—for you and for others.

Explore & Soar: Helping Hands

Volunteer opportunities are everywhere. Some ideas to get you started:

- Organize a neighborhood or park clean-up.
- Make cool crafts to brighten a hospital or nursing home.

- Deliver homemade treats to your local police or fire station.
- Design a t-shirt for a cause that you care about.
- Donate food or supplies to an animal shelter.



Canopy of Questions

What do you want to know about staying healthy and happy? Health can involve your body, mind, emotions, and spirit. Send your questions to brilliant@usbnc.org. Responses are given by a health professional.

“How can we help kids from other countries?”

—Naami, age 12

Dear Naami,

There are so many in need of help in our world, and it is wonderful to reach out and assist them. Humanity is like an ocean, and many souls are like starfish washed ashore and in anguish. We each can lift one or two and put them back in the water.

It is a good strategy to invite others to join you. Get to know as much as possible about the people you wish to help. Put yourself in their shoes and ask yourself what would make you feel loved and supported. You could write or speak about the rights of those who are suffering. Or you could make a video by interviewing people who have firsthand knowledge of suffering.

Money is only one way to help. There are many around the world who serve others using little material means. Love and support and prayer empower people to stand up and be persevering and resilient. Letting people know you are thinking of them and praying for their strength is very meaningful and helpful.

Wishing you joy,

Keyvan Geula

Licensed Family Therapist

What's Your Service Style?

"A unity in diversity of actions is called for . . . in which different individuals will concentrate on different activities . . . Each person cannot do everything and all persons cannot do the same thing." —Bahá'í Writings

Whether you like to wear mismatched socks, earthy colors, funky hats, or simple t-shirts, you have your own style. That's true when it comes to service, too. You may be outgoing or shy, an artist or an athlete. That diversity is wonderful. The world needs all kinds of people who contribute in

their own ways. Maybe you feel drawn to the outdoors, or perhaps you have a passion for writing. No matter what you love to do most, you can use your talents to help the world. When you choose projects that fit your interests, you'll find more joy in serving—and that's *always* in style.

Read each statement, then circle the answer that describes you best.

1 In my favorite classes, I:

- a) Get to be outside
- b) Do group projects
- c) Write stories or essays
- d) Make music or art



2 If I had an hour to spend however I pleased, I'd:

- a) Go for a nature walk
- b) Invent a new game with friends
- c) Browse the library
- d) Have fun with new art supplies

3 A career that appeals to me is:

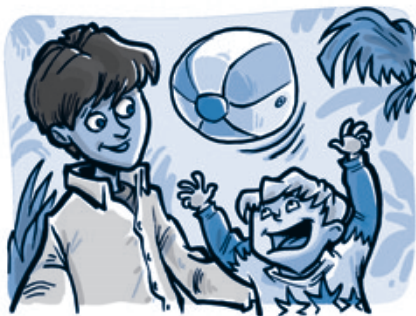
- a) Veterinarian or marine biologist
- b) Teacher or counselor
- c) Newspaper or website editor
- d) Musician or painter

4 An awesome field trip would be:

- a) Milking a cow at a local farm
- b) Meeting the mayor at city hall
- c) Visiting a historical museum
- d) Touring an artist's studio

5 This doesn't seem like a chore:

- a) Tending to the garden
- b) Taking care of a younger sibling
- c) Organizing my desk and books
- d) Making props for a play



6 A book I'd like to read is:

- a) *Amazing Animals*
- b) *50 Real-Life Heroes*
- c) *Secrets of Great Writers*
- d) *Learn to Draw Anything!*



7 I enjoy service projects where I can:

- a) Work with plants or animals
- b) Talk to the people I'm helping
- c) Research and learn new things
- d) Build or create

8 If I went to a costume party, I'd dress up as:

- a) My favorite animal
- b) My favorite superhero
- c) My favorite book character
- d) My favorite piece of art

9 A school club that interests me is:

- a) Earth-Friendly Club
- b) Leadership Team
- c) School Newspaper
- d) Art and Photography Club

Which letter(s) did you circle most? Do you have one main interest or a mix of them?

Mostly As: You love working with animals and taking care of nature. Volunteer at a wildlife shelter or community garden.

Mostly Bs: You enjoy working directly with people. Start a school club, take care of younger kids, or visit the elderly.

Mostly Cs: You enjoy writing, creativity, and learning. Write about your favorite cause. Start an e-zine or blog to inspire action.

Mostly Ds: You bring beauty to the world through the arts. Play music at a fund-raising event or design a poster or website.



On Track for Service

"Strive with all your hearts and with the very power of life that unity and love may continually increase." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

High-speed passenger trains can move at 185 miles (297.7 km) per hour! A freight train can pull 100 cars, hauling thousands of tons of cargo. Whether transporting people or supplies, trains are powerful.

Like a mighty train, people working in unity can accomplish amazing things. Each of us has different strengths to contribute. Maybe you're a talented guitar player, Mom is great at singing, and Dad is a fantastic

chef. When you work together, you can create a wonderful gathering or service project.

If you're volunteering with family or friends, you can help keep events on the right track by sharing your ideas with honesty and courtesy. Ask for help when you need it, and show appreciation for everyone's efforts. Check out the project below to create a train with your team that symbolizes your service!

You'll Need

Box for engine, plus one box for each person, such as tea boxes, 5½" x 3" (14 x 7.6 cm) • colorful paper • tacky glue • clear tape • scissors • box about 3" (7.6 cm) square • markers • thin corrugated cardboard • egg carton • ruler • paper tube • small paper clips • small photos • bottle cap about 1" (2.5 cm) wide



ALL ABOARD THE SERVICE EXPRESS!

Make a Train of Unity

- 1 Wrap tea box with paper. Wrap small box, then glue on top.



- 2 Trace bottle cap on cardboard to make six wheels. Cut out and glue wheels to tea box.



- 3 Cut out an egg carton cup and glue to nose of engine. For smokestack, cut 3" (7.6 cm) section of paper tube. Cover in paper. Glue to top of engine.



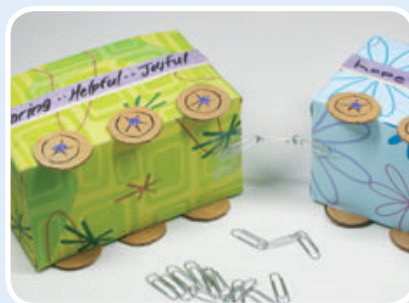
- 4 For other cars, cut top flaps off of boxes. Each person covers a car with paper and adds wheels.



- 5 Use markers, paper, and photos to add windows, service virtues, and decorations.



- 6 Connect train cars with three linked paper clips. Tape ends to undersides of two cars. Repeat until all cars are linked.



- 7 On small slips of paper, ask friends and family to write service ideas and put them in the train cars. Each week, choose a slip to do together.



Cooking Up Action

Does your local homeless shelter need help serving meals? Is there litter in the park in your neighborhood? Could your school use new library books? No need to stew about it! Get your friends and family together and cook up a plan.

Starting a service project might seem like a big challenge at first, but it may be easier than you think.

It's okay to start small. Talk to your parents about your ideas. Then get a few friends to serve food or clean up the park with you. When people ask about your work, find out if they'd like to help next time. Or look for volunteers from your school. It feels great to make a difference. And who knows—your effort could stir up an appetite for even more service projects!

These kids are helping out at a homeless shelter. Use the letter pairs to complete tips about service projects. Each pair is used only once.



Successful Service Recipe

1. FI out about what services are needed in your community.
2. _____ an issue that really interests you.
3. Focus on a main _____ that you can achieve.
4. _____ to people about their service projects.
See if you can work together.
5. Ask others in your family, neighborhood, or school to _____.
6. Meet with your _____ and consult about a plan of action.
7. Figure out how much _____ you need, and make a schedule.
8. Collect the tools and supplies that you'll _____ in advance.
9. Take _____ and send them to your local newspaper.
10. Thank everyone and get ideas for _____ projects!



HOW GOOD
IS YOUR
3D VISION?



More than Meets the Eye

Do you like 3D movies? Even though it's on a flat screen, a 3D movie can mimic the depth you see in real life. So how does depth perception work? It's due to your amazing brain!

Since your eyes are about 2" (5 cm) apart, each one sees a slightly different perspective. You can test this by holding up your index finger in front of your nose. Close one eye, then open it and close the other eye. It seems as if your finger shifts position. Each eye



views it from a different angle. Your brain uses the views from both eyes to figure out how far away things are.

Similarly, if people work together, each one has a different point of view. When you consult and share ideas, you'll be able to see solutions more clearly.

It's exciting when images pop out of a 3D movie—and when new ideas pop out of working together.

Take the 3D Challenge

You'll Need: A friend or sibling to play the game, a small cup, six coins, a table, a pen

- 1 Sit across the table from your friend, two arm-lengths apart. Place the cup halfway between you. Ask him or her to hold a coin about 12" (30.5 cm) above the cup and slowly move it around. When you think the coin is above the cup, say "Drop!" Your friend drops the coin. If it falls in the cup, give yourself a point.



- 2 Do the same with all coins. On the chart below, keep your score.

Then play with your right eye closed and your left eye open.

Which way of viewing scored the most points?

For you? _____

For your friend? _____

- 3 Now close your left eye, but keep your right eye open. Play the game, and write down your score.

- 4 Now switch. You drop the coins as your friend instructs.

- 5 Add up your total points. Who got the most coins in the cup?

- 6 Experiment! What if you move the cup closer or farther? What if you hold the coins higher or lower before dropping them? Now challenge others!

Add Up Your Points

Name	Both Eyes Open	Right Eye Open	Left Eye Open	Total Points

Stuart & Gabriella: Nature Detectives

COLOR
& FIND

"Dedicate the precious days of your lives to the betterment of the world . . ." —Bahá'u'lláh

In the redwood forests, a cool diversity of plants and animals lives among the giant trees. But like all of Earth's habitats, our forests need help. Pollution, logging, hunting, and other threats destroy our natural resources.

To protect our forests, scientists carefully study the plants, animals, trees, and soil. They look for clues about our changing climate and how it affects wildlife. They discover new species, count the creatures, and watch

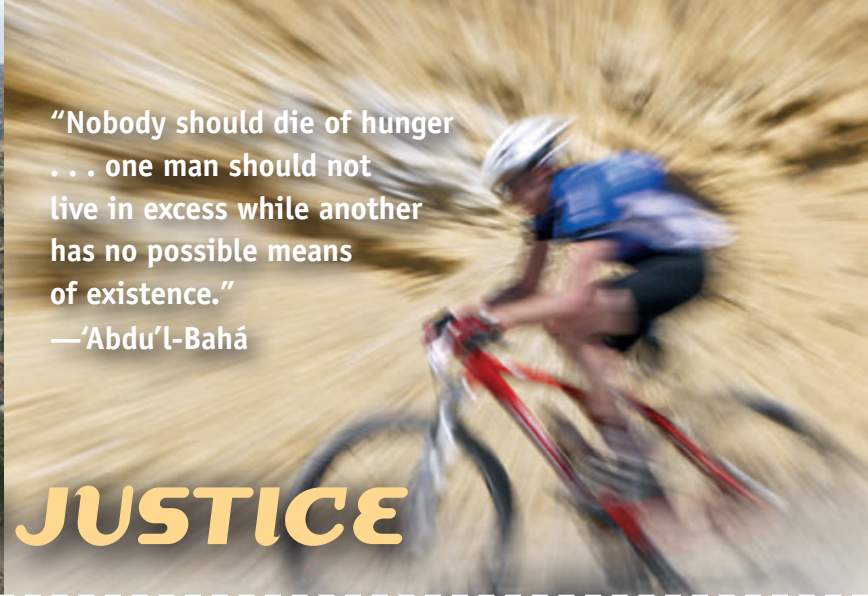
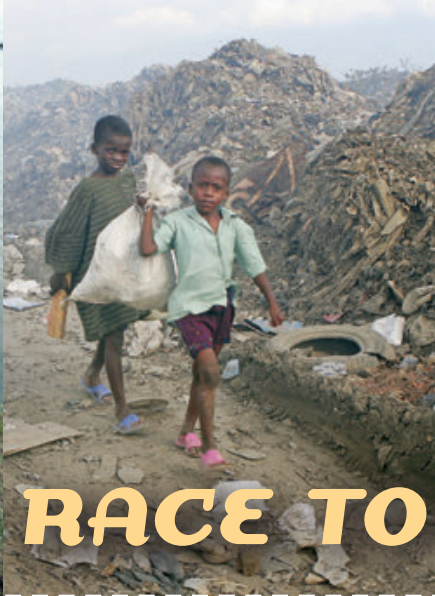
their behavior. Researchers found that the world's tallest living tree is a coast redwood—at 379.1 feet (115.5 m)! In California, coast redwoods once covered 2 million acres, but only about 5% remains of those original ancient forests.

You can help conserve forest resources every day by recycling and reusing materials. Volunteer to plant trees, clean up parks, or even assist scientists. You can be a *tree*-mendous help to our environment!

THE REDWOOD FOREST IS **AWESOME!** CAN YOU HELP US FIND A BALD EAGLE, A RACCOON, A CHICKADEE, AND TWO SALAMANDERS?

ALSO FIND A SQUIRREL, A SPOTTED OWL, A BOBCAT, A GRAY FOX, AND THREE TREE FROGS.





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

RACE TO JUSTICE

Humanity is in an important race. It's a race to end poverty, hunger, and other global problems.

In 2000, world leaders from all 189 member states of the United Nations agreed to improve the world by 2015. They made eight promises called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The MDGs are like a roadmap leading us to a better future. Besides reducing poverty and hunger, the goals promote health, education, and caring for the environment.

Volunteers and organizations from around the world are doing their part to get us to the finish line. How can you help win the race?

You can learn more about the MDGs, write about them at school, raise money, and follow the three Rs of the environment—reduce, reuse, and recycle! You could even hop on your bike and talk to your friends about how you can help together.



Top Row: Most nations prohibit child labor, yet many kids are forced to work instead of attending school. In Bolivia, a girl pulls fish from nets (left). In Haiti (middle), kids scavenge for anything of value in mountains of garbage. At right, a rider joins a bike race celebrating peace in Timor-Leste (in Southeast Asia). **Bottom Row:** At left, a UN peacekeeper examines a kid in a conflict-affected area of Sudan. At right, a kid drinks water at a camp for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.

Quiz yourself about the world problems addressed by the MDGs.

- Clean drinking water is key to preventing disease, but over 780 million people have no safe source of fresh water.**
True • False
- 1.4 billion people in the world live on less than \$1.25 a day.**
True • False
- Earth loses about two million acres of forests every year.**
True • False
- More than a billion people still need electricity to improve education, communications, and health.**
True • False
- Vaccines and mosquito nets can help kids avoid dangerous diseases.**
True • False
- About 67 million kids are not able to go to elementary school. Almost half live in China.**
True • False
- On average, women make up only 40% of national law-making bodies worldwide.**
True • False
- In some developing countries, less than half of the women give birth with help from trained health workers.**
True • False

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

Cone or cup?

When having ice cream, use a cone instead of a disposable dish and spoon. What other ideas can you think of for reducing trash?

WOW, REALLY?

Jellyfish bodies are 95% water. And they're not fish—they're actually plankton.



OUR CONNECTIONS



Earth is home to about 8.7 million species of plants and animals.* Tragically, over 19,000 species are threatened with extinction—mainly from human actions such as pollution, hunting, and destruction of habitats. It's vital for us to take action to protect all life on Earth. We rely on creatures big and small, microorganisms that keep our soil fertile, plants that give us food and oxygen, and much more. You *can* help our planet!

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Raoul du Toit works to save critically endangered black rhinos from hunters. He directs the Lowveld Rhino Trust in Zimbabwe, which monitors and protects rhinos and helps local communities breed them. Raoul won a 2011 Goldman Environmental Prize and says, "Rhinos are flagship species: protecting rhinos protects a lot of other biodiversity at the same time."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



About 600 cliff dwellings were built near the Rocky Mountains by Ancestral Pueblo people, who lived here from 600–1300 C.E. The largest, Cliff Palace, has 150 rooms! The area is now in Mesa Verde National Park (U.S.). *Unscramble the letters to find its location.*

DOCOLARO

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

AMAZING ANIMALS



These creatures are critically endangered. Less than 5,000 roam Africa. Though commonly called black, the creatures are actually gray. They're illegally hunted for their horns. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

□ L A □ K □ H I □ O C □ R O □

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?

Elizabeth K.

Age: **11**

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

I want to be:
A seamstress or interior designer

Best quality or virtue:
I am trustworthy. I keep my promises. Elizabeth means "God's oath." In ... class we researched our ... names and found that [the] meaning of every person's name matched up perfectly with their best talent or gift to the world. Try it and see!



Something I like about me that makes me unique:
I like to make homemade presents.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Feasts.* I share art, poetry, or sing/act out the theme.

Favorite animal or pet:
Daisy, my pet rat

Place I'd love to visit:
The Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh

If you could volunteer anywhere, where would you go and what would you do?
Haiti. I'd help the homeless.

Who are your heroes or role models and why?
My parents and grandparents... They encourage me and are always loving.

What inspires you to be of service to others?
My teachers and parents are so happy when they help out, it makes me want to join them.

Keyon A.

Age: **13**

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

I want to be:
Physician or lawyer

Best quality or virtue:
Honesty

Hobbies or sports:
Baseball, tennis, volleyball, playing violin

Favorite animal or pet:
Dolphin; they're hyper-intelligent :)

Place I'd love to visit:
Holy Land in Israel

If you could volunteer anywhere, where would you go and what would you do?
To Syria to provide medical supplies ...

Who are your heroes or role models and why?
My dad and my uncles ... They have taught me how to care, serve, and be determined.



If you could fix any global problem, which would it be?
Global warming ... it is the cause of an increase in most of the natural disasters. Change in Earth's climate will extinguish the ice from permafrost or tundra biomes, forcing its inhabitants to either adapt or die. Information about scientific phenomena will be lost. There will be rises in ocean levels, and pollution disrupts the ecosystems ... Pollution will also eliminate the resources that humans need to live.



Caitlin P.

Age: **10**

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

I want to be:
Pediatrician

Best quality or virtue:
Love and joyfulness

Something I like about me that makes me unique:
I lived in Beijing for three years, and I am a black belt in tae kwon do.

Hobbies or sports:
Tae kwon do, horseback riding, dance, and soccer

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Reading at the House of Worship

Place I'd love to visit:
Mexico

I like to help people by:
Volunteering at animal shelters and food pantries

If you could volunteer anywhere, where would you go and what would you do?
To Africa and help with starving children

Who are your heroes or role models and why?
My mom and dad ... They teach me the virtues.

What inspires you to be of service to others?
Pictures and stories of children who need help around the world

If you could fix any global problem, which would it be?
Hunger and child abduction in Africa

Arianna D.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be:

A doctor—optometrist or ophthalmologist!

Best quality or virtue:

Friendliness

Something I like about me that makes me unique:

I'm totally against any prejudice.

Hobbies or sports:

Soccer

Favorite animal or pet:

My puppy, Lilo

Place I'd love to visit:

Paris

I like to help people by:

Doing charity work

If you could volunteer anywhere, where would you go and what would you do?

I would go to Uganda, Africa, to feed the poor.

Who are your heroes or role models and why?

Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá! ... They ... sacrificed their lives for people.

What inspires you to be of service to others?

Reading about the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá—the story that American Bahá'is sent 'Abdu'l-Bahá lots of money, [and] he [could have bought] the expensive *Titanic* ticket to come to America, but he gave [back] ... the money ... and came to America [on a] less expensive ship.



“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

Khadijih H.

Age: **10**

I live in: **New Caledonia, South Pacific**

I want to be:

A doctor or a teacher

Best quality or virtue:

I love to be of service to others, especially my mom. I help her take care of my little brother, Bayan.

Something I like about me that makes me unique:

I like that I can speak three languages, because I come from a multicultural family.

Hobbies or sports:

I have theater classes ... It helps me not be shy.

Place I'd love to visit:

I'd really like to go on pilgrimage [in Haifa, Israel].

If you could fix any global problem, which would it be?

I would stop all the wars and fighting.



If you could volunteer anywhere, where would you go and what would you do?

I would go to Haifa and be a [cleaner] just like my mom [was as a youth].

Who are your heroes or role models and why?

My parents, because they are good people, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, because he is the exemplar.**

What inspires you to be of service to others?

Because 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave his life in service to others.

William T.

Age: **9**

I live in: **Humacao, Puerto Rico**

Best quality or virtue:

Compassion

Something I like about me that makes me unique:

I have a lot of interests, so I usually find something in common [with others] and can get along with almost anybody.

Hobbies or sports:

Soccer and tennis, reading and exploring nature

Favorite animal or pet:

My dog Mason is my favorite pet ... I think penguins are interesting.

Who are your heroes or role models and why?

I would want to be recognized as a wonderful person like 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Place I'd love to visit:

I'd like to be the first person to ... reach Atlantis.

If you could volunteer anywhere, where would you go and what would you do?

I feel ... bad for people who experience major disasters and ... want ... to help. For example, [Japan's tsunami].

What inspires you to be of service to others?

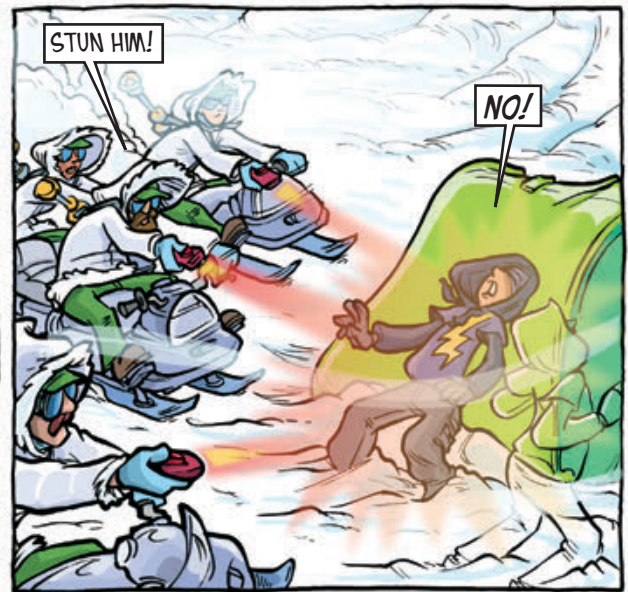
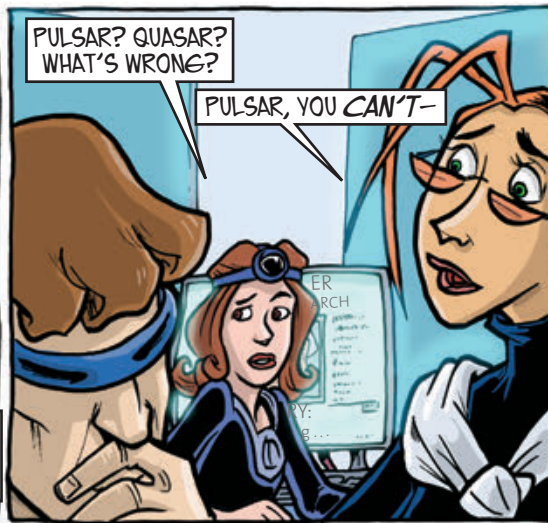
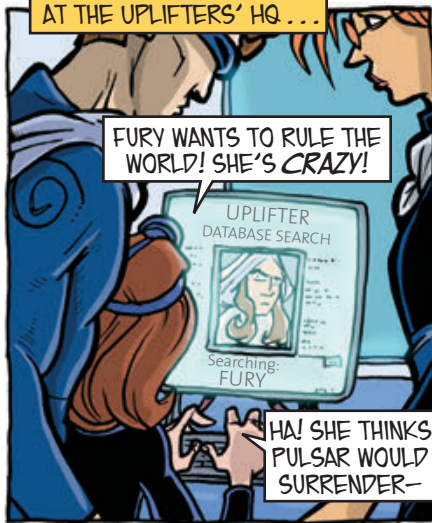
When I see others suffer, I can feel in my heart what they are feeling, and I want to help them.

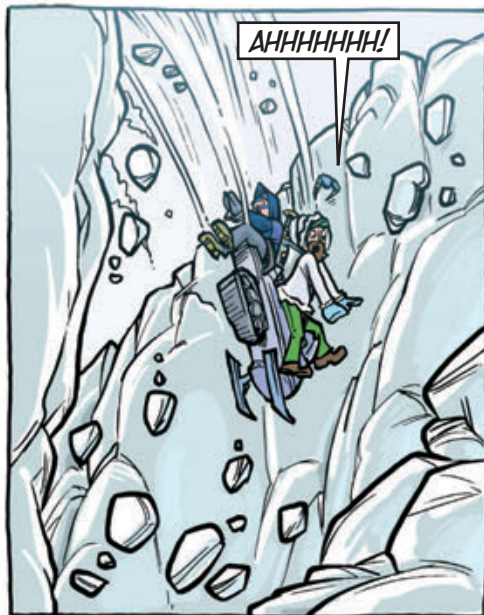


How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7–14, write us at brilliant@usbnc.org or Brilliant Star, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Include your name, age, birth date, mailing and e-mail addresses, and phone number. Mention “Radiant Star” in the e-mail subject line or in your message.
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).

**The Bahá'í writings say that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was the perfect living example of the Bahá'í teachings.





AHHHHHHH!



UGH...
WHERE AM
I? LUNA?
LUNA!

WHO ARE YOU
YELLING FOR?

MY SISTER.
WHAT DID
YOU DO
WITH HER?

ARG! MY ARM
IS BROKEN.



HEY! CAN YOU
GET US OUT
OF HERE?

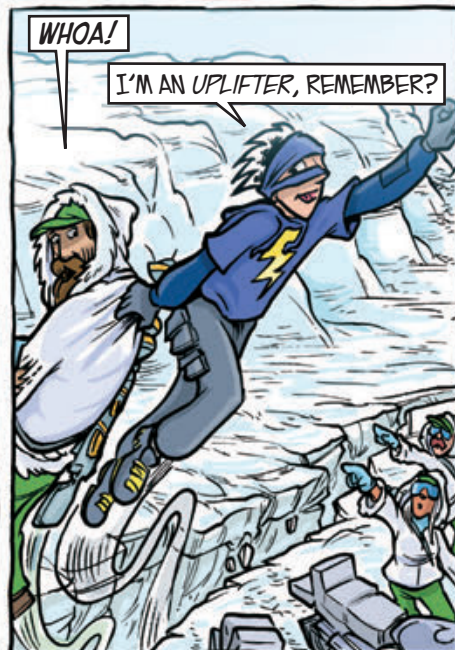
WHY
SHOULD
I HELP
YOU?

I CAN HELP
YOU FIND
YOUR SISTER.



DO I HAVE
YOUR WORD?

Y-YES.



WHOA!

I'M AN UPLIFTER, REMEMBER?



HEY! YOU
PROMISED—

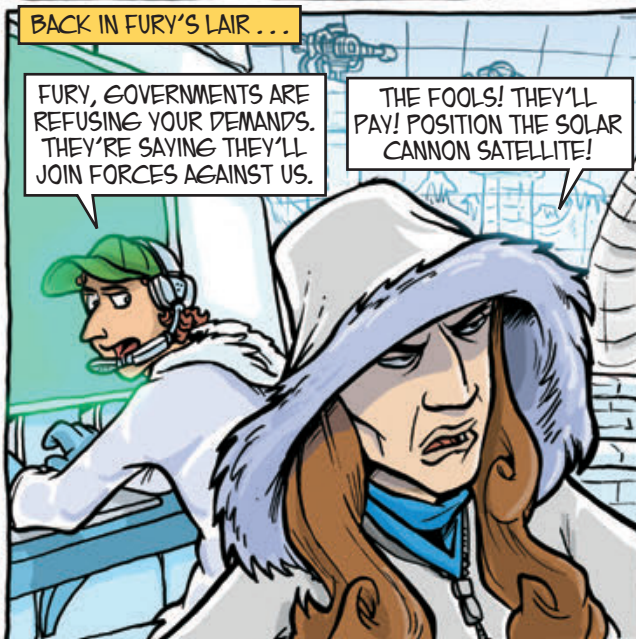
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
YOU'RE COMING WITH US!



NO! LUNA!
WHERE
ARE YOU?

STUN HIM
AGAIN! RAISE
THE POWER
TO LEVEL 5!

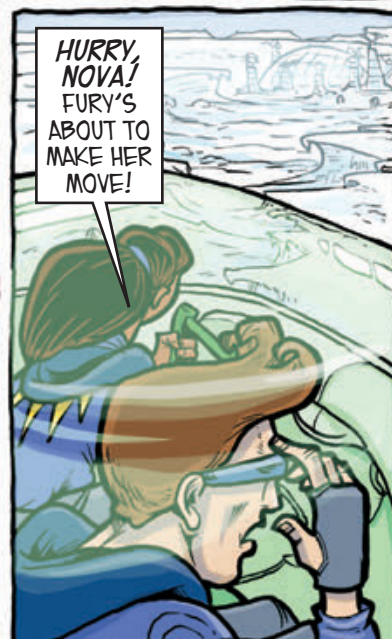
LUNA!



BACK IN FURY'S LAIR...

FURY, GOVERNMENTS ARE
REFUSING YOUR DEMANDS.
THEY'RE SAYING THEY'LL
JOIN FORCES AGAINST US.

THE FOOLS! THEY'LL
PAY! POSITION THE SOLAR
CANNON SATELLITE!



HURRY,
NOVA!
FURY'S
ABOUT TO
MAKE HER
MOVE!

WILL THE UPLIFTERS STOP FURY AND FIND LUNA?



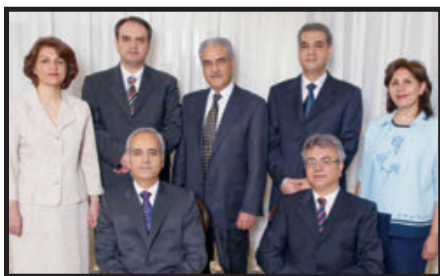
JOSIE THE DETECTIVE'S BLOG

[HOME](#) > [THE CASE OF THE UNJUST IMPRISONMENT CONTINUES](#)

[ABOUT ME](#)

Monday, April 9, 5:10 p.m.

I can't believe it. It's so sad. The seven Bahá'í leaders in Iran who were put in prison will be in their *fifth year* in jail. They're called the "Yaran," meaning "Friends." And they have 16 more years in jail ahead of them! And for what? Just because of their spiritual beliefs?



The Yaran

19 COMMENTS

Tuesday, April 10, 10:00 p.m.

More injustice in Iran! Bahá'ís aren't allowed to go to college. I just read that professors had been teaching Bahá'ís on their own. But a bunch of their houses were raided. Teachers and staff got arrested. Eight are still in jail! How can the government punish people just for teaching in their homes? I want to *help*! Time to e-mail my Bahá'í friend, Diana.

23 COMMENTS

Thursday, April 12, 6:30 a.m.

Woke up early and went to a website Diana told me about: *Education Under Fire*. The goal is for 25,000 people to send messages asking Iran's leaders to end the persecution. I told Mom and Dad, and we *all* sent ours. Told Frieda, Eric, and Aziz, too! I just wish everyone could see that it's okay to be different—here, in Iran, and everywhere.

27 COMMENTS

Thursday, April 12, 7:15 p.m.

Just talked to Aziz. Those bullies are after him again, just because his dad's a Muslim. I wonder if they know his mom is Christian? Aziz kept his cool and talked to his teacher instead of getting upset. Way to go, Aziz!

29 COMMENTS

Friday, April 13, 10:30 p.m.

I talked to our social studies teacher, and he agreed to show the *Education Under Fire* DVD in class. It might help everyone stand up for fairness and diversity in our school, too. What do you think? Are you with me?

45 COMMENTS

Monday, April 23, 8:30 p.m.

Wow! Today, we showed *Education Under Fire* at school. Lots of kids wanted to help—even one of the bullies who picked on Aziz.



Eric, Aziz, and Frieda in class

33 COMMENTS

Thursday, May 3, 9:45 p.m.

Tonight, *Education Under Fire* reached its goal! 25,000 people sent messages to the leaders of Iran. Wow! We *do* make a difference.

63 COMMENTS



Hi! My name is Josie. I love investigating mysteries. I also really like writing, so my family helped me set up this blog for my case notes and other thoughts. If you have cool ideas about where I can look for clues, please share. Or just say hey and tell me what you love to do.

I'm a writer for my school's newspaper. My dream is to be a lawyer or journalist. For me, tracking down the truth is like a treasure hunt!

MY FAVORITE THINGS

- > Hanging out with friends
- > Solving mysteries big and small
- > Exploring cultures and religions. Love to travel.
- > Writing, tae kwon do, soccer, baseball, science, reading, and singing
- > Animals, especially birds, dolphins, and gorillas

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ'S GREAT VOYAGE: THE TITANIC



In the spring of 1912, people were buzzing with news about the famous new ship of luxury, the RMS *Titanic*. It was the largest in its day at about 882.5 feet long (269 m). With nine decks, it was roughly the height of a 17-story building!

'Abdu'l-Bahá, the leader of the Bahá'í Faith at the time, was planning a journey to North America, and some Bahá'ís suggested that he join the maiden voyage of the *Titanic*. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "No, we will go direct, trusting in the assistance and protection of the Blessed Beauty." ("Blessed Beauty" was a title he used to refer to his father, Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith.) Instead, he sailed on the SS *Cedric*.

'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived in New York on April 11, the day after the *Titanic* left England. Telegrams came pouring in from Bahá'ís who were full of joy at his safe arrival.

A few days later, shocking news came. The *Titanic* had sunk in the early hours of April 15, taking about 1,500 lives! The Bahá'ís said prayers of gratitude that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had not traveled on that ship.

From the moment he arrived, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was constantly busy with interviews and talks about the Bahá'í teachings. And he offered more than words—after speaking to about 400 men in need at the Bowery Mission, 'Abdu'l-Bahá greeted each one kindly and gave him money.



'Abdu'l-Bahá in New Hampshire during his visit to the U.S.

After nine days in New York, 'Abdu'l-Bahá went to Washington, D.C. He stayed with Agnes Parsons and her family. Every day people gathered to hear him speak. One day, 'Abdu'l-Bahá talked about the *Titanic* and urged everyone to pray for those who had died. He said, "I was greatly affected by this disaster. Some of those who were lost voyaged on the *Cedric* with us as far as Naples and afterward sailed upon the other ship. When I think of them, I am very sad indeed."

But he added, "I am consoled by the realization that the worlds of

God are infinite . . . The souls of those who have passed away . . . have hastened to a world superior to this."

'Abdu'l-Bahá explained that we must use our knowledge and abilities to stay as safe as possible, but also depend on God to protect us. He said, "God has endowed man with intelligence so that he may safeguard and protect himself . . . He must be deliberate, thoughtful and thorough in his purposes, build the best ship and provide the most experienced captain; yet, withal, let him rely upon God and consider God as the one Keeper."

In August 1912, when 'Abdu'l-Bahá was in Maine, he met a woman who had survived the *Titanic* disaster. She said, "I am told that you advised not to travel by that ship . . . Did you know that this would happen?" 'Abdu'l-Bahá answered, "God inspires man's heart."



Share the Magic

"Be kind to all peoples . . . be loving sons and daughters to the old . . .
Think ye of love and good fellowship as the delights of heaven . . ." –'Abdu'l-Bahá

Imagine a world with no computers or Internet. How about no cell phones, iPods, or TV? When they were kids, your grandparents—and maybe your parents—didn't have a lot of the amazing technology we use today. They might love to learn about cool gadgets, or they may feel overwhelmed. New inventions pop up faster than you can click a mouse.

If you're a high-tech wizard, you can help older

family members and friends explore the world of technology. They'll enjoy a chance to share *their* skills, too. Maybe your grandpa can help you write a song, and you can show him how to post it online. Or your mom can show you how to take good pictures, and you can create a family website together.

Have fun finding creative ways to use computers and other technology to tune in to your family and friends!

Kids are sharing their knowledge at this community center. Find nine devices that help people learn together.



Caring
Camera



Helpful
Headphones



Laptop of
Leadership



Mouse of
Moderation



Patient
Printer



Reliable
Remote Control



Smartphone
of Service



Thoughtful
Tablet



Webcam
of Wonder



Chain Reaction

“Act ye in such wise, showing forth pure and goodly deeds, and modesty and humility, that ye will cause others to be awakened.” —Abdu’l-Bahá

Have you ever set up dominoes in a long line and made them topple over? You only have to push the first one, and the rest fall in order. We can see this “domino effect” in our lives also. One act of kindness can inspire a whole chain reaction of good deeds.

In fact, researchers have found that kindness is “contagious.” When people receive generosity, they tend to be more generous themselves. Acts such as

offering help, giving a gift, or donating to someone in need can spread and multiply.

Like the first domino in a line, a small deed can affect more people than you could possibly know. It doesn’t take a huge effort to make a difference. One simple, thoughtful act can start your community on a cascade of service. What can you do to get things moving in your world?

In picture 1, Soheil is opening the door for a neighbor. Find the neighbor’s kind deed and label it “2,” then continue in the same way to discover the chain reaction of service.





MUSIC CAFÉ

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

MY BEST FRIEND IS MOVING TO KENYA. HER FAMILY WILL HELP DIG WELLS FOR SAFE WATER IN VILLAGES.

I'LL MISS HER, BUT HER SERVICE PROJECT SOUNDS SO COOL! SHE INSPIRED ME TO FIND A NEW WAY TO HELP PEOPLE IN MY HOMETOWN. AT HER GOOD-BYE PARTY, I SANG ...

I WANT TO SEE THE DAY By Bill Harley

G C G G C G C G

You know I want to see I want to see the da - y I want to see the day when peo-

7 A Em D G C G G C G

ple__ Peo-ple are__ real-ly free__ You know I want to hear I want to hear the sound__

13 C G A C G 1. C G

I want to hear the sound of__ peo - ple__ Sing-ing in har - mo-n - y I'm talk-ing 'bout peace like a ri-

19 A C Em C A G

ver__ Jus-tice like a wa-ter - fall__ Free-dom like the sun - rise__ Shin-ing light on us all__

25 D G C G G C G C G

__ You know I'm gon-na sing You know I'm gon-na sing out__ You know I'm gon-na sing out__ peo-

31 A C G G C G

ple__ Long as I've got my so - ng__ You know that if we sing If we sing to -geth - er__ If we sing to-

38 C G A G C G A

geth - er__ peo - ple__ We're gon-na move this world a - long__ I'm talk-ing 'bout peace like a riv-er

44 C Em C A G

Jus-tice like a wa-ter - fall__ Free-dom like the sun - rise__ Shin-ing light on us a - ll__

49 2. C G A C G

__ You know I want to y I want to hear the sound of__ peo - ple__ Sing-ing in har - mo- ny__



Sacred Spaces

IMAGINE
& DRAW

"An edifice or temple is to be built in order that humanity might find a place of meeting, and this is to be conducive to unity and fellowship . . ." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

On May 1, 1912, nearly 400 people waited for 'Abdu'l-Bahá in a field near Chicago, Illinois. It was time to dedicate the site of the first Bahá'í Temple in the West.

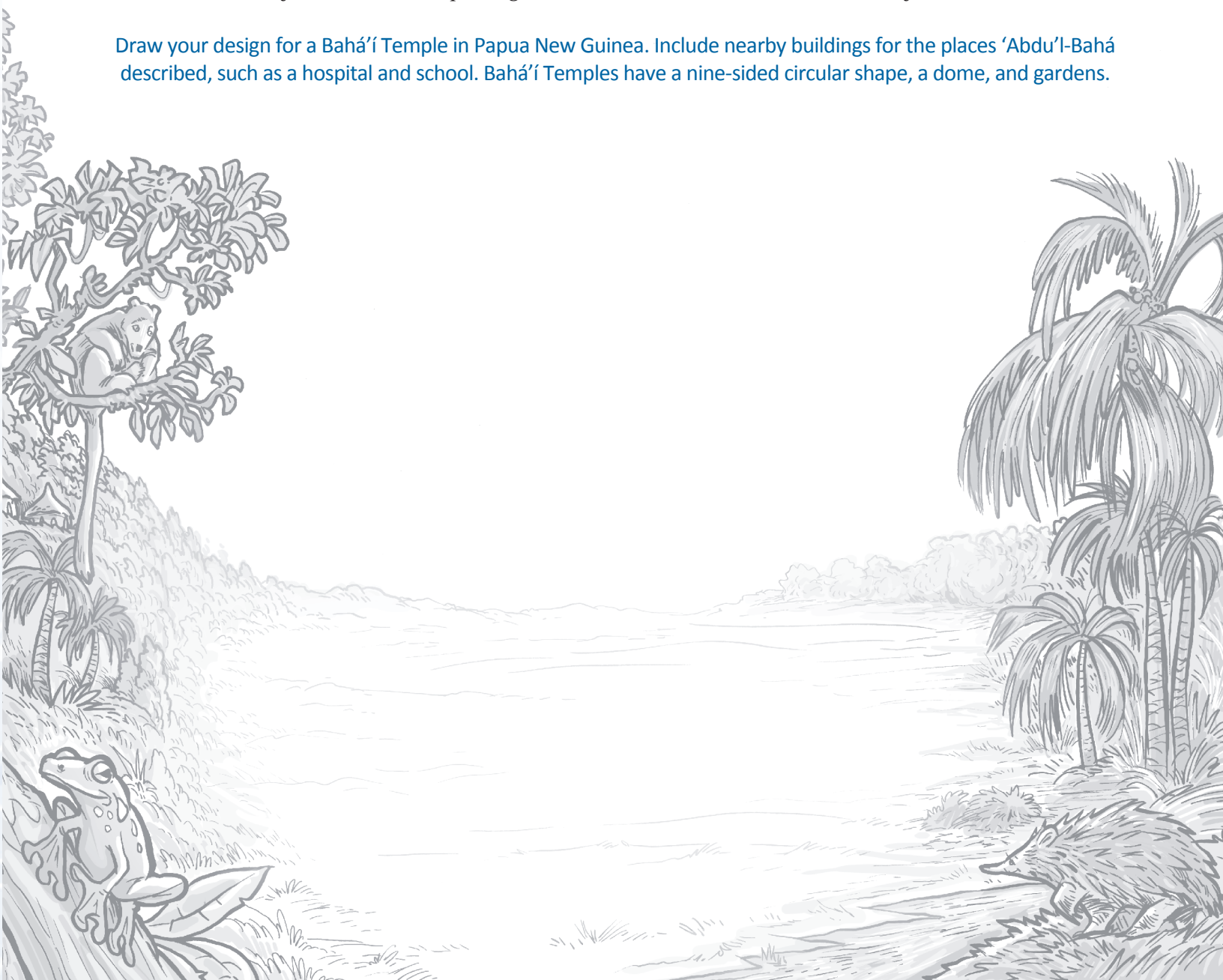
Many Bahá'ís joyfully contributed time, energy, and funds to the Temple. Corrine True helped choose the land and lead the project. Nettie Tobin, a seamstress with little money, offered a large piece of limestone as a cornerstone.

'Abdu'l-Bahá broke ground at the site with his own hands. Bahá'ís of many nationalities helped dig a hole

for Nettie's stone. Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá mysteriously declared, "The Temple is already built."

Today there are seven Bahá'í Temples around the world. An eighth is under construction in Chile. There are plans for Temples in Papua New Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. 'Abdu'l-Bahá explained that someday each will have a hospital, a pharmacy, a resting place for travelers, a school for orphans, and a university nearby. They will be active centers of service to humanity.

Draw your design for a Bahá'í Temple in Papua New Guinea. Include nearby buildings for the places 'Abdu'l-Bahá described, such as a hospital and school. Bahá'í Temples have a nine-sided circular shape, a dome, and gardens.



Layli Miller-Muro



What would you do if you met someone in serious danger? When Layli Miller-Muro was a law student at American University in Washington, D.C., she met Fauziya Kassindja, who fled to the U.S. from Togo, Africa, to escape forced marriage and violence. Layli and others took action to help. After a court granted Fauziya protection in 1996, she and Layli wrote a book about the case.

Layli used the money she earned from the book to create the Tahirih Justice Center. With a network of over 1,000 attorneys, the center provides free legal services for women and girls. Today, it has an amazing 99% success rate. Layli has won many awards for her work and frequently speaks out for women's rights in the media. She lives near Washington, D.C., with her husband, Gil, and three children, Serena, Amira, and Kalil.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: I think my favorite childhood memory is horseback riding. I was an avid horseback rider, and really, really loved to be on a horse and galloping across a field.

Q: What was your most challenging experience growing up, and how did you handle it?

A: My high school had some problems with racism. In particular, there was a black student dating a white student, and other students were upset by that. And so it created a controversy. I was able to work with the principal, along with our local Bahá'í youth dance workshop, to do some educational programs at the school on race . . . I think it was my first opportunity to play a leadership role in changing a social problem that I saw.



Left: For a dance performance at about age 11, Layli's costume was inspired by cowgirls.

Right: Layli, about age 12, rode a horse named Bars. Layli says, "I enjoyed horses and horseback riding so much that I now have a collection of horse statuettes from around the world."

Q: You're now a successful lawyer, but you said that you once had trouble in school. What was that like and how did you overcome it?

A: I was not a good student. I didn't like school very much, and all the tests I took told me that I wasn't very smart . . . I believed the tests, and so I didn't do very well, and it wasn't until I was later in life that I realized my strength was in dealing with real, live situations rather than remembering facts on paper.

Q: How did you decide that you wanted to be a lawyer?

A: Well, I didn't want to be a lawyer. I went to law school, I think, because I wanted . . . an understanding of the laws that I was trying to enforce. So I wanted to do work in civil rights or human rights, and I wanted to use the law to help do it. But . . . I didn't want to go into court, and I had negative stereotypes of lawyers . . . Bahá'u'lláh had other plans and gave me the opportunity to work with a woman that helped me realize that . . . as a lawyer, I could have amazing opportunities to create change.

Questions and
Answers with an
Inspirational Bahá'í



Left: Layli and Oprah Winfrey were both honored at Diane von Furstenberg's 2012 DVF Awards in New York City, given to women who "transform the lives of other women."

Right: Rainn Wilson helped Layli at a fundraiser for the Tahirih Justice Center in 2011.

Q: Who is Táhirih, and why did you name your organization after her?

A: Táhirih was an amazing woman . . . a very courageous woman . . .

In her most famous act of defiance, she . . . removed her veil [and appeared] before an assemblage of men [in 1848], which was . . . shocking . . . I think her legacy was made clear when she was executed and her last recorded words were, "You can kill me as soon as you like, but you [cannot] stop the emancipation of women."

Q: In your work, you see a lot of injustice and suffering. How do you keep a hopeful attitude?

A: I keep a hopeful attitude for two reasons . . . I am inspired by the women who have demanded help, and the fact that they have stood up is positive. And then when we can help them, their lives are positively transformed . . . The other reason is because we know in the Bahá'í Faith that all of these little injustices that we see, all of the forms of violence that we experience, are all just parts of a process of growth, and that ultimately . . . we are making progress.

Q: You've talked about a process for achieving justice. Can you describe it?

A: In order to do something we know we have to do, we have to maybe be *made* to do it . . . Laws can help us do that. But we won't really, really change if we're just following a bunch of rules. We have to believe in the rules and understand why they're there and *want* to follow them and *want* to be better people. It isn't until we have that belief inside our hearts that things will really change.

Q: What advice do you have for kids who would like to make a difference in the world?

A: I think if they see someone being bullied, or someone being made fun of, or someone being treated not as well as they would want to be treated themselves, that they should stand up for that person. That's justice.



Layli lives near Washington, D.C., with her husband, Gil, and their children, Amira (left), Serena (middle), and Kalil (right). Layli says one of her goals is to "be the best mom I can be."

Q: What advice do you have for kids who feel nervous talking about the Bahá'í Faith?

A: I think . . . having the tools that the Bahá'í Faith gives us is like being a superhero no one knows about . . . We have insights and wisdom that come from Bahá'u'lláh, and we are more powerful than anyone around us can realize . . . If they're able to share their gifts with other kids and give them the same superpowers, it would be a tremendous gift.



In the 1800s, people around the world eagerly awaited a big spiritual change. Because of religious teachings, Christians expected the return of Christ. Muslims sought the Promised One of their faith. On the evening of May 22, 1844, in Shíráz, Persia (now Iran), Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad announced that He was a new Messenger of God. He became known as the Báb ("the Gate" in Arabic). He prepared people for the coming of another Messenger Who would bring an age of peace—Bahá'u'lláh. Bahá'ís joyfully celebrate the Báb's declaration each year with prayers and fellowship.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Every 19 days, Bahá'í Feast is held on or near the first day of the Bahá'í month.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month
If you could visit any Asian or Pacific country, which would you choose?



2

TWELFTH DAY OF RIDVÁN

Honors Bahá'u'lláh's departure from Baghdád, Iraq

3

My Goal for the Month:

4

5

Cinco de Mayo (Mexico, U.S.)
Learn a Mexican folk dance and celebrate!

6



Children's Book Week (U.S., May 7–13)
Read to a younger kid or sibling.

7

8

WHY THE SUN-GLASSES?

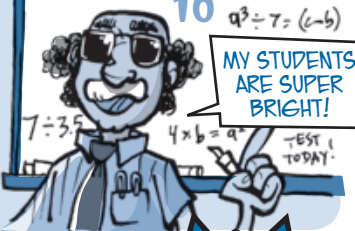


National Teacher Day (U.S.)

9

10

$a^3 \div 7 = (c-b)$



MY STUDENTS ARE SUPER BRIGHT!

11

12

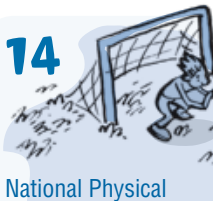


World Migratory Bird Day (May 12–13)

13

Mother's Day
What's your favorite way to show your mom you care?

14



National Physical Fitness and Sports Month (U.S.)

15



International Day of Families (UN)
Take a bike ride or play a sport together.

16

17

BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF 'AZAMAT (GRANDEUR)

18



International Museum Day

19

Did you know?
Tiny phytoplankton ocean plants provide half of Earth's oxygen!

20



Did you know?
Fossils of giant feathered dinosaurs from 125 million years ago were found in China!

21

22

International Day for Biological Diversity
This year's theme: Marine Biodiversity

23

DECLARATION OF THE BÁB

The Báb announced His mission in Persia (now Iran) in 1844.

24



25

Africa Day (African Union)
Africa covers about one-fifth of the total land on our planet.

26

27

National Reconciliation Week (Australia, May 27–June 3)
Honors the contributions of the first Australians

28



29

ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

In 1892, Bahá'u'lláh left this world at about 3:00 a.m.

30

Memorial Day (U.S.)

31

BENEVOLENT MEANS...

Cosmo's Word Challenge

- a) Kind, expressing goodwill
- b) Top of a volcano
- c) Cool Japanese lunchbox



The world of humanity . . . is like a garden, and humankind are like the many-colored flowers." When 'Abdu'l-Bahá shared this vision in Washington, D.C., in 1912, racism was common—and even legal—in the U.S. But he spoke out in support of unity. In public talks and in homes, with kids and adults, he showered love on people of all backgrounds. Today, inspired by 'Abdu'l-Bahá's example, Bahá'ís continue to work for justice and harmony. On Race Unity Day each June, communities often celebrate oneness with parades, picnics, music, art, and more.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Every 19 days, Bahá'í Feast is held on or near the first day of the Bahá'í month.



1 National Trails Day (U.S.)
For a healthy hike, wear good shoes and drink plenty of water.

3

My Goal for the Month:

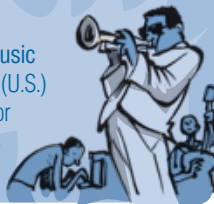
4

5
BAHÁ'Í
MONTH OF
NÚR
(LIGHT)

6

African-American Music Appreciation Month (U.S.)
Pop, jazz, blues, rock, or hip-hop—what music makes you bop?

7



8

World Oceans Day (UN)
Celebrate and protect the water that connects us all.

9



10

Race Unity Day (Bahá'í)

11



True or False?
Some sea stars (or starfish) can have 40 arms!

12

13



14

Flag Day (U.S.)



15



16
International Day of the African Child
At least 30 million kids in Africa are unable to go to elementary school.

17

Father's Day
How can you help your dad or grandpa today?

18



19

Juneteenth (U.S.)
Honors the end of slavery in the U.S.

20

World Refugee Day (UN)

Summer Solstice

21



22



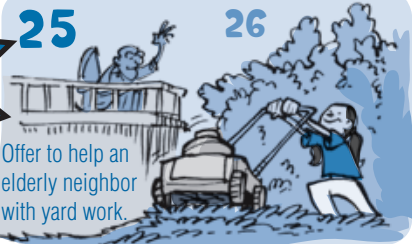
23

Dragon Boat Festival (China)
Dragon-shaped boats race in an ancient tradition.

24

BAHÁ'Í
MONTH OF
RAHMAT
(MERCY)

25



Offer to help an elderly neighbor with yard work.

26

27

Canadian Multiculturalism Day
In 1971, Canada was the first country with a multiculturalism policy.

28

HARBINGER
MEANS...

Cosmo's Word Challenge

- a) A fun numbers game
- b) Type of boat
- c) Sign of something to come

29



30

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

JOHN BOSCH (1855–1946): "Full of Light"

John Bosch was a man of few words, but his warmth and kindness made people feel at ease. When he spoke of spiritual things, his blue eyes lit up with joy. In fact, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, leader of the Bahá'í Faith in the early 1900s, called John "Núrání," which means "full of light" in Persian.

John was born in 1855 in Switzerland. Sadly, his mother died when he was nine. He came to the U.S. in 1879, and his jobs included working on a railroad and farming. Then he studied winemaking in Europe. When he returned, he found great success in the California wine business. He also bought farmland, and he raised goats as a hobby.

Spiritual truth deeply interested John. In 1903, he began attending Bahá'í meetings. As he embraced the Bahá'í teachings, he learned that alcoholic drinks are prohibited for Bahá'ís. He wrote to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, asking for advice about his career in the wine business. 'Abdu'l-Bahá advised him to gradually change his focus, so John did, working with the properties he owned.



One of the Family

Though they had exchanged letters, John longed to meet 'Abdu'l-Bahá in person. In 1912, during 'Abdu'l-Bahá's journey in North America, John traveled across the country to New York to see him. He brought questions, and though he forgot to ask them, in time 'Abdu'l-Bahá answered them all.

John was concerned that he couldn't speak eloquently about the Bahá'í Faith. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá told him, "With you it is not words or the movement of the lips; with you it is the heart that speaks." They had tea together, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "You are now one of the family. You may come and go as you please."*

John spent as much time as he could with 'Abdu'l-Bahá in New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago. John said, "You always felt a nearness to Him even when He was far across the room." 'Abdu'l-

Bahá treated John with affection. During a car ride to one of his speaking engagements, 'Abdu'l-Bahá laid his head on John's shoulder and fell asleep. John stayed as quiet as a mouse to avoid waking him.



John Bosch and his wife, Louise (bottom left), gave their property as a gift to the Bahá'í community.

About two years later, John married Louise Stapfer. In 1921, they traveled to Haifa, Israel, after 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote to John, "I am longing to see you." John was overjoyed to see him again. But two weeks into their visit, 'Abdu'l-Bahá passed away. John and Louise stayed in Haifa to mourn with the family for 40 days.

Enduring Contribution

John and Louise loved to serve the Faith together. They offered their property in Geyserville, California, as a Bahá'í school. It opened in 1927, and their joyful hospitality helped the school grow and flourish.

John passed away on July 22, 1946. 'Abdu'l-Bahá's grandson and successor, Shoghi Effendi, praised him as "dearly-beloved, great-hearted, high-minded . . ."

The Geyserville school closed after about 45 years, and a new one, Bosch Bahá'í School, opened near Santa Cruz. Nestled in a redwood forest, it continues to share the Bahá'í message of peace and unity.

Reflections of Life

"This material, phenomenal world will become the mirror of the world of God..." -'Abdu'l-Bahá

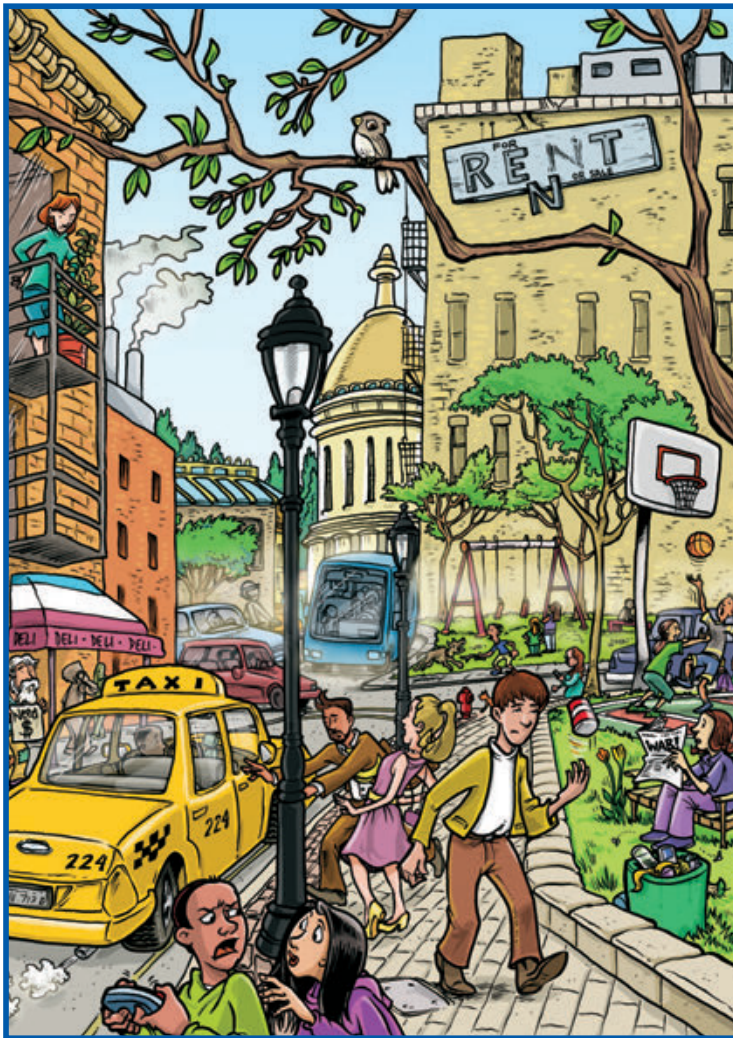
When a mirror is clean and turned toward the light, it can reflect clear images. And when we focus on doing good, we can mirror God's radiant qualities—such as love, unity, and compassion.

Imagine our planet with no bullying, crime, poverty, or war. All people care for Earth and share resources fairly.

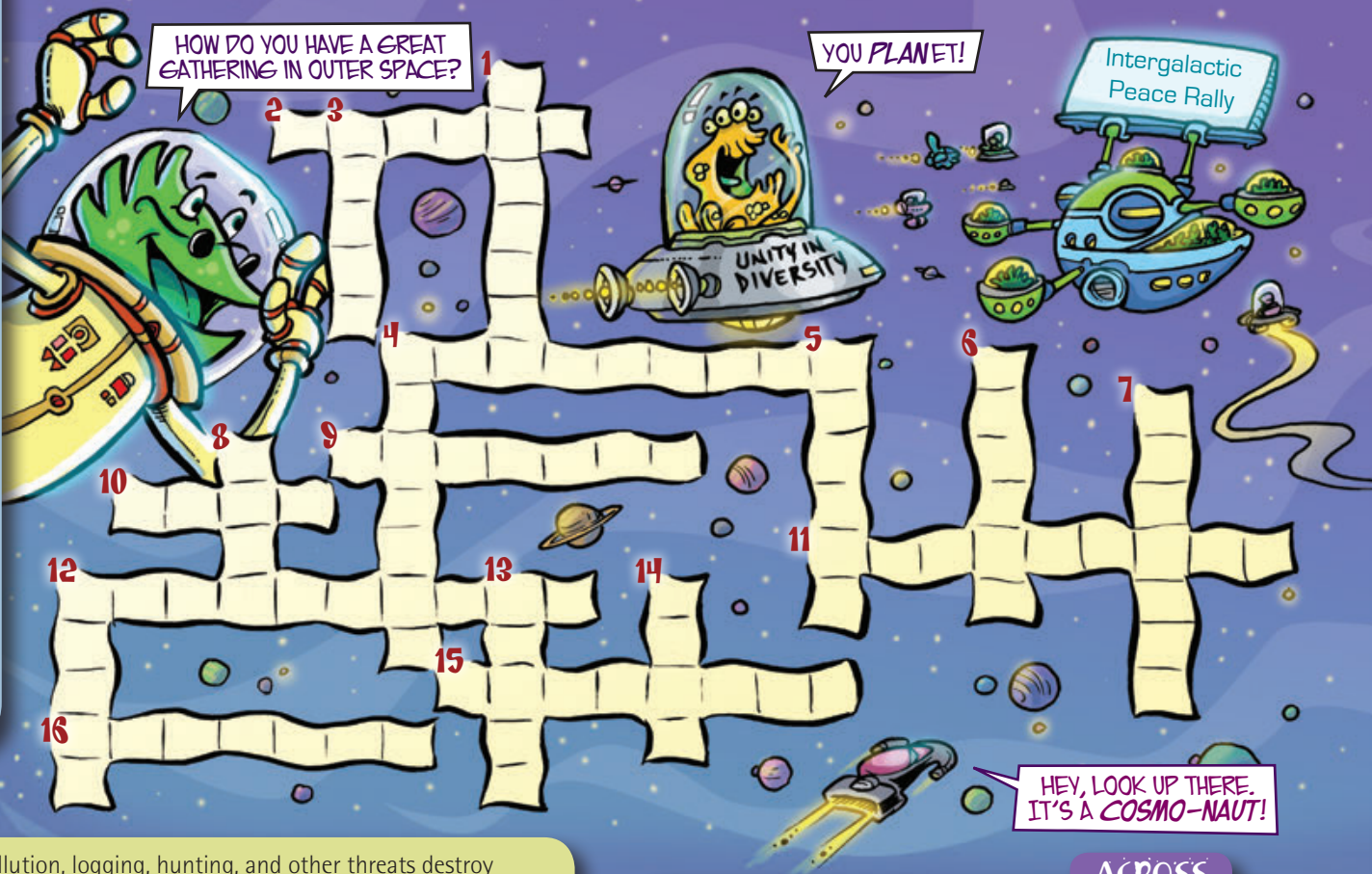
If you have this vision and put it into action, you will cause change. You can polish your character, develop your strengths, and find ways to be of service. Your efforts can enrich your family, school, and community. You can help our world to be a reflection of God's spiritual realm.

What will you do *today* to let your virtues shine?

One community is shining, but the other needs help. Find at least 10 differences between the scenes.







DOWN

1. Pollution, logging, hunting, and other threats destroy our _____ resources. (p. 9)
3. John Bosch was called "Núrání" or "full of _____." (p. 26)
4. When you choose projects that fit your interests, you'll find more joy in _____. (p. 5)
5. Arianna, William, and Caitlin all like _____. (pp. 12–13)
6. Continent covering about one-fifth of the land on Earth (p. 24)
7. Layli Miller-Muro's justice center was named after this Bahá'í heroine. (p. 23)
8. For a successful service project, focus on a main _____ that you can achieve. (p. 7)
12. These creatures have helped with travel for at least 3,000 years. (p. 3)
13. People working in _____ can accomplish amazing things. (p. 6)
14. A Bahá'í Temple has _____ sides and gardens. (p. 21)

ACROSS

2. Of all problems on Earth, Keyon would like to fix _____ warming. (p. 12)
4. When you consult and share ideas, you'll be able to see _____ more clearly. (p. 8)
9. It's vital for us to take action to _____ all life on Earth. (p. 11)
10. A basic need every person should have access to (p. 2)
11. _____ *Under Fire* seeks to end the persecution of Bahá'ís in Iran. (p. 16)
12. Eight promises for improving the world by 2015 are called the _____ Development Goals. (p. 10)
15. Researchers have found that this virtue is "contagious." (p. 19)
16. Understanding others' feelings (p. 4)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



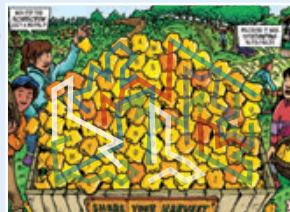
I always feel really excited when I get the magazine in the mail, and reading it helps me to learn more about the virtues and 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Bahá'u'lláh and how I can be more like them.

—*Madeleine K., age 11, Oregon, U.S.*

ANSWERS

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

Page 2



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

Page 7: 1) Find, 2) Choose, 3) goal, 4) Talk, 5) join, 6) team, 7) time, 8) need, 9) photos, 10) future

Page 9: Eagle at TC; raccoon at C; chickadee at BC; salamanders at TL and BL; squirrel at BC; owl at CR; bobcat at CL; fox at C; frogs at TR, CR, and BL

Page 10: 1) True. 2) True. 3) False. Over 12 million acres are lost each year. 4) True. 5) True. 6) False. Almost half of the kids not in school live in Sub-Saharan Africa. 7) False. Women make up only 19.5%, on average. 8) True.

Page 11: Colorado, Black Rhinoceros

Page 18: Camera at TL, headphones at TR, laptop at TC, mouse at TR, printer at BR, remote control at CR, smartphone at TL, tablet at TR, webcam at TL

Page 19: (T to B, L to R): 1, 6, 3, 8, 2, 7, 4, 9, 5

Page 27: Differences at R include (clockwise from TR): Community center sign, working swing set, dog on leash, kids happily playing basketball, newspaper headline, kid recycling can, holding taxi door open, sharing game, hybrid taxi with less pollution, man sweeping, woman tending plant, solar panels on building

Levels to Conquer

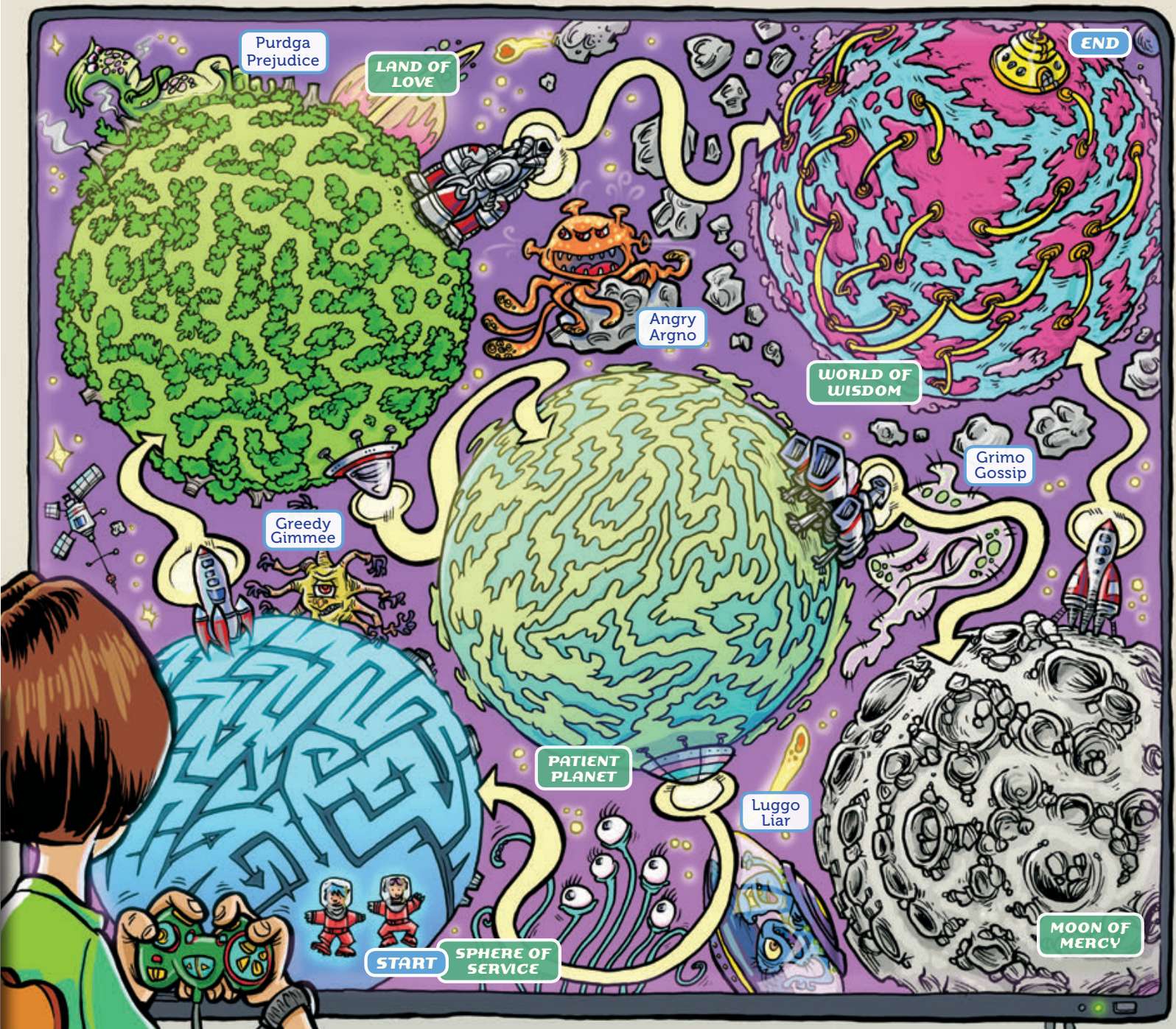
"We must strive with all our powers so that spiritual influences may gain the victory." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Zoom! You've just escaped another villain in an imaginary world. Gaming adventures are fun, but your life is an exciting journey that has a lot in common with the coolest video game. To reach new levels, you want to avoid monsters such as selfishness and prejudice. You can overcome traps and villains by discovering the hidden

treasures within yourself.

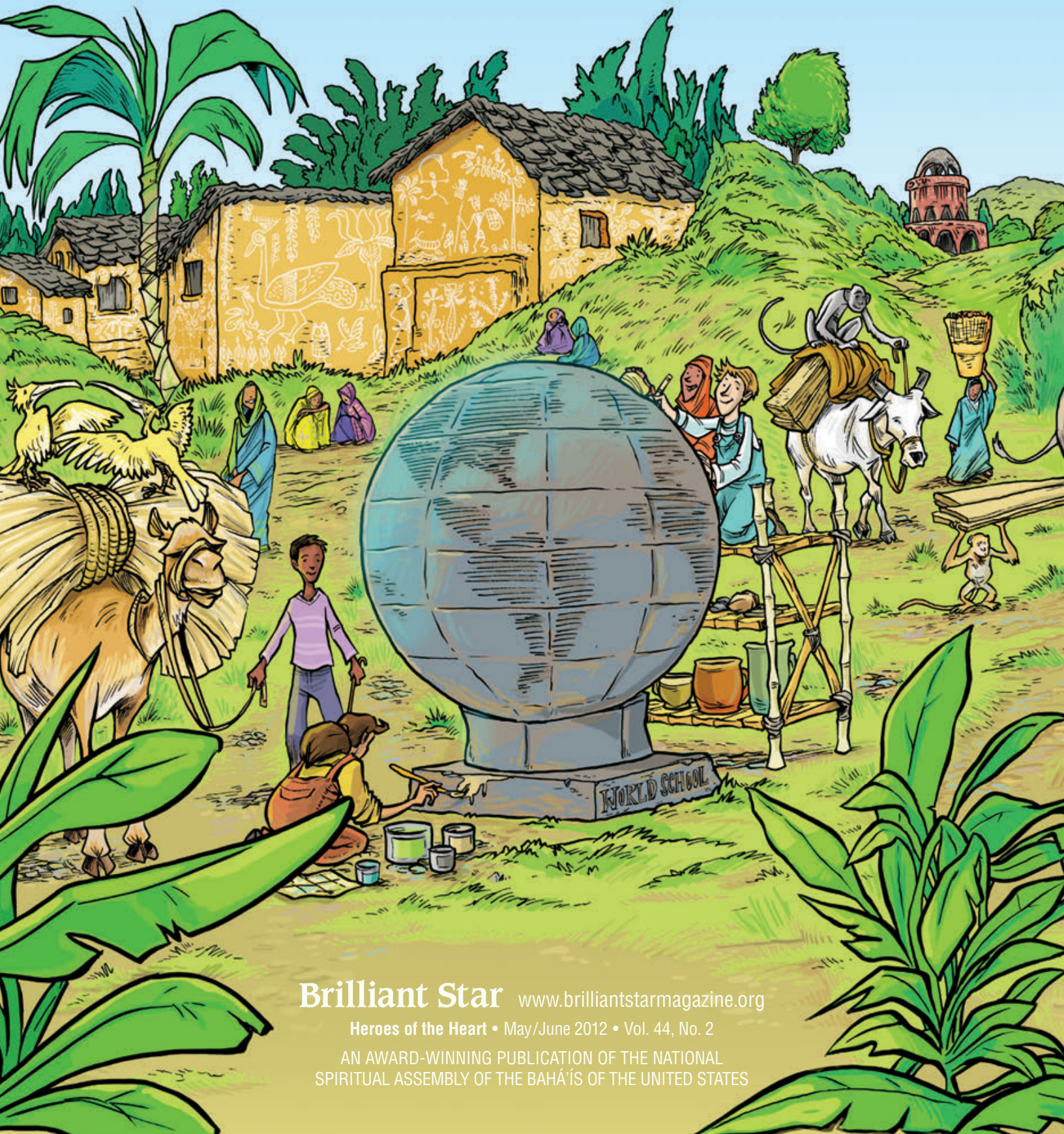
Cooperation, unity, courage, and other virtues are the tools you need to win spiritual battles and gain inner strength. As you overcome challenges every day, your powers and skills will grow. It's great to be the victor of a video game, but it's even better to be a champion in your own life.

Guide the space explorers through each planet as they collect virtues. Watch out for the monsters!



“Increasingly these young people will emerge . . . imbued with a strong twofold purpose, both to develop their inherent potentialities and to contribute to the transformation of society . . . with all the hope in their hearts that, through strenuous concerted effort, the world will change.”

—The Universal House of Justice



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