



Brilliant Star

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

MAY / JUNE 2013

**LIGHTNING & LUNA:
SURPRISING RESCUE**

**TAKE THE
UNITY CHALLENGE!**

Raise Up Your Voices

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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,

Have you heard that all people on Earth are related? Scientists think humanity started in Africa, and that we all share the same ancestors. We're one big human family. So why don't we all get along and live in peace?

Prejudice and stereotypes are part of the reason. We come from different ethnic backgrounds and religions, with diverse cultures, languages, and points of view. If those differences are seen as problems, they can lead to hostility. But diversity is actually part of what makes humanity amazing.

You can help create a better world where all people treat each other like sisters and brothers. In this issue, take our unity challenge with friends. Quiz yourself on the differences between teasing and bullying. Read about one kid's dream of peace and another kid's adventure in China. And meet Dr. William "Smitty" Smith, who founded a center for promoting friendship among all people.

Whether you're dealing with bullies or speaking out for justice, every day offers new chances to build unity. What action will **you** take today?



With love from **Brilliant Star**

FRIENDLY STRIPES

Why are zebras good at coloring? Because they like to stay between the *lions*! Zebras aren't colorful animals, but each zebra has a unique pattern of stripes—as individual as a fingerprint. These differences in patterns may help zebras to recognize each other in a herd.

Just as their unusual coats celebrate diversity of stripes, zebras enjoy the company of many other creatures. They often travel in mixed herds with

animals such as wildebeests and giraffes. The alert zebra helps protect these creatures, raising an alarm if there's danger from predators. Zebras also face threats from humans who have destroyed habitats, including those of the endangered Grevy's zebras.

When humans are at their best, they also keep an eye out for one another and for all creatures on Earth. We can all wear our own stripes of friendliness and cooperation.



PLAINS ZEBRAS HAVE FEWER STRIPES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THAN THEY DO IN EASTERN AFRICA.

ZEBRAS HAVE BLACK SKIN AND FUR. AREAS WITHOUT PIGMENT FORM THEIR WHITE STRIPES.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TOO MANY GIRAFFES ARE CROWDED ON ONE PATH?

THEY GET STUCK IN A *GIRAFFIC JAM*!

I'M A WILDEBEEST, BUT SOME PEOPLE CALL ME A GNU.

On the Serengeti plain in Tanzania, find six zebras, six wildebeests, and six giraffes.

A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tíhrán

1853–1863

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

1863 April 22

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

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

Did you know that Bahá'u'lláh's writings would fill over 100 books? That's like an ocean of wisdom!

If you were to dive into that ocean, you'd discover a lot about the oneness of humanity. Bahá'u'lláh taught that we're all part of one human family. Focusing on differences such as race and nationality can create conflict and sadness. Instead, He urged us to build

unity, friendship, and world peace. And we can still celebrate the things that make each of us unique.

Unity is like a current that flows through Bahá'u'lláh's teachings. "So powerful is the light of unity," He said, "that it can illuminate the whole earth." Becoming immersed in His writings can help us spread that light to reveal that we're truly one family.

Find nine hidden letters. Use them to complete the quote below:



"e enerous in ros erit , an than ul in a versit . e orth o the trust o th
nei h or, an loo u on him ith a ri ht an rien l a e... e as a lam unto
them that al in ar ness, a jo to the sorro ul, a sea or the thirst ..." —Bahá'u'lláh



RILEY'S RAINFOREST

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

Your Cool Culture

When someone mentions "culture," what comes to mind? Your family's fun traditions? Travel? Yummy kinds of food?

For many of us, culture is an important part of who we are. It can be based on where you live, who your ancestors were, or both. It includes the language, traditions, foods, arts, and other things that make up your way of life.

Your "race" is part of the picture, too. Though there's no scientific basis for race, people still use this term for cultural groups. But many of us don't fit into just one category. In the 2010 U.S. Census, nine million people said they belong to more than one race.

Discovering your cultural background can be cool, but it can sometimes be confusing. You may run into people who don't respect your culture, or who expect you to fit a stereotype. Or maybe you want to learn more about your family's roots.



Remember that only *you* can decide who you are. And your culture is only part of your identity. Your spirit, talents, and interests are what make you unique. When you're confident in those things and appreciate them in others, culture is just a fun part of the puzzle.

So have a great time exploring your culture. Talk to elders in your community, and get involved in celebrations and traditions. Find things that you love about your background, such as stories, songs, or customs, and share them with friends. We can enjoy all of Earth's diversity, since we're all world citizens from one human family.

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.

“What do you do when a popular girl bullies you on the bus?”

—Isabella, age 12

Dear Isabella,

You have a right to feel safe and protected, no matter where you are. No one should look away when you or any other kids are being picked on.

If you are bullied, tell adults. You need special care and guidance, and so does the bully. God created people to be like the cells of one body or like one family. When we forget that, many people get hurt.

Bullies are full of fears, insecurities, and a desire to have power over others. They represent the forces of darkness, like Darth Vader in *Star Wars*.

Good people are like the forces of light. To confront the darkness, stay with a group of kids who are kind and compassionate. Try to sit near the front of the bus. Ask parents, teachers, and the bus driver to get involved when you see bullying behavior.

You and your friends can also pray for the bullies, so they find healthy ways to attract attention to themselves.

*Wishing you joy,
Keyvan Geula
Licensed Family Therapist*

Explore & Soar: Friends and Four S's

It's not always easy to make different friends. Try these tips:

- **SMILE** at people. It lets them know you're open and friendly.
- **SHARE** your stuff. Offer a taste of your snack or a turn with your game.
- **SIT** with someone new in class,

in the cafeteria, or on the bus.

- **STAND UP** for kids who are picked on. Being a friend can be the best way to make one.



Friendly Teasing or Bullying?

You and your friends are having fun, joking around. But then the teasing goes too far. Someone's feelings get hurt. What do you do?

Friends usually realize they've made a mistake, stop teasing, and apologize. Teasing is okay if it's friendly and everyone likes it. It can be a fun part of hanging out together.



But bullying is different. It's repeatedly using mean or threatening words and actions meant to hurt. Bullying is never okay. If you're being bullied, talk to a trusted adult for help.

It can be tricky to tease people in a gentle, positive way. If you accidentally hurt someone's feelings, stop the teasing and say that you're sorry. When everyone is respectful of others' feelings, life can be a barrel of laughs.

Is it friendly teasing or mean bullying? Check out this quiz to make sure everyone is having fun.



1. They put you down for being upset.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

2. They continue making fun of you, even when you tell them to stop.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

3. They mock your race, religion, looks, or language.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

4. They only call you nicknames that you like.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

5. You want to avoid going places where you might see them.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

6. They whisper or laugh at you when they think you won't notice.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

7. You like them and feel good when you're around them.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

8. They threaten you or push you around physically.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

9. They don't mind if you tease them in return.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

10. You enjoy joking back and forth, and you all laugh along good-naturedly.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

11. You share some interests and do fun things together.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

12. You feel angry, scared, or anxious when they make fun of you.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

13. They send mean e-mails to you or about you.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐

14. They stand up for you when others are mean.
Friends ☐ **Bullies** ☐



My score:

See answers on page 28. Give yourself two points for each correct answer.

20–28 points: You know what true friends are like. If you see bullying, use your smarts to speak up or tell an adult.

10–18 points: You spot bullies, but you can sharpen your skills. Stay calm and tell bullies to stop. Look for kinder friends.

0–8 points: Take a close look at who you hang out with—they may not be true friends! Talk it over with a parent or teacher.

Maya's MYSTERIES

"These colors developed . . . due to climates and regions; they have no significance whatsoever." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

BUBBLES AND HUMANS COME IN AMAZING COLORS!



COLORS OF HUMANITY

Soap bubbles shimmer in colors of the rainbow. Their soapy "skin" can also look clear, black, or iridescent. The colors change with light, thickness, environment, or the color of the liquid.

Human skin color is diverse, too. Like bubbles, where we came from has an impact. Our skin color depends on **melanin**—a dark pigment that protects us from the sun. Differences in skin color evolved as early humans migrated from Africa to other parts of the world. Some scientists think tropical areas tend to

have people with darker skin because more melanin helps them survive harmful levels of ultraviolet (UV) sunlight. Melanin may also preserve the nutrient folic acid, which UV rays can break down.

Lighter skin is often more common in areas with less sun. Our bodies need sunlight to create vitamin D, so less melanin in lighter skin may help people absorb UV light.

Celebrate the colorful human spectrum by making rainbow bubbles with your family and friends.

Make Your Own Rainbow Bubbles

- 1 With an adult's help, cut off bottom of bottle.



- 2 To make bubble wand, pull sock tightly over bottle's cut end. Fold or cut sock if needed. Secure with rubber band.



You'll Need:

Small, clean plastic bottle
scissors • white sock • rubber band
bowl • water • dishwashing soap
measuring cup • food coloring*

- 3 Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (118 mL) warm water and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (59 mL) dishwashing soap in bowl, until soap dissolves.



- 4 To blow bubbles, dip cloth end into soap and blow into the bottle top (don't inhale).



- 5 Dip wand into soap again. Add food coloring to cloth and blow into bottle top. To reuse wand, rinse cloth and let air-dry.



Power of Pink

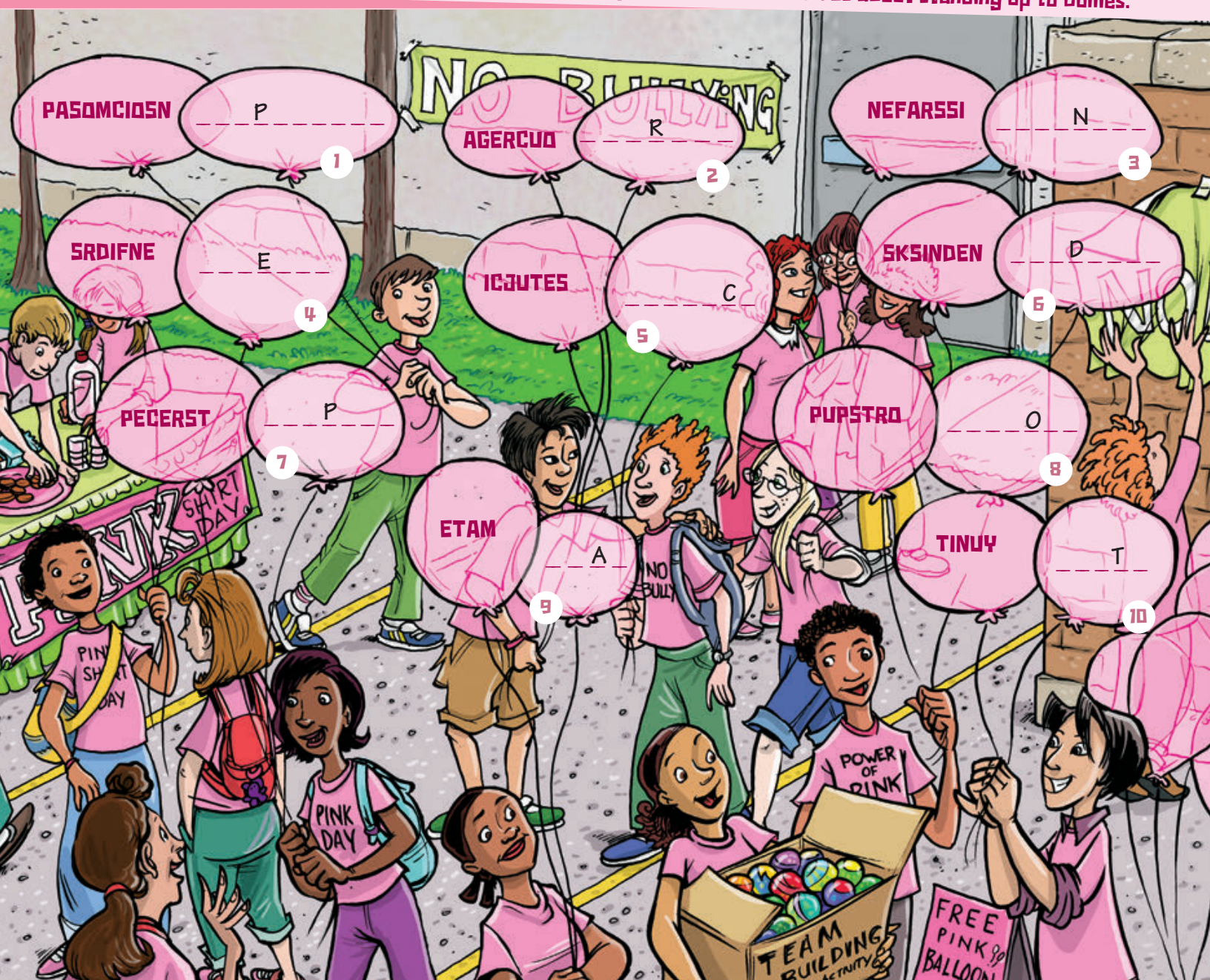
What do you do when you see somebody else getting bullied?

In 2007, two teen boys in Nova Scotia, Canada, saw a classmate being bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. Rather than let it slide, they went out and bought 50 pink shirts! They encouraged other kids to wear them, and wore the shirts themselves to show their support. Lots of other kids also wore their own pink clothes.

Their positive action inspired others. Now Pink Shirt Day or Anti-Bullying Day is celebrated around Canada each February. Other schools around the world have started similar days to erase bullying behavior.

Unity is often our best defense against injustice. Bullies can't succeed when lots of people stand together. So if you see someone being picked on, think pink. How can you and your friends unite in positive ways to stop bullies?

These kids are getting ready to celebrate Pink Shirt Day. Unscramble the words about standing up to bullies.





JITTERY OR JOYFUL?

"I charge you all that each one of you concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

You've just arrived at a party where you'll meet a bunch of new people. Are you excited? Or are you queasy from the butterflies in your stomach?

It's natural to feel a bit anxious in new situations. But stepping out of your comfort zone can be worth it. You might meet someone who shares your favorite interests. Or you might learn about cool ideas or hobbies you've never heard of. You could even make

a new friend. That's worth celebrating!

A lot depends on your attitude. If you go in with a positive outlook, you're more likely to connect with others. Imagine feeling calm and confident as you introduce yourself, start a conversation, or do other things that normally make you nervous.

Don't let fear ruin your fun. Use the power of positive thinking, and you'll be amazed at how festive you feel!

These brothers are going to a party with lots of new people.
Match each negative thought with the positive thought that can overcome it.



1 WHAT IF MY CLOTHES AREN'T AS NICE AS THEIRS?

I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS, BUT MAYBE I'LL MAKE NEW FRIENDS. **A**

2 I FEEL NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING NEW PEOPLE. WHAT IF *NO ONE* LIKES ME?

THESE KIDS MAY ALREADY BE FRIENDS, BUT I CAN STILL GET TO KNOW THEM. **B**

3 I *NEVER* KNOW WHAT TO TALK ABOUT AT PARTIES.

IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, I'LL ASK PEOPLE WHAT THEY LIKE TO DO FOR FUN. **C**

4 THESE KIDS ALREADY HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS—THEY WON'T WANT TO TALK TO ME.

IT'S A BIG CROWD. I'LL FOCUS ON ONE PERSON AT A TIME. **D**

5 WHAT IF I DO OR SAY SOMETHING *EMBARRASSING*?

AS LONG AS I'M FRIENDLY, THE BRAND OF MY CLOTHES DOESN'T MATTER. **E**

6 WHAT IF I DON'T FIT IN?

IT CAN BE *FUN* TO MEET PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME. **F**

7 WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH ANYONE?

I'LL JUST BE *MYSELF* AND NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THINK. **G**

8 IT'S *SCARY* TO MEET SO MANY PEOPLE AT ONCE.

I'M GLAD I CAN LAUGH AT MYSELF. IT SAVES ME FROM FEELING EMBARRASSED. **H**

TREE OF HUMANITY

COLOR
& FIND

"All may be seen to be the parts of ... the great tree of the human family. For mankind may be likened to the branches, leaves, blossoms and fruit of that tree." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

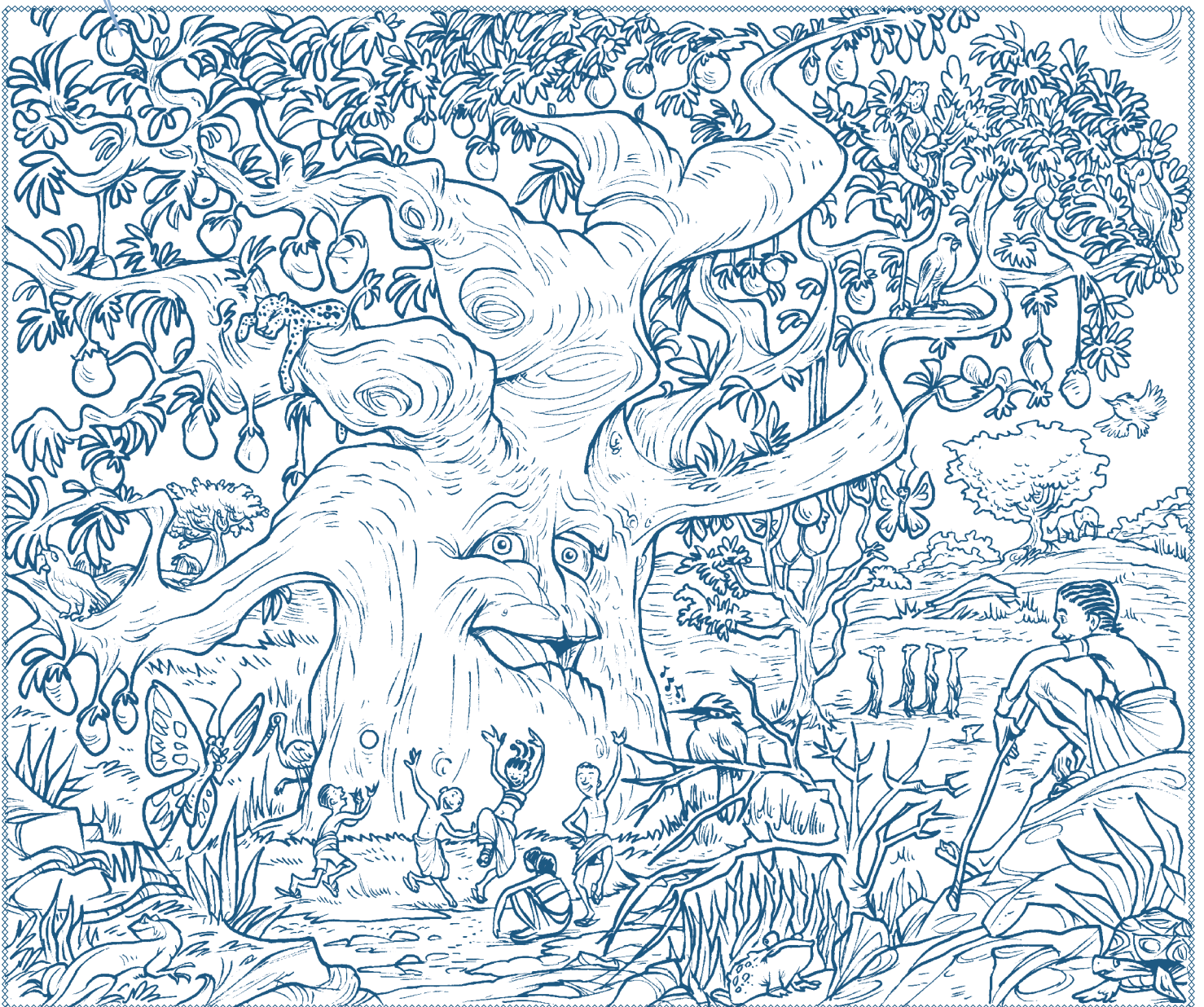
Dumelang from Botswana in Africa! I am Baakir, and I'm 1,000 years old. Humans say that we baobabs look like we've been planted upside down, with our roots at the top. Do you think so?

I'm also called the tree of life—maybe because I provide shelter, food, and water for animals and people. My fruit is super nutritious. And some hollow baobabs are used to store water for villages. My

roots can be tapped for water, too. And water is so important for life.

Speaking of life, did you know that scientists think humanity *started* on my continent of Africa? They say that every human is related to everyone else. When you think of your family tree, think of me, and remember that you have sisters and brothers all over the globe—from Argentina to Botswana to Zimbabwe.

Color Baakir and search for a bullfrog, a leopard, a lizard, and a monkey. Also find an owl, a parrot, a stork, and a tortoise.



Cosmo's Connected Community

Why did the chameleon climb to the other side of the tree? He wanted to *branch out*! Hi! I'm Cosmo, a chameleon. I love laughing and telling jokes with my friends. There are many kinds of chameleons, with over 150 species in different sizes, shapes, and colors. We're famous for *changing* colors—we can turn brown, green, blue, yellow, red—and even patterned. We change because

of light, temperature, or to show our moods.

I've heard that some humans with different skin colors have trouble getting along. How crazy is that? I love all of my friends—it doesn't matter if they're green, blue, or striped. If everyone were the same, it would be borrrrr-ring! When all humans appreciate diversity, the world will be a happier place—and that's no joke!

Use the letter pairs to complete Cosmo's tips about getting along with diverse friends. Each pair is used only once.



TIPS FOR BRANCHING OUT

- Welcome new friends with **C A** words and a smile.
- Watch for ways to _____ others.
- Speak up when you see _____ being bullied.
- _____ and be open-minded when you hear different opinions.
- Ask others about their _____ traditions and celebrations.
- Learn _____ phrases in a friend's language.
- Use respect and _____ manners—like “please” and “thank you”—even with pals.
- Ask a _____ to join you to sit with new kids at lunch.
- Remember that some cultures may be uncomfortable with eye contact, touching, or _____ voices.
- Apologize if you tell a _____ that accidentally hurts someone's feelings.

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

Take a shorter shower.

Water is a precious resource! A five-minute shower can use less water than filling the bathtub. Set a timer — challenge your family to see who's fastest!



WOW, REALLY?

Up to one million species live in Earth's oceans—and as many as two-thirds of them have not yet been discovered.

OUR CONNECTIONS



Scientists say modern humans began in Africa about 200,000 years ago. How do they know? Fossils of ancient humans have been found there, in places such as Ethiopia, Sudan, and Tanzania. Scientists have named several different species of early humans. How humans developed through time is still a puzzle. Some believe we share a common ancestor with other primates, but the Bahá'í Faith teaches that humans have always been distinct from animals.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Dr. Mireya Mayor is an anthropologist who's passionate about wildlife. In 2000, she helped discover a new species of mouse lemur in Madagascar, leading to its habitat becoming a national park. She's an Emmy-nominated TV reporter and says, "I don't think you need to travel halfway across the globe to make a difference . . . Our everyday decisions . . . make an impact . . ."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Eight million people live in this metropolis, making it the largest city in the U.S. Once called New Amsterdam, immigrants from 148 countries live in the city's five boroughs, adding to its vibrant diversity. *Unscramble the letters to find this city:*

ENW KOYR



AMAZING ANIMALS



There are about 17,000 known species of butterflies, with an amazing array of colors. This type evolved its striking coloring to mimic a poisonous butterfly, so birds don't eat it. *Fill in the blanks to find its species:*

ED - S O T E D U P L E

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?

Macy L.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be: **Marine biologist or zoologist**

Something I like about me that makes me unique: **I love retro and vintage styles ...**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Green Lake Bahá'í Conference...I grow spiritually ... and I love making new Bahá'í friends.**

Favorite animal or pet: **Our family ferret, Genghis, and my hedgehog, Otto**



Place I'd love to visit: **Haifa, Israel, for my year of service**

I like to help people by: **Lending a friendly ear ... help them talk problems out without criticizing ...**

If I feel left out: **I talk to people that are making me feel excluded. Usually they don't realize you feel that way.**

What I really enjoy from a culture other than my own: **My favorite dish is an African soup called Senegalese Peanut Soup. It has coconut milk, curry, and sweet potatoes. My dad makes it, and it is so delicious!!!**

To handle bullying or prejudice: **I try to graciously stand up for the person. I try to remain calm and talk it out without letting the problem escalate.**

Jennie M.

Age: **15**

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

I want to be: **An animal rights activist, animal behaviorist, or an author**

Best quality or virtue: **Friendliness and trust**

Something I like about me that makes me unique: **I aim to see and focus on the good qualities in every person I know.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Art projects and setting Bahá'í prayers and writings to music**

If I feel left out: **I either talk to people and respectfully tell them how I'm feeling, or I go and do something fun by myself.**

What I really enjoy from a culture other than my own: **African, Irish, and Jewish folk music**



To handle bullying or prejudice: **I tell my parents or a teacher at school. If an adult isn't around, I tell the aggressor that what they're doing is mean and unacceptable.**

It's important to make friends from different cultures because: **When people aren't exposed to different cultures and backgrounds, they can develop a sense that "different is bad," because they're afraid of the unknown. I've also learned a lot from people that are different from me.**



Bijan S.

Age: **10**

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

I want to be: **Vet**

Best quality or virtue: **Kind**

Something I like about me that makes me unique: **I'm half Persian.**

Hobbies or sports: **Basketball**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Camp Green Acre [at Green Acre Bahá'í School in Maine, U.S.]**

Favorite animal or pet: **My favorite animal is a turtle, and I have a dog named Duke.**

Place I'd love to visit: **Haifa, Israel**

I like to help people by: **I have a Bahá'í library for Feast.***

If I feel left out: **I tell someone.**

What I really enjoy from a culture other than my own: **Italian food and Persian music**

It's important to make friends from different cultures because: **It can unite the world.**

If I were a world leader, to help build global unity: **I would say no to fighting.**

Amelia D.

Age: **12**

I live in: **Shanghai, China**

I want to be:
An architect/designer

Best quality or virtue: **Tact**

Something I like about me that makes me unique:
I am the only Bahá'í in my school.

Place I'd love to visit:
Brazil. I love the colors, architecture, music . . .

I like to help people by:
Taking care of my siblings for my mom, doing dishes, cleaning up, etc.

If I feel left out:
I try to let it go, walk off, and make some more friends (keeping old friends, of course).

What I really enjoy from a culture other than my own:

Chinese New Year. The celebrations are always very colorful and festive, plus we get a month off of school to celebrate!!!

To handle bullying or prejudice:
I ignore them if they're talking to me, but if they're talking to my friends, I defend them.

If I were a world leader, to help build global unity:
I'd connect with . . . other countries' leaders to form a committee . . . to discuss the world's problems and how to take action.



"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

Isaac D.

Age: **9**

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

I want to be:
A [sports medicine] teacher at a university

Best quality or virtue:
I am a hard worker.

Something I like about me that makes me unique:
I like to write . . . fiction and legends.

Hobbies or sports:
Playing ball...[collecting] sports cards, writing, drawing, reading

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
I am Roman Catholic. I like fish fries during Lent; I like to volunteer to cook and clean up . . . and to eat with my family and friends . . . I visited the Bahá'í House of Worship in Illinois with . . . Bahá'í friends . . . It was very interesting, and I liked the architecture.



I like to help people by:
Talking to people who do not have anyone to talk with . . . It is good to reach out to people who might be lonely or shy.

What I really enjoy from a culture other than my own:
Mexican food and Mexican dancing . . .

To handle bullying or prejudice:
I just ignore bullies, so they don't get any attention.

It's important to make friends from different cultures because:
If you talk to people from other cultures, you learn about the rest of the world . . . It makes you a better person.

Beata A.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be: **A surgeon**

Best quality or virtue:
Truthfulness

Something I like about me that makes me unique:
To care deeply about other people's feelings

Hobbies or sports:
Karate, piano, soccer

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Doing community service activities

Favorite animal or pet:
Cheetah

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

I like to help people by:
Making them feel better when they're upset

If I feel left out:
I share my feelings and thoughts with my mom.

What I really enjoy from a culture other than my own:
I really like Indian food.

To handle bullying or prejudice:
I defend and stand up for my friend.

It's important to make friends from different cultures because:
It creates diversity, and it helps me to learn more about the world.

If I were a world leader, to help build global unity:
I could teach people about the Bahá'í principles and Bahá'u'lláh's teachings.



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).



LIGHTNING & LUNA

ARCTIC FAREWELL

#56



AT THE EDGE OF A DEEP ARCTIC CLIFF...



AT THE UPLIFTERS' ARCTIC OUTPOST...





THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN ME. I REALLY DO WANT TO MAKE UP FOR **EVERYTHING**.

I KNOW THE **REAL YOU**. YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON.



YOU'LL **HELP HER**? SHE WAS TRYING TO **DESTROY** THE ARCTIC! HOW CAN YOU THINK OF FORGIVING HER?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN MY PLACE? SHE'S **CHANGED**—SHE WANTS TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.



I DON'T THINK I CAN FORGIVE HER. I KNOW SHE'S YOUR SISTER AND YOU LOVE HER, BUT WE HAVE TO UPHOLD **JUSTICE**.

IF AURORA CAN HELP US STOP THE ERASERS, WOULDN'T THAT LEAD US TO JUSTICE?



LATER...

WE CAN STAY AND **HELP PULSAR**!

NO, YOU TWO HAVE EARNED A REST!

I'M GLAD YOU FOUND YOUR SISTER. I'D BE IN TROUBLE WITHOUT MINE.



BACK AT THE BLAZE HOME...

OH, YOU'RE SAFE!

BAXTER, BRIDGET—THE TROUBLE IN THE ARCTIC IS ALL OVER THE NEWS!



YOU KNOW, COLIN HAS BEEN CALLING ... **A LOT**...

ASKING IF WE HEARD ABOUT UPLIFTERS IN THE ARCTIC.

I WISH THERE WAS A WAY TO TELL HIM WHO WE ARE, WITHOUT PUTTING HIM IN DANGER.



ENOUGH ABOUT THE UPLIFTERS. IT'S FAMILY TIME! WHO WANTS **ICE CREAM**?

BRRRR!

DO WE HAVE ANYTHING A LITTLE LESS ... **FROZEN**?



ABOARD THE ERASERS' MYSTERIOUS SHIP...

FURY FAILED US, COMMANDER. AND SHE'S GONE BACK TO THE UPLIFTERS AS AURORA.

SHE'LL BE SORRY SHE DOUBLE-CROSSED US!

AND SO WILL THE UPLIFTERS!

WHAT WILL THE ERASERS DO NEXT?



One Family Tree

"Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch." —Bahá'u'lláh

Do you have dark or light skin? Dark brown, blue, or green eyes? Other colors in between? With so much diversity, it's amazing that we all belong to the same human family.

By studying human DNA —material that has information about how we look and function—scientists have discovered that we're much more alike than different. Research shows that at the genetic level, we're all about 99% or more alike. The tiny differences in our DNA contribute to things

like our appearance, such as hair, eyes, and skin color.

There are no genes that put someone in a certain ethnic group, such as African American, Chinese, or Navajo. Each group actually has a lot of variation *within* it—more than the differences *between* groups.

Sadly, there's much hostility in the world over our differences. When we all see that we're part of one human family tree, we'll have a more peaceful world. Check out the activity below to help you celebrate our unity and diversity.

You'll Need

Brown paper lunch bag • pencil • ruler
3" (7.6 cm) corrugated cardboard square
3" (7.6 cm) tissue paper squares • scissors
1" (2.5 cm) construction paper circles
white glue • markers • rubber band

MY FRIENDS
MAY LOOK
DIFFERENT,
BUT
WE BELONG TO
THE SAME TREE!



Make a COMMUNITY Tree

- 1 Fold bag in half. Unfold. Draw three lines to center crease, to make four even sections. Cut along lines.



- 2 Pinch bag's entire center together. Wind rubber band several times around bag's center until snug.



- 3 Unfold bag's bottom flap. To make trunk, twist bag between flap and rubber band.



- 4 Glue cardboard to flap. Press top of flap against board for roots.



- 5 Separate paper strips. Twist and bend strips into branches.



- 6 Glue pinched pieces of tissue paper onto branches or roots to make leaves, grass, and blossoms.



- 7 Ask each person in your family or community to create a paper fruit with his or her name and a favorite talent or virtue. Glue fruits to tree.



RHYTHM OF ONENESS

"Bahá'u'lláh has drawn the circle of unity, He has made a design for the uniting of all the peoples, and for the gathering of them all under the shelter of the tent of universal unity." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

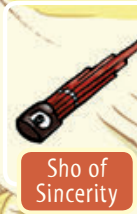
Ta ta da-a-a! A trumpet calls out, followed by the happy beat of the conga. The crowd can't help but dance to the rhythm as the music moves their spirits.

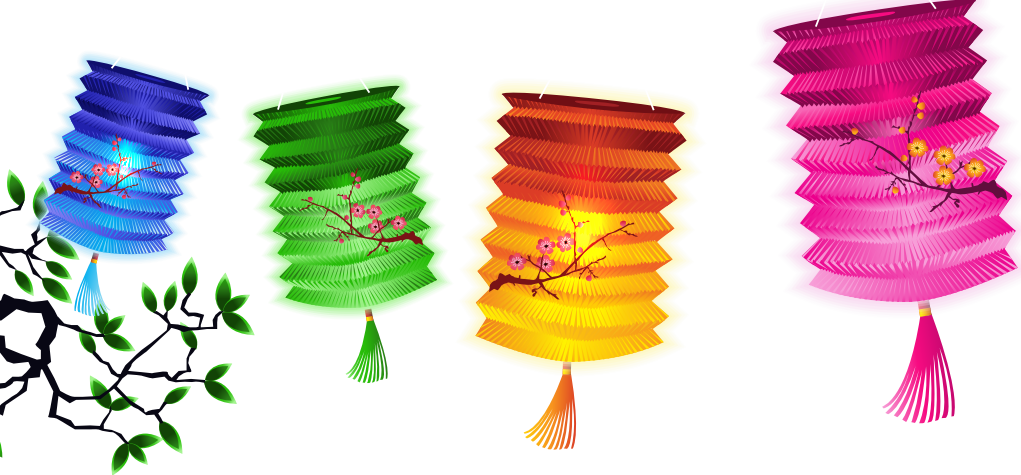
Why is the music so exciting? When the kids planned the concert, they decided to show the diversity of their town by playing instruments from many ethnic groups that live there. They're bringing together sounds from continents and islands around the world. In a similar

way, when we cooperate with people from different backgrounds, our varied voices can create joyful harmony.

The kids have been practicing for weeks for their big performance at this fundraiser for a new community center. They made new friends, had fun, and brought the crowd together. They also accomplished their goal and raised the needed money. And that's music to everyone's ears.

At this multicultural music festival, find nine instruments that encourage unity in diversity.





SERENE'S CHINA ADVENTURE

BY SERENE K., AGE 10

START OF MY BIG IDEA: A BLOG EXCERPT

It all started in the spring of 2009, when my mum, dad, grandma, sister, and I were in our car looking for lots to build a bigger house. We were driving and driving, and switching music from one song to another. It was really, really boring. Then I just said, "Why don't we move to China?"

My mum and dad looked surprised and said, "Well, let's see!"

So after about half of the day of looking at lots, we went home and consulted about moving to China, and we finally decided that we should go! We looked at the map of China and talked about where we could best be of service. We decided on a place called Xiamen, known as "the beautiful city by the sea." Xiamen is in Fujian Province.

My dad took a one-year research leave from his university where he was a professor and found a job in Xiamen. We had a huge moving sale, packed up, and left for the Far East on my dad's birthday, which he said was the best birthday present ever.



The trip took about 24 hours to reach our new home in Xiamen. We were so excited! We did not know what to expect! When we arrived in Xiamen, we stayed in a hotel for several days while we looked for an apartment. My dad knew how to speak a little Chinese, so he . . . came back with sweet bread and bananas, which was very different than what we were eating in America. We finally rented an apartment . . . where you could see the ocean on one side and mountains on the other . . .

Hi! I have lived in Xiamen, China, since 2010. I love languages, and I know English, Persian, Chinese, and I am also learning Spanish. I'm very athletic and love sports—swimming, basketball, kung fu, badminton, and many more. My hobbies are playing music, including the Chinese *gu zheng*, which is a 21-stringed instrument, piano, hand drums, singing, drawing, writing, doing Chinese painting and calligraphy, reading, and photography.

I love making friends, meeting new people, and teaching the Bahá'í Faith. I'm honored to be a blogger for **Brilliant Star's** new website.

Read more about my adventures at www.brilliantstarmagazine.org in the Clubhouse section.

CHINESE WORDS & PHRASES

Hello = *Nǐ hǎo*

Happy to meet you =
Wō hěn gāo xìng rèn shì nǐ

Please = *Qǐng*

Thank you = *Xiè xiè*

I love you = *Wǒ ài nǐ*

Bye-bye = *Zài jiàn*





Take a Bite out of Stereotypes

When someone says “shark,” many think of a vicious beast lurking in the ocean, waiting to attack unsuspecting prey—or people.

But that isn’t an accurate picture of *all* sharks. In fact, there are more than 350 different kinds of sharks, with diverse qualities. The whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean—it can be longer than a school bus! But it eats mainly plankton and is harmless to humans. The dwarf lantern shark is so small you could easily hold it

in one hand! The image of bloodthirsty sharks is a **stereotype**—a broad assumption about an entire group.

You might run into stereotypes about humans, too—due to skin color, culture, gender, or other things. Lumping a group of people together based on one part of their identity isn’t fair. Just as a shark doesn’t always spell danger, we can’t judge others based on stereotypes. If we dive in and look under the surface, we’ll see that each individual is unique.

Find virtues and ideas that help us appreciate diversity and avoid stereotypes.

SHARKS HAVE NO BONES. OUR SKELETONS ARE MADE OF CARTILAGE, LIKE MOST OF YOUR NOSE.

MANY SHARKS CONSTANTLY LOSE AND REPLACE TEETH. SOME OF US LOSE 30,000 IN A LIFETIME!

SINCE OUR EYES ARE ON THE SIDES OF OUR HEADS, WE CAN NEARLY SEE IN A FULL CIRCLE.

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



MUSIC CAFÉ

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

THERE’S A NEW KID
IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD
WHO SEEMS LONELY.

SO I HOPPED ON MY BIKE AND INVITED HER OVER TO THE
CAFÉ. GUESS WHAT? SHE **ROCKS** ON THE VIOLIN! WE’RE
GOING TO PLAY THIS SONG AS A DUET. IT’S FUN TO GET
TO KNOW NEW FRIENDS. I’M GLAD I ASKED HER TO . . .

STAND WITH ME

By Dean Jones

6

11

16

21

26

If there’s one lit-tle per-son be-ing left a-lone Stand with them Stand with them And if there’s
(After Verse 3, to Bridge 1) CHORUS

one lit-tle per-son be-ing treat-ed wrong Stand with them Stand with them Stand with me and we’ll

all stand to-ge-ther Stand with me Stand with me Stand with me and we’ll all stand to-ge-ther Stand with

me Stand with me If there’s me Will a - no-ther Vic-tor Ja - ra Or Mar-tin Lu-ther King come our

wa - y I don’t kno - w But if we all stand to-ge-ther and be a lit-tle brave, you ne-ver kno - w where we’ll

go— one lit-tle per-son one lit-tle per-son one lit-tle per-son all a-lone If there’s

1.2. F To next verse 3. Bridge 1

4. Bb Bridge 2 (Repeat once, then go to Chorus)

2. If there’s one single person who’s feeling afraid

Stand with them, stand with them

When there’s people in the world who find themselves
being waylaid

Stand with them, stand with them

Chorus

3. Until every little soul in the world can shine

Stand with me, stand with me

Until every little soul in the world gets to shine

Stand with me, stand with me

Bridge 1

Chorus

Bridge 2

Chorus

UNITY CHALLENGE

Have you ever met someone new, and just by looking, expected him or her to be athletic, shy, or a math wiz—then found out you were wrong? It's easy to get ideas about people based on their appearance—but it's better to keep an open mind.

Making snap judgments about people you don't know isn't fair. If your judgments are negative, you might have prejudices, and not be aware of them. We can subconsciously pick up

negative ideas and stereotypes about groups from the media or others. But we can overcome them by reaching out to diverse people with friendliness.

With diverse friends, life is more interesting, and we get a wider view of the world. Some studies even find that learning about other cultures can make you more creative. Challenge yourself and your friends to celebrate diversity—you'll build unity and have fun doing it!

CHALLENGERS:

START DATE:

END DATE:

Challenge your friends to see who can do the most activities in two weeks. Add your own, too. Then do it again with new friends you've made!

- ☐ Read a book or see a movie about another culture.
- ☐ Shop at an ethnic grocery store or market.
- ☐ Invite a friend to celebrate a holiday from another culture.
- ☐ Talk with your family about how people of diverse backgrounds are shown on TV.
- ☐ Visit a new neighbor with your family.



- ☐ Attend a worship service with a friend of another faith.
- ☐ Create a story, song, poem, or piece of art about diversity, overcoming prejudice, or getting along.



- ☐ Play a game from another culture.
- ☐ Eat lunch with new kids at school.
- ☐ Listen to music from three different countries.
- ☐ Read a comic with heroic characters who are female or ethnically diverse.
- ☐ Memorize how to say hello in six different languages.
- ☐ Learn five cool facts about another country.
- ☐ Memorize a prayer or sacred writing about unity.
- ☐ Invite someone new to play a game or hang out.

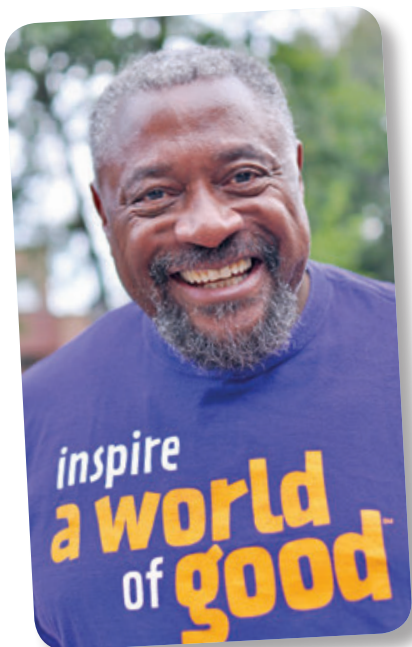
- ☐ List 10 stereotypes in the media and share them with your friends.
- ☐ Learn a dance from another culture.
- ☐ Pick a day to smile and greet 10 new people.
- ☐ Visit a museum exhibit about another culture or religion.



- ☐ Cook a traditional meal from another country.
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

THE WINNER:

Dr. William "Smitty" Smith

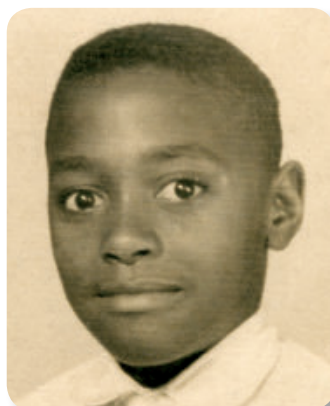


Imagine visiting a neighborhood in your town and being in danger of getting beaten, arrested by police, or worse—just because of your skin color. This was part of life for William "Smitty" Smith as he was growing up in South Carolina, U.S., around the 1950s. He became determined to challenge racism. After earning two Bronze Star medals as a medic during the Vietnam War, he studied education. He saw it as the way to "make the quickest impact on improving society and underserved people." Smitty earned a doctorate degree from the University of Massachusetts and helped schools develop new ways of teaching. Then he created his own media company and used TV and film to educate.

In 2010, Smitty founded the National Center for Race Amity at Wheelock College in Boston. As executive director, he organizes events such as plays, discussions, concerts, and films exploring friendship and cooperation. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife, Marcia.

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

A: I came from a very, very loving family. Incredible love. It really just permeated my mother, my grandmother, my grandfather. And that love gave me . . . a certain level of confidence. They were very encouraging. My generation in my family was the first college generation. My grandmother was a pioneer of sorts . . . She graduated from the Chicago School of Nursing . . . And my grandfather was an entrepreneur . . . And so I think I had a sense of people who could do things under extraordinary, difficult circumstances.



Left: Smitty gained much confidence as a kid through his loving family.

Right: In 1965, Smitty entered the U.S. Army and helped save lives in Vietnam as a medic.

Q: What inspired you to form the National Center for Race Amity?

A: When 'Abdu'l-Bahá came to America, among the many things that he emphasized was race amity, creating close racial unity and friendship . . . I was working on projects to deal with . . . bridging the racial divide, and . . . [I wrote a grant proposal] to create the National Center for Race Amity . . . What attracted my heart to the Bahá'í Faith is that the central principle that Bahá'u'lláh announced . . . is the oneness of the human family . . . [These ideas, friendship and unity] . . . that's what galvanized me to do this.

Q: How do you define race amity, and why is it important?

A: Race amity is racial friendship . . . There are two [groups] that we hold near and dear to us: family and friends. We will do most anything to assist our family . . . And after family comes our friends . . . To the extent that we can promote and encourage cross-racial friendships . . . we can create lasting bonds, human bonds, between people.

Questions and

Answers with an

Inspirational Bahá'í



Left: In 2000, Smitty received congratulations from President Bill Clinton and Senator Ted Kennedy at the White House for helping to create a national Day of Honor for minority veterans of World War II.

Q: The U.S. and the world have made a lot of progress in defeating racism. What are the biggest challenges we still face?

A: We face the basic challenge of . . . not knowing one another as human beings on a personal level . . . We don't embrace and see one another as fellow beings . . . across racial divides . . . How do we create friendships, opportunities for people to get to see and know one another and be together?

Q: Do you ever feel discouraged about racism and disunity?

A: No, because I see in my lifetime the quantum . . . leaps that we have made in society. I mean, I experienced, as a kid, total racial segregation. I did not have one white or non-black friend. Period. Until I was at the end of my high school years and became a Bahá'í . . . We've made tremendous, tremendous progress in that regard . . . So I'm optimistic that we're moving forward.



Every June, the National Center for Race Amity hosts "A Festival for the Human Family" at the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway in Boston. New friendships are made through art, music, and food.

Q: You wrote and produced the documentary *The Invisible Soldiers: Unheard Voices*. How did that come to be?

A: My film company . . . won a contract from the [U.S.] Defense Department to do a film . . . on the participation of African Americans in [World War II] . . . The army was totally segregated [then] . . . We interviewed these black soldiers, men and women, and some of the whites who worked with them. They all talked about the incredible prejudice and bigotry under which they served . . . [At] the preview of the film at the Defense Department . . . we almost got fired once [because we included the unedited comments about racism] . . . [So later], we made *The Invisible Soldiers: Unheard Voices* . . . It let [the soldiers] tell their story.

Q: What can kids do to build oneness in their communities?

A: Kids can . . . in their schools, in their play, on their teams . . . reach out and get involved with people who are unlike [them] in terms of racial and cultural background . . . To look around themselves and ask the question, "How can I be more involved with other people who are different from myself racially and ethnically?"

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

A: That they all become race amity ambassadors . . . And that they all understand . . . [that] the unity of humanity, the oneness of mankind, is the central principle around which all other Bahá'í principles revolve.

"I Have a Dream"



During the celebration of Martin Luther King, my teacher asked us to write an essay about what our dream would be, and to use the famous words of Dr. King. When I got home, I told my mom that I would like to write about the Bahá'í leaders called the Yaran, meaning "Friends," so that my classmates and friends would know about the injustice Bahá'ís are enduring in Iran. It is really my desire and dream that the Yaran and other Bahá'ís be freed, as well as all the people in the world who are suffering because of their religion.

I volunteered to read my essay in front of my class. At first, I was very scared, because I did not know how my friends would react. But I said a quick prayer in my heart and read it.

Many of my classmates were shocked about what was happening to the Bahá'ís and did not know about the Faith. When my teacher gave me back my essay, he wrote, "You represent your religion very well. You should be proud of yourself. Excellent essay. I learned a lot."



Brian's *Essay*

I am happy to stand in front of you today, to talk about the discrimination and prejudices that are happening in Iran with the Bahá'ís.

The Bahá'í Faith is the world's most recent religion, originating in Persia, now called Iran. It was founded by a noble Persian man named Bahá'u'lláh, which means the "Glory of God." In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh declared that He was the one announced by other Manifestations of God, such as Abraham, Buddha, Krishna, Moses, Jesus Christ, and Muhammad.

The Bahá'í Faith is an independent world religion. Today, there are over five million Bahá'ís, all around the world.

The main purpose of the Bahá'í Faith is unity. Bahá'ís do not make a distinction between the various races of humanity. We believe in "unity in diversity," because we all come from the same human race. The Bahá'í Faith is a progressive and continuous revelation of

other previous religions. The only difference comes from the social factors that change over time. For example, Bahá'ís believe in equality of rights between men and women, abolition of prejudices, universal education, etc.

The Bahá'í Faith also teaches the unity of religion. From its conception, the Bahá'ís have been persecuted and martyred because of their beliefs. In the mid-1800s, some 20,000 followers were killed by the authorities who viewed this new religion as a threat to Islam.

In the 20th century, many events of violence were directed against Bahá'ís in Iran. For example, many of the Bahá'í books were confiscated from their homes, Bahá'ís who got married under the principles of the Faith found that their marriage was not recognized, some were fired from their jobs, and some Bahá'í holy places were destroyed.

Have a Dream

By Brian A., age 12

With the Iranian revolution in 1979, the persecution of the Bahá'ís increased. Since that time, more than 200 Bahá'ís were killed. Many more were put in prison or lost their jobs, and many children and youth were not allowed to go to school or universities. In 1983, 10 women were hanged. The youngest one was a 17-year-old girl who was teaching children's classes, talking about virtues and good deeds.

In 2010, seven Iranian Bahá'í leaders (two women and five men) called the Yaran, or "Friends," who formerly looked after the needs of Iran's Bahá'í community, were sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment.

Today, I have a dream:

I have a dream that one day, in Iran, and in other places of the world where Bahá'ís are persecuted, the government will allow the children and youth to go back to school and universities.

I have a dream that one day, all the Bahá'ís imprisoned because of their beliefs will be released from prison, so they can go back to their families.

I have a dream that one day, I could have the courage to help free them.

I have a dream that one day, justice will prevail.

I have a dream that one day, the people of Iran will be friends with the Bahá'ís.

I have a dream that one day, people will come together, and help end this discrimination based on religious beliefs in Iran.

I have a dream that one day, all religions will be united.

Let "Freedom" be our motto. Let "Unity" be our action. Let "Love to Humankind" be our mission.



The Yaran



The Yaran, Bahá'í leaders in Iran, were unjustly imprisoned in 2008 by the government of Iran because of their spiritual beliefs.

Speak Out for Justice

Want to stand up for justice? Try these tips.

- ☐ What topic are you passionate about?
Whether it affects your hometown or the entire planet, learn as much as you can about it. Research the facts and become an expert.
 - ☐ Imagine a world without this problem.
How would it look and feel? Start writing your thoughts.
 - ☐ Think of creative ways to share your vision. Use your talents in writing, art, music, speaking, and more.
 - ☐ Share your vision in things like school projects, blogs, or letters to the local newspaper.
 - ☐ Invite friends and family to join your efforts.
- 

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Sadie Oglesby (ca. 1881–1955): The "Most Vital and Challenging Issue"

By Gail Radley



When she first gazed at Shoghi Effendi, the head of the Bahá'í Faith at the time, Sadie Oglesby was filled with "wonder and astonishment." But she soon felt "perfectly at home with him," she later wrote.

Sadie and her husband, Mabry, became Bahá'ís in Boston in 1914. Then, in 1927, she and her daughter, Bertha Parvine, were the first African American women to visit the Bahá'í holy places in Israel.

Persistent Prejudice

Shoghi Effendi asked Sadie a tough question: why weren't there more African American Bahá'ís in North America?

The white Bahá'ís try to be kind, Sadie told him, but they don't truly understand racial equality, even though Bahá'ís had held several race amity conferences. Recently the community had stopped focusing on race unity to promote world peace. Racial prejudice was common throughout the United States, and not all Bahá'ís had freed themselves from it. It had caused many African Americans to lose interest in the Faith.

Mabry spoke out about prejudice. But, seeking unity, Sadie had always been patient with prejudiced Bahá'ís. She hoped they would change eventually.

Mabry's way was better, Shoghi Effendi said. He urged her to "use all your force and power" to help Bahá'ís understand "the paramount importance" of race unity.

At first, Sadie didn't feel up to the task. "I have no strength or importance in America," she said.

But Shoghi Effendi encouraged her to "be urgent and

insistent"—a leader in facing what he would later call "the most vital and challenging issue" in America.

Over her 20-day visit, assured of Shoghi Effendi's prayers, Sadie gained confidence. "I know what my work is now . . ." she said.



Shoghi Effendi wrote to Sadie (back row, left), "I will pray that your words may influence and inspire the souls . . ." In 1939, Sadie was elected to the group that led Boston's Bahá'í community.

Speaking Out

After she returned home, Sadie began speaking on race unity. She spoke at length to a convention for Bahá'ís in the United States and Canada to elect their leaders. She relayed Shoghi Effendi's words: "The peace and tranquility of the world depend on" racial harmony. "People are talking about universal brotherhood . . . Bahá'ís must be . . . the ones who actually have it in practice."

She urged them to "see that great centre of love that is yearning . . . that you and I shall become like one body . . ."

People at the convention were so stirred that they decided to spread her message. They were also moved by Shoghi Effendi's letters during this period encouraging and supporting action to end prejudice. Soon the Bahá'í community focused on race unity again.

Sadie devoted herself to race unity for 10 years. She spoke at conventions and a Bahá'í school.

She exchanged letters with Shoghi Effendi. "Your constancy and zeal are assets that I greatly value . . ." he wrote. He said, "Persevere with unfaltering faith . . ." Through the work of Sadie and others like her, a much more diverse Bahá'í community now strives to eliminate racial prejudice throughout the world.

Hoshi's Adventures:

THE HUMAN RACE

Hii! I'm Hoshi, and I love adventures. I travel around Earth and space on a ship, the *Mystic Explorer*. I get to find out about amazing cultures and different ways of life.

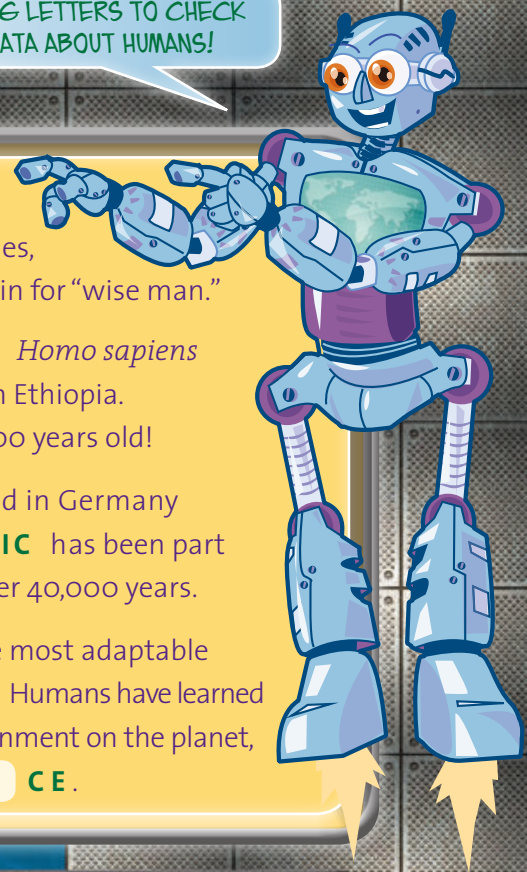
I've heard people use the word "race" to talk about groups of humans who have similar looks and ethnic backgrounds. But I've been studying this, and it turns out that all humans

are the same race—*Homo sapiens*. Scientists say the human race began in Africa almost 200,000 years ago. Big differences in skin, hair, and eye color evolved as people moved to different climates. So, people are really part of one big family.

Visit me at www.brilliantstarmagazine.org for more discoveries!

FILL IN THE MISSING LETTERS TO CHECK OUT MY COOL DATA ABOUT HUMANS!

1. Earth's O P U A T I O is over seven billion—that's a huge family! And it could reach nine billion by 2050.
2. There are about 7,000 L N U A E S on Earth. The three with the most native speakers are Chinese, Spanish, and English.
3. The human B A I is only 2% of a person's weight, but uses 20% of the body's energy.
4. All blue-eyed people have a common A N E S O who had a genetic change 6,000–10,000 years ago. Before that, everyone had brown eyes.
5. The name for the U M A species, *Homo sapiens*, is Latin for "wise man."
6. The O D E T *Homo sapiens* fossils were found in Ethiopia. They're about 195,000 years old!
7. Ancient flutes found in Germany show that U I C has been part of human life for over 40,000 years.
8. *Homo sapiens* is the most adaptable mammal species ever. Humans have learned to live in every environment on the planet, and in outer P C E.



Location > Earth



Species > *Homo sapiens*

1. Every zebra has a unique pattern of _____ as individual as a fingerprint. (p. 2)
2. Bijan, Beata, and Macy would love to visit _____, Israel. (pp. 12–13)
4. Often our best defense against injustice (p. 7)
6. When all humans appreciate _____, the world will be a happier place. (p. 10)
7. Tree of life (p. 9)
8. A true _____ requires time to take root, and after it does, you need love and care to nurture it. (p. 29)
10. The largest fish in the ocean is the _____ shark. (p. 19)
11. Sadie spoke up about _____ unity. (p. 26)
14. Includes the language, traditions, foods, arts, and other things that make up a way of life (p. 4)

WHY ARE SAILORS SO GOOD AT SINGING?

THEY CAN HIT THE HIGH C'S!

ACROSS

3. Some studies find that learning about other cultures can make you more _____. (p. 21)
5. Our skin color depends on _____. (p. 6)
9. Use the power of _____ thinking. (p. 8)
12. Isaac says, "It is good to _____ out to people who might be lonely or shy." (p. 13)
13. There are about 7,000 _____ on Earth. (p. 27)
15. There are about 17,000 known species of these creatures. (p. 11)
16. Brian says, "Let '_____ to Humankind' be our mission." (p. 25)
17. Smitty was attracted to the Bahá'í Faith's principle of the _____ of the human family. (p. 22)
18. Human DNA shows that people are much more _____ than different. (p. 16)

FROM OUR MAILBOX

Brilliant Star is very different from most other magazines. It helps and encourages kids to do good things. I like that. I like the "Shining Lamp" part of the magazine. The stories are very inspirational. I really like the quizzes and the crafts.

—Emily A., age 15, Louisiana, U.S.

ANSWERS

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

Page 2: Zebras: 3 at TR, 1 at BL, 1 at CL, 1 at C; Wildebeests: 1 at CR, 1 at BR, 1 at BL, 1 at CL, 2 at C; Giraffes: 2 at TL, 2 at TC, 1 at CL, 1 at C

Page 3: B at TL, F at TR, G and W at BR, C and Y at BC, D and K at CL, P at C. Quote: "Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face . . . Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty . . ."

Page 5: Bullies: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13; Friends: 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14

Page 7: 1) compassion, 2) courage, 3) fairness, 4) friends, 5) justice, 6) kindness, 7) respect, 8) support, 9) team, 10) unity

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

Page 9: bullfrog at BC, leopard at TL, lizard at BL, monkey at TR, owl at TR, parrot at CL, stork at BL, tortoise at BR

Page 10: 1) caring, 2) help, 3) kids, 4) Listen, 5) family, 6) common, 7) good, 8) friend, 9) loud, 10) joke

Page 11: New York, Red-Spotted Purple

Page 17: Concertina at TR, conch at C, conga at CL, djembe at C, pipa at TC, rattle at BR, sho at BC, trumpet at TC, ukulele at BC

Page 27: 1) population, 2) languages, 3) brain, 4) ancestor, 5) human, 6) oldest, 7) music, 8) space

Photo by Nancy Wong

One Garden

"Do all in your power to be as one, to live in peace, each with the others:
for ye are all . . . the flowers and sweet herbs from the same one garden." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

If your friends were flowers, what kinds would they be? Smart sunflowers? Outgoing orchids? Reliable roses?

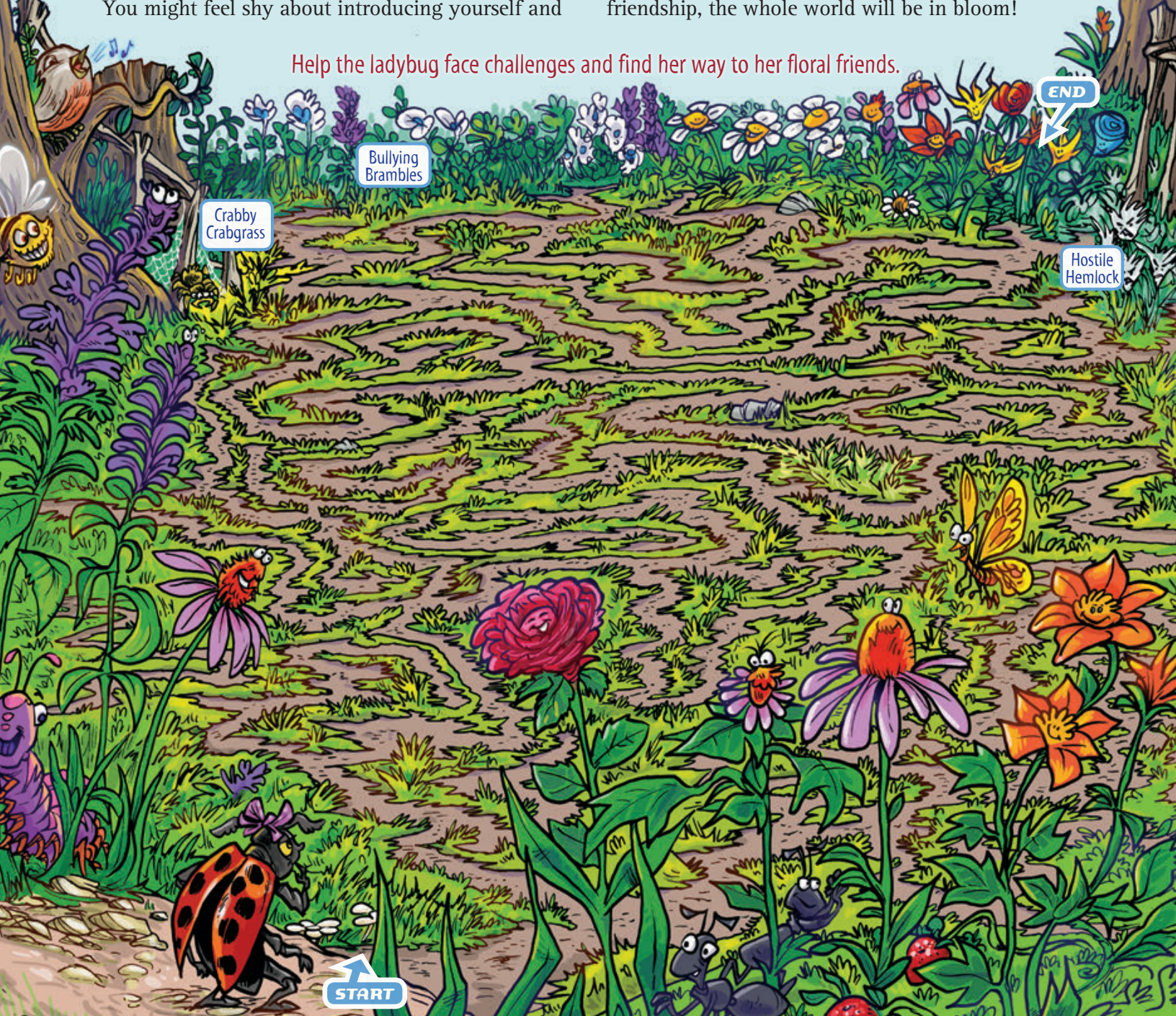
Making new friends can be like growing a garden. You plant a seed of friendship and "water" it with kind deeds, long chats, and fun times. A true friendship requires time to take root, and after it does, you need love and care to nurture it.

You might feel shy about introducing yourself and

talking to someone new. But when you reach out to people from different backgrounds, the garden of your life will be full of color and joy. You also help to combat "weeds," such as prejudice, disunity, and bullying.

And when you serve your community together, you're spreading the light of harmony. If we all focus on friendship, the whole world will be in bloom!

Help the ladybug face challenges and find her way to her floral friends.



“Know ye the value of this time. Strive ye with all your hearts, raise up your voices and shout, until this dark world be filled with light, and this narrow place of shadows be widened out, and this dust heap of a fleeting moment be changed into a mirror for the eternal gardens of heaven . . .” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá



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