

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Brilliant Star

www.brilliantstarmagazine.org

VOL. 46 / NO. 2



PUT AN END
TO PREJUDICE

QUIZ: HOW OPEN-
MINDED ARE YOU?

WINGS OF UNITY

Brilliant Star

BAHÁ'Í NATIONAL CENTER

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847.853.2354 ★ brilliant@usbn.org

Subscriptions: 1.800.999.9019

www.brilliantstarmagazine.org

Published bimonthly by the

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

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Historical photos courtesy National Bahá'í Archives, unless noted

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES AND RENEWALS

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

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

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

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

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

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome submissions and ideas from contributors of all ages.

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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,

There are about seven billion people on our amazing planet! Every one of us has basic rights to things like housing, safety, education, and freedom. Yet millions are denied these rights because of their gender, religion, or ethnic group, or due to some other prejudice. These injustices are a barrier to peace on Earth.

We can help bring change by standing up for those who face prejudice. We can also look at ourselves to see if we have unfair thoughts about others, then take action to overcome them.

In this issue, explore how to make the world a better place by celebrating our human family's diversity. Take a quiz on how open-minded you are. Create ties of unity with cool string art. Practice speaking up about justice. Get tips for dealing with bullying. And meet Paymon Rouhanifard, who's passionate about creating better schools to help kids reach their dreams.

When you're a good friend to everyone, you spread joy near and far. So pass it on!



LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ☆



PRINTED IN THE U.S. ON AN FSC®-PAPER

STARS OF ONE HEAVEN

"You must become of one heart, one spirit . . . stars of the same heaven . . . in order that through you the oneness of humanity may establish its temple in the world of mankind . . ." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Stars in the night sky can look like pinpoints of white light, each one about the same as the next. But if you could get closer to the stars, you'd see that they come in different sizes, temperatures, and colors. The most important star to us—the sun—gives life to Earth with its heat and light.

Like stars, people's qualities are clearer when you get

close to them. At school, kids may separate into groups or cliques. But if you look past those barriers and make friends with different kids, you may find you like the same books, movies, or games. You might face similar challenges. Your new friends may even help you develop new interests and learn more about yourself. The whole world looks brighter when we all let our best selves shine.

In this night sky, connect the letters of virtues that can help you reach out to others. The letters are connected by lines going in any direction: up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. You can use a letter in more than one word. But don't use a letter more than once in the same word.

WORDS TO FIND

- ★ Caring
- ★ Confidence
- ★ Courtesy
- ★ Fairness
- ★ Friendliness
- ★ Hospitality
- ★ Humility
- ★ Initiative
- ★ Love
- ★ Peacefulness
- ★ Respect
- ★ Sincerity
- ★ Sensitivity
- ★ Tact
- ★ Trust
- ★ Unity

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 A Change of Heart



Mahmúd was a 10-year-old boy who lived in 'Akká, Israel, long ago. One day, a wise old man told Mahmúd about a vision he'd had. The man said that the next Messenger of God would come to 'Akká when Mahmúd was an adult. The Messenger would speak Persian, and He would live in a room at the top of a long flight of stairs.

When Mahmúd grew up, he became respected in the community as a religious leader.

One day, Mahmúd learned that a prisoner, Bahá'u'lláh, had arrived in 'Akká. Though Bahá'u'lláh had done nothing wrong, the authorities wanted to stop His Bahá'í teachings, and they convinced people that He was evil. Mahmúd was angry that Bahá'u'lláh had been sent to his city. Hatred poisoned his heart. He wanted so desperately to rid 'Akká of a person he considered "evil" that he decided to kill Bahá'u'lláh.

One day, Mahmúd hid a weapon under his cloak and went to the prison where

Bahá'u'lláh was held. But when the guard announced Mahmúd, Bahá'u'lláh said, "Tell him to cast away the weapon and then he may come in." Mahmúd was stunned. He was sure no one had seen his weapon. He turned and left, confused.

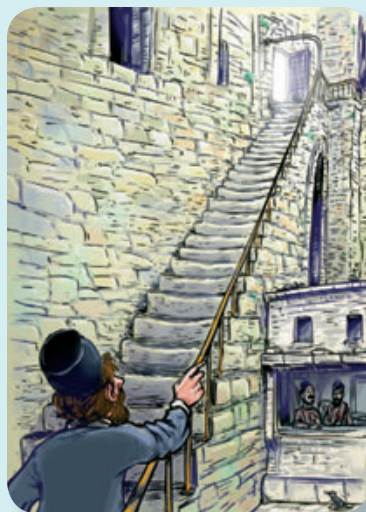
Shaken, but still determined, Mahmúd returned to the prison empty-handed. He was strong, and he decided he could kill Bahá'u'lláh with his bare hands. Once again, the guard announced his visit. This time, Bahá'u'lláh replied, "Tell him to purify his heart first and then he may come in." Mahmúd was so perplexed that he left without seeing Bahá'u'lláh.

Later, Mahmúd had a dream about the old man he had met as a child. He remembered the man's mysterious vision. After his dream, Mahmúd returned to

the prison. He met with Bahá'u'lláh's son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, whose words changed him. This time Mahmúd was brought to Bahá'u'lláh's cell at the top of a long flight of stairs. Overwhelmed by Bahá'u'lláh's presence, Mahmúd fell to his knees. He became a devoted Bahá'í for the rest of his life. He helped Bahá'ís enter and leave 'Akká

to visit Bahá'u'lláh.

Mahmúd was one of many people who approached Bahá'u'lláh as an enemy, but then grew to admire Him. Though authorities tried to stop His influence, no one could prevent Bahá'u'lláh's love and wisdom from changing people's hearts.



HOW OPEN-MINDED ARE YOU?

"We must lay aside all prejudice—whether it be religious, racial, political or patriotic; we must become the cause of the unification of the human race." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Have you ever been asked to "keep an open mind" about something? Having an open mind is like opening a door to new ideas. You're willing to try new things and consider other people's points of view. Without an open mind, prejudice can sneak in. Strong prejudice toward people who look, talk, believe, or act differently has caused violence and the loss of human rights.

We all have some prejudices, even if we don't

realize it. They can keep us from making friends and treating others with fairness and respect. But we can overcome them. If you hear about a new idea and feel your mind starting to close, tell yourself, "Wait! I want to learn more before I decide."

Staying curious and avoiding quick judgments doesn't mean you'll agree with everyone or like everything you try. But you can have a lot of fun exploring our wide, wonderful world.

Are you open to new ideas?

Circle your answers, then add up your points.



1 I enjoy learning about diverse people, countries, and cultures.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

2 I think everybody has valuable ideas to share with the world.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

3 I respect the different world religions and their beliefs.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

4 When I hear someone joke about or insult people of a certain race, I speak up.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

5 When I disagree with someone, I listen and try to understand his or her point of view.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



6 I like to travel, see new places, and meet new people.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

7 When I meet a new kid in school who looks or talks differently from me, I'm friendly and welcoming.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

8 I try to learn about world events and think about how they affect my family or community.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

9 I'm kind and respectful to people with disabilities.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

10 If a kid is teased or bullied, I try to be a friend to him or her.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



11 I'll try new food, music, and other things, even if they're different from what I usually like.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

12 I get the facts and make up my own mind, rather than just going along with what others say.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

SCORING

MY TOTAL

36–28 points: You're doing an awesome job opening your mind about people and ideas. Keep it up!

27–20 points: You're keeping your mind open most of the time. Look for ways to let in even more new ideas.

19–12 points: The doors of your mind can be more open. Choose some tips from the quiz and try them out.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

If you see someone being treated unfairly, you probably want to speak up. But sometimes you may not know what to say.

Here's a tip: think ahead about how to respond. If someone says, "Look at those losers," you can say, "Come on, don't be mean!" or "That could really hurt their feelings."

Friends may not realize their words are unkind. You can try being compassionate: "That doesn't sound like you. Are you having a rough day?"

Practicing with your friends can help you stay calm and confident. When you're patient and respectful, you can get your message across without anger. In these three examples, what would you say?



HAVE YOU SEEN HIM PLAY? HE CAN **SHOOT**!

OR

EVERYBODY DESERVES A CHANCE TO PLAY. HE'S A NICE GUY, TOO.

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:

MY FAITH HELPS ME UNDERSTAND WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD AND HOW I CAN BE HELPFUL.

OR

WE'VE GOT TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. WANT TO KNOW WHAT MY FAITH SAYS ABOUT PEACE AND JUSTICE?

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:



WHY? BECAUSE THEY'RE BLACK AND WE'RE WHITE? COME ON, LET'S MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS.

OR

THEY LOOK NICE, AND IT'LL BE FUN TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS THIS YEAR.

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:



Tying Our Hearts Together

"The most important principle of divine philosophy is the oneness of the world of humanity . . . the tie of love which blends human hearts." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

In art, it can be challenging to get different colors, shapes, and textures to work in harmony. But when you do, the artwork is amazing.

In life, it's sometimes hard for diverse people to be united. It can take courage, patience, and determination to make new friends with people who look, think, or act differently from you. You may feel out of place, accidentally hurt someone's feelings, or feel lost when you don't understand something.

If this happens, just relax, be kind, be respectful, and be yourself. If it turns out that you make a mistake, a sincere apology goes a long way.

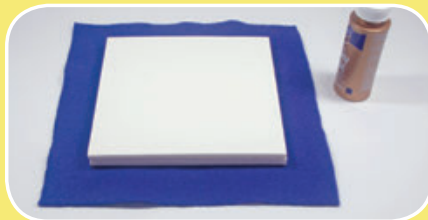
The diversity of humanity is like a colorful masterpiece. Whether you plan an interfaith prayer party or simply introduce yourself to someone new, you can help tie hearts together. Make the string heart below. Give it as a gift or hang it at home to remind you to create more ties of love and unity.

String HEART

You'll Need

Three sheets 6" (15.2 cm) square thin foam board • tacky glue • 9" (22.9 cm) square felt • double-sided tape • pen • 5" (12.7 cm) square paper • scissors • ruler • about 30, 3/4" (1.9 cm) nails • thimble • 8 yards (7.3 m) or more yarn or string in several colors • 5" (12.7 cm) ribbon • 5 1/2" (14 cm) square cardboard

- 1 Glue foam boards to make one thick board. Coat top with glue and place glue side down, in center of felt.



- 2 At corners, pinch excess felt flat. Trim excess and glue felt to wrap snugly around sides and back. Reinforce with tape, if needed.



- 3 Fold paper in half. From fold, draw half heart shape that fills page. Cut out and unfold.



- 4 Draw a dot at both ends of crease. Continue drawing dots around heart, spaced about 1/2" (1.3 cm) apart.



- 5 Tape heart to center of felt. With thimble, carefully push a nail into felt next to each dot, leaving 1/2" (1.3 cm) of nail sticking out. Remove taped heart.



- 6 Make loop for hanging by taping ribbon ends to back. Glue cardboard to back to cover any nail tips. Let dry.



- 7 Knot yarn to a nail to start, end, or change a color. Wrap yarn tightly around each nail, in random order, returning to each nail several times. Trim ends. Now it's ready to hang!



ESCAPE the PENS of PREJUDICE

Have you heard the phrase “sweating like a pig”? Not fair! Pigs don’t have effective sweat glands, so they barely sweat at all. They roll in mud to cool off and protect their skin from sun and insects. Pigs are often considered greedy, but they don’t overeat more than other animals. They’re smart problem solvers, too. In one experiment, they used mirrors to discover hidden food. In another, they learned to play a computer game!

Pigs can surprise us. They don’t always match their stereotypes. Making assumptions about pigs keeps you from seeing them as they really are. That happens with people, too. Jumping to conclusions due to someone’s gender, culture, religion, age—or for any reason—isn’t fair.

Embracing diversity makes life richer and more fun. When we root out stereotypes, we can break free of the pens of prejudice.

In this playful pen, find nine pigs with lots of personality.



WHAT HAPPENED
WHEN THE PIGS'
PEN BROKE?

THEY HAD
TO USE
MARKERS!





RILEY'S RAINFOREST

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

End Bullying!

Jessie walks nervously to the bus stop, feeling her stomach tighten. Will the girl who bullied her yesterday be on the bus? Her heart pounds. *Maybe I should just stay home sick*, she thinks.

Jessie isn't alone. On average, about 28% of U.S. kids say they've been bullied. Whether it's repeated name-calling, rumors, or hurting someone physically, bullying is a serious problem. The stress it causes can even impact health. Kids who are bullied are more likely to report headaches, stomachaches, sleep problems, anxiety, and depression. And if bullying goes on for a long time, health issues can continue into adulthood.

It's important to speak up any time you experience or see bullying. Sometimes it helps to look in the eye of a kid who's being mean and say in a calm, firm voice, "Stop." Other times, laughing it off or walking



away is enough to make the person back down. But if harassment continues, ask for help from a parent, teacher, or other trusted adult.

Bullying doesn't only happen in person. Cyberbullying takes place online and in text messages. It can be just as tough to deal with because it may happen at any time and can reach a wide audience. Sometimes it's hard to know who's doing it, too. Kindness is just as important online as it is in real life. Talk to a parent or teacher if you see embarrassing or cruel messages or photos.

If we all work together to stop bullying, the world will be a happier, healthier, and safer place for everyone.

Explore & Soar: Good Friends? Check!

Are your friendships fun and healthy? If you can answer yes to these questions, you're probably in good shape. Think of a friend. Do you ...

- ☐ Look forward to seeing him or her?
- ☐ Know you can trust him or her?
- ☐ Treat each other with respect, even when you disagree?
- ☐ Communicate kindly and honestly?
- ☐ Feel comfortable being yourself when you're together?
- ☐ Appreciate each other's differences?
- ☐ Share your toys and games with generosity and fairness?
- ☐ Laugh and have fun together?

Curiosity Canopy



True or False? Kids who are bullying usually won't stop if someone speaks up.

False. In a study, when bystanders intervened in a bullying situation, the bullying kid backed down within 10 seconds over half of the time. If you see bullying, speak up and get help from a trusted adult.



Stopping Prejudice

“All war and conflict . . . has been due to some form of prejudice—whether religious, racial or national . . . prejudice is a destroyer of the foundations of the world of humanity . . .” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

What if other kids left you out or told you that you wouldn’t be good at something, without giving you a chance to try?

It can hurt when people make assumptions, instead of getting to know the *real* you.

Making a judgment without all the facts is **prejudice**. If you meet someone from another country and assume that she can’t speak your language, that’s prejudice. It’s often based on **stereotypes**—generalizations about people. If you think *all* immigrants speak poorly, you’re following a stereotype.



One harmful result of prejudice is **discrimination**—when people are treated unfairly because they belong to a certain group. If you won’t let a new girl join a game just because of her background, you’re discriminating.

Because of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination, many people don’t have fair access to housing, education, jobs, and other basic human rights. Prejudice even leads to violence and war.

These are big problems, but we can all help.

Try the tips below to promote justice and make friends with people who are different from you.

Unscramble the words to find ways to stop prejudice and explore diversity.



1 Pay attention to your thoughts when you see someone different from you. (MLISE) _____ and say hello.

2 Speak up for (CITUSJE) _____ when you hear a prejudiced comment about people of a different culture, religion, age, or gender.

3 Sit with new kids at (HLNCU) _____.

4 (NRLEA) _____ some greetings and phrases in other languages, and try them out.

5 Check out concerts or festivals featuring different (CURLUTES) _____.

6 (VINTIE) _____ someone from a different background to hang out with you.

7 In (VISEOM) _____, on TV, or in books, watch for stereotypes.

8 Go to a (SNIGTORP) _____ event for athletes with disabilities.

9 (SIWHPOR) _____ at a friend’s place of prayer.

10 Ask someone to (ETCAH) _____ you how to cook a traditional dish from another culture.



Dressing for Diversity

"As the body of man needeth a garment to clothe it, so the body of mankind must needs be adorned with the mantle of justice and wisdom." —Bahá'u'lláh

Whether you live in a chilly northern climate or a hot desert land, what you wear is a vital part of your daily life. Your clothes help protect you from sun, wind, and cold. They may also show something about your culture or religion.

Like diverse clothing, people's beliefs and ways of life vary from place to place. Honoring and respecting these

differences is important to building unity and justice. Sometimes prejudice causes people to make unfair judgments about those who look or dress differently. That may lead to bullying or other unjust treatment.

We may wear different garments, but we're all human. No matter where we're from or what kind of clothing we choose, everyone has the right to live in peace.

These kids are talking about their homelands. Write each kid's number next to the name of his or her country.

1 MY ISLAND COUNTRY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN HAS TROPICAL WEATHER. WE WEAR A COMFORTABLE WRAP CALLED A LAVA-LAVA.

2 IN CASABLANCA, MY CITY IN NORTH AFRICA, SOME MUSLIM WOMEN AND GIRLS CHOOSE TO WEAR THE HIJAB, OR HEADSCARF, FOR MODESTY.

3 MY SHIRT AND PANTS, CALLED KURTA AND PAJAMA, ARE MADE OF COTTON OR SILK IN SUMMER AND WOOL OR HEAVY SILK IN WINTER. I SPEAK HINDI.

4 JAMBO! MY DRESS IS MADE FROM A KANGA, A LARGE RECTANGULAR CLOTH WITH BOLD DESIGNS. KANGAS OFTEN HAVE SAYINGS OR BLESSINGS IN SWAHILI.

5 THE PLAID PATTERN, OR TARTAN, OF MY KILT CAN REVEAL WHAT REGION OR CLAN I BELONG TO. BAGPIPE MUSIC IS POPULAR IN MY COUNTRY.

6 HOLA! THE DESIGN OF MY MAYAN HUIPIL TELLS ABOUT MY VILLAGE AND MY BELIEFS. MY COUNTRY BORDERS MEXICO.

7 A JINGLE DRESS CAN HAVE HUNDREDS OF JINGLES AND CAN BE USED FOR A HEALING DANCE. MY OJIBWE TRIBE LIVES NEAR LAKE SUPERIOR.



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

Reuse Challenge

How many times can you reuse something this week? Bring your own shopping bag, pack lunch in a reusable container, or check out a book from the library.

WOW, REALLY?

Insects don't have lungs. Oxygen enters their bodies through tiny holes called *spiracles*.



OUR CONNECTIONS



Rivers are like Earth's arteries, pumping fresh, life-giving water to billions of people. Civilization began along riverbanks around 10,000 years ago. About 177 major rivers, including the Nile, Amazon, Yangtze, and Mississippi, are vital to our ecosystems. They irrigate farmland, nourish nature, provide transportation, and supply energy through hydropower. For the health of the planet and its creatures, we need to keep rivers free of pollution.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Bill McKibben is passionate about urging people around the world to speak out on climate change. He's written a dozen books and co-founded the group 350.org, which is in 188 countries. He won the 2013 Gandhi Peace Prize and says, "It's very important that an interfaith voice—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Bahá'í, Hindu, and Native American—is taking action . . ."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



In South America, the newest Bahá'í temple is rising up near its country's capital city. All Bahá'í temples are circular, with nine sides and nine gardens. People of all faiths are welcome. *Unscramble the letters to find its location:*

SANTIAGO, ILCHE

AMAZING ANIMALS



The bright color of these water birds comes from their diet, which includes crustaceans like red crabs. The national bird of Trinidad and Tobago, they're very social and form huge flocks that can number in the thousands. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

C A R E T I B I 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?

Emilia A.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be:
A lawyer or doctor

Virtue I admire most:
Respectfulness

Hobbies or sports:
I like to play soccer, swim, read and write, and play piano

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Prayers and junior youth class

Place I'd love to visit:
The Shrine of the Báb in [Haifa,] Israel



If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice:
I would have people from different backgrounds ... work together in unity.

Why it's important to have friends from other cultures:
To understand each other's differences ...

If someone tells me I can only do certain things because I'm a girl or boy:
[I'd] show them examples of ... other boys and girls ... We are all like one.

If I get teased or feel left out, I:
[Tell] my feelings ... to a trusted person, and pray

If a friend tells a joke that's racist or makes fun of my gender or religion:
[I'd] ask ... why they are trying to show ... each other's differences and explain ... my faith and background.

Iman M.

Age: **12**

I live in: **Macau**

I want to be:
Structural engineer

Virtue I admire most:
Generosity

Hobbies or sports:
Tennis, collect[ing] gems, playing violin and piano, sailing ... Nintendo Wii, playing with my hamster

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Doing Breezes of Confirmation book with the junior youth in Beijing ... junior youth classes ... Bahá'í activities on holy days

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice:
I would tell people to treat each other fairly and show kindness to everyone they see.



If someone tells me I can only do certain things because I'm a girl or boy:
I would say "no" because we are all the same.

If I get teased or feel left out, I:
Talk to the teacher

If a friend tells a joke that's racist or makes fun of my gender or religion:
I would tell him not to say that, because it's insulting and it hurts.

An ice cream flavor that would encourage unity:
Justice Cream ... chocolate mixed with vanilla and strawberry



Sonali S.

Age: **12**

I live in: **North Carolina, U.S.**

I want to be:
Textile designer

Virtue I admire most:
Kindness

Hobbies or sports:
Yoga, hula dancing, art

Favorite animal or pet:
Elephants

I like to help people by:
Participating in service projects in my community

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice:
I would make everyone learn about different cultures and races and ... make friends ...

Why it's important to have friends from other cultures:
You ... learn about the world!

If I get teased or feel left out, I:
Talk to my close friends ...

If a friend tells a joke that's racist or makes fun of my gender or religion:
I would tell them that's not nice or fair, because someone could make a joke that's mean to you.

An ice cream flavor that would encourage unity:
Swirled Neapolitan ... vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry, but you would mix them all together ... !

Samiya (Sami) R.

Age: **11**

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

I want to be: **A lawyer**

Virtues I admire most:
Compassion and honesty

Hobbies or sports:
Musical theatre and soccer

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Devotionals*

Favorite animal or pet:
Elephants

Place I'd love to visit:
Loch Ness, Scotland

Why it's important to have friends from other cultures:
We ... learn about different ways of life ... [and] see issues from a person of another race's point of view ...

I like to help people by:
Cheering them up ...

If I were a world leader to stop prejudice:
[I'd] give people of different races high positions of power, so that they would be respected.

If someone tells me I can only do certain things because I'm a girl or boy:
I would tell them that boys and girls have equal capabilities, and any girl can do what any boy can.

If I get teased or feel left out, I:
Find ... one of my friends that was not involved in the teasing, and hang out with them instead



“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

Yazan A.

Age: **10**

I live in:
British Columbia, Canada

I want to be: **Architect**

Virtue I admire most:
Truthfulness

Hobbies or sports:
Inventing things and redesigning items to make them more useful; curling, hockey, guitar

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Children's classes and ... Nineteen Day Feast**

Place I'd love to visit:
The International Archives Building in Haifa, [Israel]

Why it's important to have friends from other cultures:
Because then there are no “other” cultures. Everyone is together.

If I get teased or feel left out, I:
Go and volunteer my time somewhere useful instead ...



If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice:
[I'd] invent a robot that emits happy and loving frequencies and deploy them in troubled areas ... [I'd] work with other leaders to ... [educate] every person in the world ... to eliminate prejudice.

If someone tells me I can only do certain things because I'm a girl or boy:
What?! Doing things well is based on learning and developing your capacity.

If a friend tells a joke that's racist or makes fun of my gender or religion:
I just tell them, “Hey, that's ... prejudiced ... I'm not okay with that.”

Luthando M.

Age: **9**

I live in: **Swaziland**

I want to be: **An actor**

Virtues I admire most:
Kindness and creativity

Hobbies or sports:
Writing, drawing, and building

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Feast

Places I'd love to visit:
Hawaii, Florida, California, Australia

I like to help people by:
Cheering them up

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice:
[I'd] make a law that ... everyone has freedom.

Why it's important to have friends from other cultures:
I just enjoy friendships.

If someone tells me I can only do certain things because I'm a girl or boy:
It doesn't matter what they say.

If I get teased or feel left out, I:
Meditate

If a friend tells a joke that's racist or makes fun of my gender or religion:
[I] tell him that wasn't very nice.

An ice cream flavor that would encourage unity:
THE FRIENDSHIP. It would taste like mint and chocolate.



How to be a Radiant Star:

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

*Devotionals are gatherings where people pray and read sacred writings.

**Nineteen Day Feasts are Bahá'í gatherings with prayers, consultation, and fellowship.



BAXTER AND BRIDGET

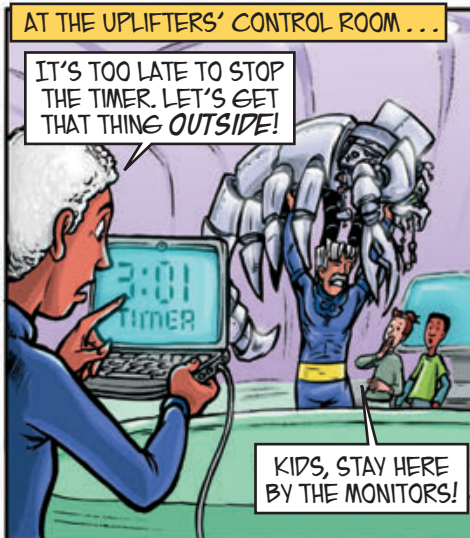
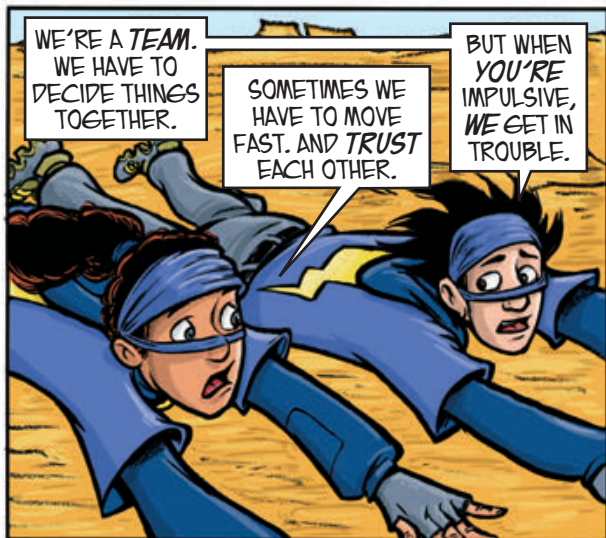
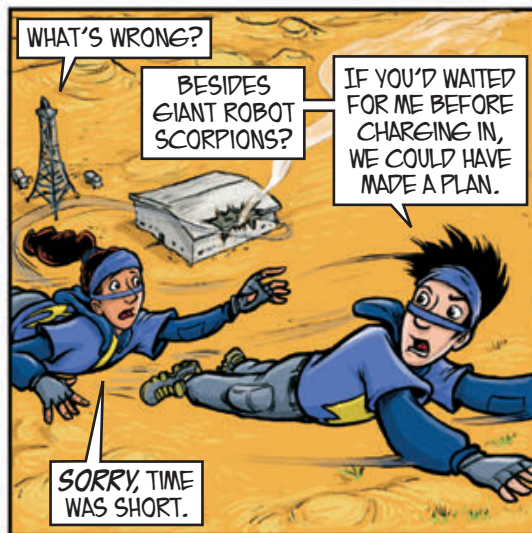
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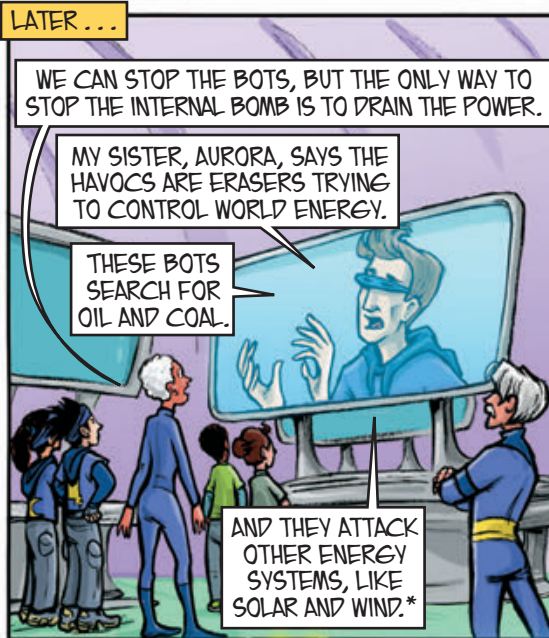
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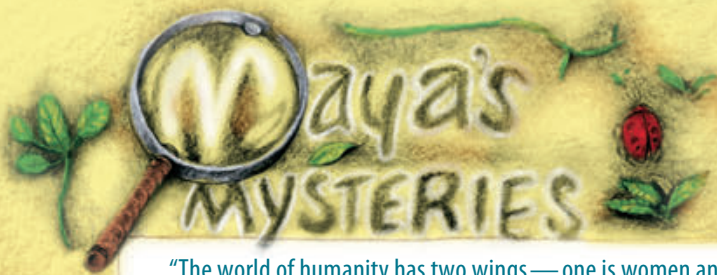
#62



AT HAVOC OIL, THE ERASERS' LAIR...







"The world of humanity has two wings—one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

I LOVE BIRDS!



TWO WINGS

Nature and animals are so amazing! Someday, I'm going to be a scientist to help save wildlife. An ornithologist gave a talk at school about her work with endangered birds. She's so inspiring!

I'm glad I can go to school and follow my dreams. It's sad that some girls don't have the chance to get an education. In many places, women aren't even legally equal. In Yemen, a woman is only half of a witness in court. In Saudi Arabia, women

can't drive. There's no country where women have true equality in all areas of life and society.

Like two wings of a bird, both boys and girls must be strong and have the same opportunities. I look for equality in my community, and in books, movies, and on TV. How are things where you live? The first step to solving this problem is to be aware of it. Then speak up. We need everyone at full strength for this bird to fly!

Women's Rights Quiz



1. There is no country where women make the same pay as men for the same work. In the U.S., women earn 78 cents for every dollar that men earn.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

2. In national parliaments or councils, Rwanda, Africa, has the highest percentage of women (64%). The U.S. Congress is about 30% female.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

3. The first woman elected president in a national election was Vigdís Finnbogadóttir of Iceland, in 1980.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

4. Women first competed in the Olympic ski jump event in 1924.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE



5. Women could not vote in the U.S. until 1920, 131 years after the first presidential election.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

6. Of the 860 winners of Nobel Prizes, about 25% are women.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

7. Over 60% of people who can't read and write are female, due to lack of education.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

8. In 37 countries, land ownership laws discriminate against women.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

9. Over 500 astronauts from about 35 countries have been to space, and 11% were women.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

10. Women in the U.S. earn 57% of bachelor's degrees, but only about 18% of engineering and computer science degrees.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

11. In some places, young girls are forced into marriage. 250 million women around the world today were married before age 15.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

12. Emma Watson (Hermione in the Harry Potter films) promotes gender equality as a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

MONSTERS OF THE MIND

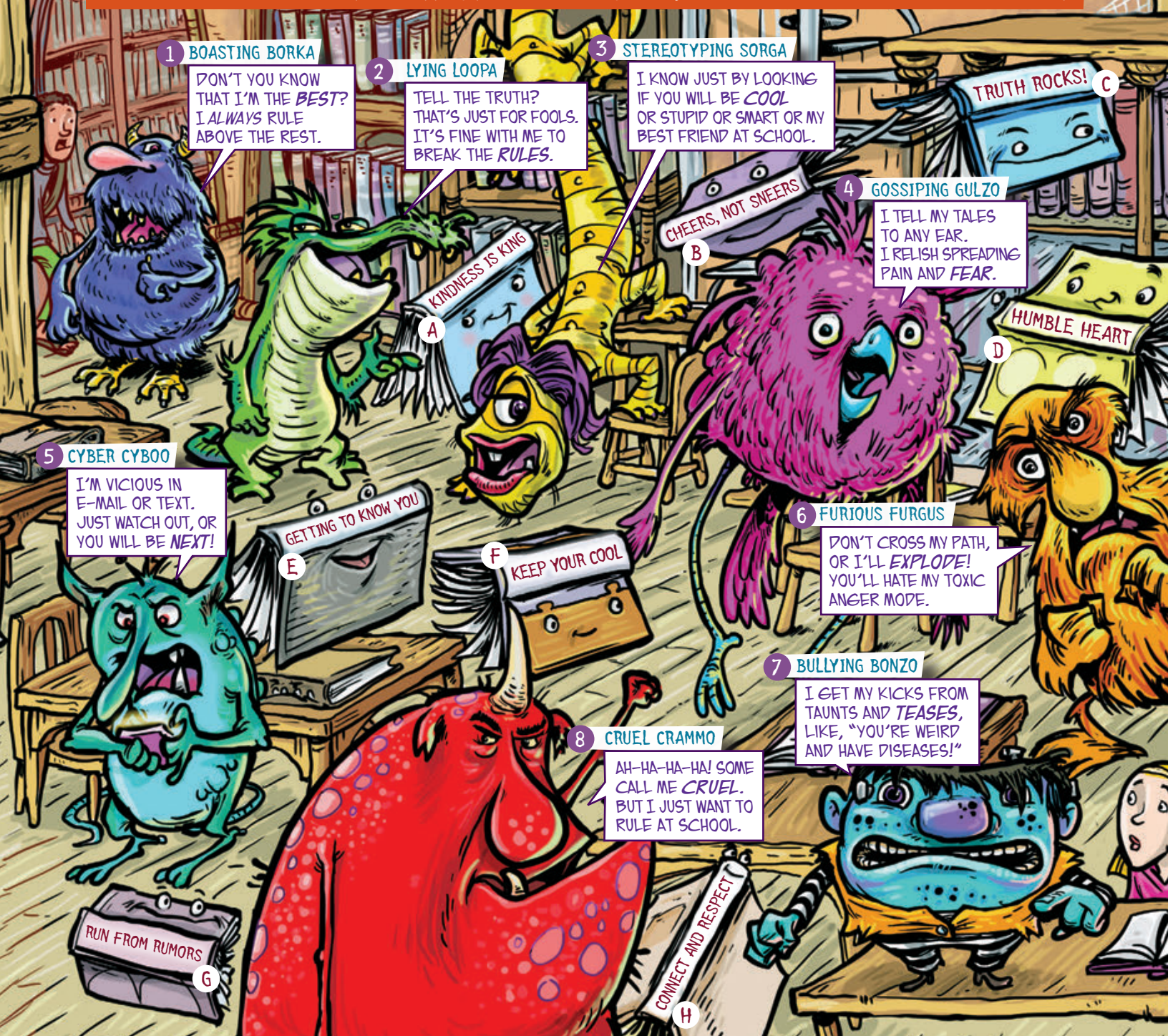
Have you met any monsters of the mind lately? Sometimes, when you least expect it, unkind thoughts can sneak into your brain, like creepy creatures. You might see someone who looks or sounds different from you and think, “Ew, he’s weird!” or “Yikes! I’m staying away.”

Prejudice lurks all around us. We can pick it up from the media or from the words and actions of others. Even

when we want to be fair and friendly to everyone, those nasty notions may catch us off guard.

How do you banish monstrous thoughts? Make friends with people who come from diverse cultures or who have different interests. You have the power to tame the monsters in your head. So stand up to their scary scowls—and make them scatter.

These monsters want to read up on stopping prejudice and negativity. Connect each one with the book that will help.



Paymon Rouhanifard



When Paymon Rouhanifard was about four years old, his father was fired from his engineering job in Shiráz, Iran, because he was a Bahá'í. Revolutionary Guards came to their home and demanded that his father deny his faith. He refused, and the family fled from Iran. They lived as refugees in Pakistan and Austria for about two years. Finally they moved to Tennessee, U.S., to start new lives, free to practice their religion.

Paymon grew up and earned a degree in political science and economics from the University of North Carolina. He taught sixth grade in New York City, then spent four years in the financial industry. At age 32, he became the school superintendent in Camden, New Jersey. When he's not working to improve education for 15,000 students in 26 schools, Paymon likes to run, play basketball, and spend time with his wife and their infant son.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: Just playing with my little brother. He's one year younger. And [the] first home I can remember growing up in [was in] a small town in Tennessee.

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

A: We moved to Tennessee when I was six years old, and there weren't too many other kids on our block who looked like us. So I remember that was at times a little challenging, kids picking on you because your name sounds different and you look different. But my parents did a really nice job of teaching us how to interact with other children and eventually overcoming those challenges.



Left: Paymon at age 10 in Tennessee, U.S. Right: Paymon celebrates his graduation from the University of North Carolina with his parents, Jalil and Sonya, and brother Nima.

Q: How does the experience of moving to the U.S. as a kid help you in your work with children and families today?

A: I can remember having conversations with my parents and my little brother when they would instill in us the importance of education. They would tell us that if it weren't for their education (my mom is a chemist and my dad . . . is a mechanical engineer), they wouldn't have had the wherewithal and perseverance to fight through . . . challenges and help situate our family . . . I share that story with students and families in Camden, and I think it also helps me connect to a lot of [them], because we have many immigrants . . .

Q: What are the three most important life skills that kids need today?

A: Life is challenging and will present many obstacles. But if you show grit, determination, perseverance, you will often overcome those challenges . . . [by] being a good neighbor, being a good colleague and peer in the classroom and in your school.

Questions and
Answers with an
Inspirational Bahá'í



Above: As school superintendent, Paymon is passionate about giving kids an "equal playing field" to succeed. Left: Paymon, his wife, Sarah, and their son, Jonah. Sarah recently earned a doctorate degree in biochemistry.

Q: How does the Bahá'í Faith influence you in your work?

A: I . . . think about the principle of universal education . . . You have communities where half the students are graduating from high school and very few are employable and are living in poverty . . . We're not embracing those ideals as Bahá'ís if we are living in this country knowing that tens of millions of students don't have those opportunities.

Q: If you have one wish for our readers, what would it be?

A: To pursue their hopes and dreams. I was fairly young when I discovered I . . . wanted to make the world a better place . . . Here I am, in a position where I can really positively impact the lives of 15,000 students in one of the neediest cities in America. So all students should vigorously pursue their dreams.

Q: What do you do in your work as a superintendent?

A: The governor decided that he didn't believe the school district . . . was getting the results the students' families deserved. So he appointed me to help turn it around . . . Our high school graduation rate is just a little bit over 50% . . . But I can tell you that . . . our children are immensely talented. And these data reports don't reflect their full potential. So my job is to make sure that the greatness of our schools matches the greatness of our students.

Q: You started with a 100-day listening tour in the community. Why?

A: I think that the root of great leadership is humility . . . So I think the most important thing I can do as a leader is to hear them all out and understand what the concerns are and understand not just what they believe needs to change, but also what's working and what we can actually build upon.

Q: What motivated you to take on the challenge of being a superintendent?

A: All students in this country have potential and have a mental ability. It's just deeply unfortunate that if you're born in a certain zip code . . . [or] a certain income level, that you don't get the same quality of education as those students in other parts of the country. And my passion is to ensure that we do everything we can to provide that equal playing field for all students.

Q: What's your favorite part about the job?

A: I love being inside of our schools and spending time with our students and families. A big part of my job is managing our financial complexities and . . . personnel. But what I do more than anything else is just visiting our schools, visiting students . . . That's by far the best part of the job.



MUSIC CAFÉ

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

IN SOCIAL STUDIES, I'VE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD SUFFER BECAUSE OF WAR, POVERTY, OR OPPRESSION.

IT'S HAPPENED FOR CENTURIES AND CONTINUES TODAY. I'VE BEEN FEELING DOWN ABOUT IT ALL, SO MY FAMILY AND I DECIDED TO **DO SOMETHING!** AT THE MUSIC CAFÉ, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE **CONCERTS FOR COMPASSION** TO START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PEACE ON OUR PLANET...

ONE DAY

by Matthew Miller, Bruno Mars,
Philip Lawrence, Ari Levine

Sheet music for the song "One Day" by Matthew Miller, Bruno Mars, Philip Lawrence, and Ari Levine. The music is written in 4/4 time and includes lyrics and guitar chords.

Chords: C, Am, F, C, C, Am, F, C, G, G, F, C, Am, Am, F, C, G, Am, F, C, Am, F, F, C, Am, F, G, Am, C, G, Am, C.

Lyrics:

1 Some - times I lay un - der the moon And thank God I'm breath - ing Then I pray Don't take me
7 soon 'Cause I am here for a rea - son Some - times in my tears I drown But I ne - ver let it get me down So when
13 ne - ga - tiv - i - ty sur - rounds I know some - day it'll all turn a - round be - cause All my life I've been wait - ing for I've been
19 That we don't wan - na fight no more There'll be
26 pray - ing for For the peo - ple to say One day One day One day Oh 2 It's not a - bout
31 no more wars And our child - ren will play
37 win or lose Be - cause we all lose when they feed on souls of the in - no - cent Blood - drenched pave - ment
43 Keep on mov - ing though the wa - ters stay ra - ging In this maze you can lose your way your way It might
48 drive you cra - zy but don't let it faze you no way no way 3 One day this all will change Treat
54 peo - ple the same Stop with the vio - lence Down with the ha - te One day we'll all be free And proud to be
60 Un - der the same sun Sing - ing songs of free - dom like One day One day

Bridge: 7 soon 'Cause I am here for a rea - son Some - times in my tears I drown But I ne - ver let it get me down So when

Chorus: 13 ne - ga - tiv - i - ty sur - rounds I know some - day it'll all turn a - round be - cause All my life I've been wait - ing for I've been That we don't wan - na fight no more There'll be

To Bridge and Chorus: 37 drive you cra - zy but don't let it faze you no way no way 3 One day this all will change Treat

To Chorus: 60 Un - der the same sun Sing - ing songs of free - dom like One day One day



UNITY IN DIVERSITY



If you look for people's differences, you're sure to find them. We come from diverse families, cultures, religions, and backgrounds. We look, think, speak, and act in unique ways. But diversity doesn't mean we're *completely* different. When you look for similarities, you'll find those, too. We all

need to feel loved, happy, and safe. We want to be treated kindly, and we like to laugh and hang out with friends.

When you get to know people who seem different from you, you might find that you have a lot in common. And that can broaden your world in surprising ways.

In the cafeteria, each student can find a new friend who shares an interest, such as a sport or art. There are seven pairs of kids with the same interest. Find the clues, then draw lines to connect each pair.



GLOBAL FLORAL FESTIVAL

"Behold a beautiful garden ... Each flower has a different charm, a peculiar beauty, its own delicious perfume and beautiful color ... So it is with humanity. It is made up of many races ... but they all come from the same God ..." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

From mountain peaks to cracks in a stone wall, flowers can bloom in incredibly diverse places. Two species even grow in Antarctica!

Wherever they're found, flowers amaze us with magnificent colors, shapes, and scents. The human family is just as diverse, with its many cultures, languages, and

arts. We also have our individual interests and talents.

One of the joys of a garden is exploring what makes each plant unique. In a similar way, it's fun to get to know people of all backgrounds. We can find out how we're alike and see how our differences add beauty to the world—like flowers in one garden.

These flowers are sharing clues about their homelands. Read the clues and write in each flower's country.

WALLABIES AND WOMBATS ROAM DOWN UNDER, WHERE I MAKE MY HOME.

1

I'M FROM
A _ S _ _ A L _ A _

NI HAO! COME AND SIT WITH ME— WE'LL SHARE DIM SUM AND OOLONG TEA.

2

I'M FROM
_ H _ _ A _

HERE THE PYRAMIDS YOU'LL FIND, WHERE ANCIENT RULERS ARE ENSHRINED.

3

I'M FROM _ G Y _ _

THE EIFFEL TOWER YOU COULD SEE IF YOU WOULD COME TO VISIT ME.

4

I'M FROM
F _ _ N C _ _

YOU MIGHT ENJOY SOME BAGPIPE TUNES, AS YOU EXPLORE OUR COASTAL DUNES.

5

I'M FROM
_ C _ T _ A _ D _

Waratah

Tree Peony

Blue Lotus

COME SEE THE APES AND HEAR THEIR CALLS, THEN STOP TO SEE VICTORIA FALLS.

6

I'M FROM
Z _ _ B _ W _ _

IN RIO, FEEL THE COOL SEA BREEZE. YOU MIGHT JUST LEARN SOME PORTUGUESE.

7

I'M FROM
B _ _ Z _ L _

MY ISLANDS SHINE IN THE PACIFIC. THE CORAL REEFS ARE JUST TERRIFIC!

8

I'M FROM
F _ J _ _

Flame Lily

Iris

Cattleya Orchid

Thistle

Hibiscus

Malala: Champion of Education



Growing up in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai loved school. She won over 45 trophies for exams and competitions. But when Malala was about 10, life in her hometown of Mingora began to change. A militant group called the Taliban took control of the area. Women were banned from the market. For a short time, girls weren't even allowed to go to school. Hundreds of school buildings in the region were bombed. People were killed or beaten for disobeying or criticizing the rules.

Malala and her father, Ziauddin, spoke out in support of education. She was interviewed on TV and radio. In 2009, at age 11, she wrote an anonymous blog for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) about life under the Taliban.

Ziauddin received threats. When Malala was about 15, the Taliban announced that she should be killed! Her father suggested that they stop their work, but Malala said, "We can't stop now."

Life-Changing Day

On October 9, 2012, Malala was riding home on her school bus when two men stepped in front of it. One jumped on and leaned into the back. "Who is Malala?" he asked.

No one answered, but a few girls looked in Malala's direction. The man fired three shots: crack! crack! crack!

Malala had surgery at a nearby hospital and later went into a coma. When she woke up a week after the shooting, she was in a hospital in England. Her head hurt terribly. Her face was swollen and bruised. She couldn't hear or see well. A bullet had grazed her temple near her left eye and went down to her left shoulder. Her friend Shazia had been shot in the collarbone and hand, and Kainat, another friend, was shot in the arm, but they were going to be okay. A doctor told Malala, "It's a miracle you're alive."

People from around the world sent 8,000 cards, letters, and gifts. Malala needed several surgeries and months of physical therapy, but she made an amazing recovery.

Global Heroine

Malala and her family now live in England. It's not safe for them to return to Pakistan. On her 16th birthday, Malala spoke at the United Nations in New York for Malala Day. She said, "Today is the day of every woman, every boy, and every girl who has raised their voice for their rights . . . One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world."



Malala spoke at the UN to over 500 youth leaders in July 2013. She said, "We must believe in the power and the strength of our words. Our words can change the world."

At 17, she became the youngest person to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize, shared with Kailash Satyarthi of India, an activist for children's rights.

Today, violence continues in Pakistan. In December 2014, the Taliban opened fire on a school, killing 132 students and nine staff members. Malala said, "I am heartbroken . . . I, along with millions of others around the world, mourn these children, my brothers and sisters—but we will never be defeated."

When she's not in school, Malala writes books, appears in films and videos, and gives speeches. She and her father started the Malala Fund to support girls' rights. Malala wrote, "I think of the world as a family. When one of us is suffering, we must all pitch in and help . . . The Taliban have shot me. But they can only shoot a body. They cannot shoot my dreams, they cannot kill my beliefs, and they cannot stop my campaign to see every girl and every boy in school."

Crossing the Creek



Story adapted from an African folktale

In an ancient African land, where people farmed for many generations, there lived two boys, Osaze and Adisa. They came from different tribes, which had sometimes been at war, but they were the best of friends.

Osaze lived across a creek from Adisa. The boys walked by the creek tending goats and cattle, and they traded vegetables for their families. After chores, they crossed the creek to play together. Over the years, they dragged big stones into the creek to create a bridge.

One day, a boy named Madu, who was jealous of their close friendship, decided to test them. He made an incredible robe that was green on one side and red on the other. Then he strolled along the creek as Osaze and Adisa were tending crops, each on his own side. Madu whistled loudly off-key, so that both boys noticed him.

A few minutes later, Osaze and Adisa met at the creek. “*E pele o*, Adisa! Madu can’t whistle, but he sure has a beautiful green robe.”

“Green? His robe was red,” Adisa replied firmly.

“Red? You’re blind from the sun. It was as green as the sprouts of maize,” Osaze said with a laugh.

“I’m not blind! You are!”

“Don’t get so mad. I’m telling the truth!” Osaze started to cross the creek.

Adisa also crossed the creek halfway. “You’re lying. I thought you were my best friend!”

“You’re calling me a liar? It’s no wonder our tribes have been at war.” Osaze was so angry that he shoved Adisa. Adisa fell and hit his head on a stone.



Osaze was suddenly filled with regret. But before he could do anything, Madu returned, laughing. Both boys stared at him in surprise. Now that they saw Madu from the front, they realized that he had a robe of two colors—green on one side and red on the other!

Adisa, rubbing his head and dripping with mud, shouted, “What? You did this on purpose to make us fight!”

Madu answered, “*Beeko*. I did not make you fight. You made yourselves fight. You were both right and both wrong. Real friends see things from both points of view.” With a smug smile, he ran off.

Osaze reached down to help Adisa up. “I’m so very sorry.”

Adisa and Osaze’s friendship grew as resilient as the acacia tree. Whenever they disagreed, they crossed the creek—and took a look at things from the other’s point of view.



's Cultural Canvas

Imagine a world where all the houses everywhere were one style, shape, size, and color. Cities and towns would look so dull! And how would you remember which house was yours? Luckily, our planet has infinite styles of architecture, from skyscrapers to castles to cabins.

Where you live expresses your culture—along with language, customs, food, celebrations, clothing, music, sports, games, and art. All of these things make you unique. How does your culture color your life?

My ancestors came from ...

Language(s) I speak

Favorite holiday or celebration

Favorite family tradition

Favorite foods

Special clothing

My religion or beliefs

Favorite sports or games

Favorite music or instrument

I live in ...

To paint a picture of your culture, fill in your answers in each of the paint spots above. Then draw your favorites below.

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Patricia Locke (1928–2001) Compassionate Woman



What if your family's religion was outlawed, and you could only worship in secret? Patricia Locke faced that challenge growing up as an American Indian.

She was born in Idaho, U.S., in 1928. Her mother was from the Lakota tribe and her father was Chippewa. At that time, Indian religious ceremonies were illegal. She couldn't tell anyone when her family went to a Lakota sun dance.

Among this intense prejudice, Patricia learned to stand up for justice. When she and her sister, Frances, went to the movies, American Indians had to sit in the back. But the girls were too small to see over the people in front of them. Hearing this, their mother told the theater manager to treat her daughters with respect, or the local Indians would boycott his theater. The girls never had to sit in the back again.

Education and Empowerment

Patricia studied education at the University of California, graduating in 1951. She married Charles "Ned" Locke and had two children, Kevin and Winona. When they moved to Alaska in 1966, Patricia started the Anchorage Native Welcome Center to help native people find jobs and housing and adapt to city life. It was the start of her work to empower indigenous people.

Patricia felt it was vital to preserve Indian culture, yet connect to the rest of society. She said, "We have to let the wisdom of the past . . . guide us and give us direction. We also have to have the means to cope with this modern world."

Patricia's Lakota name was *Tawacin Waste Win*,

or "Compassionate Woman." She was dedicated to service and the Lakota values of wisdom, courage, respect, and generosity. In later years, she made her home on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota.

Patricia taught at the university level and helped establish 17 tribal colleges. She also met with leaders in Washington, D.C., and worked diligently to get laws passed protecting the rights of American Indians to practice their religion and speak native languages.

"Illumined Soul"

Kevin, Patricia's son, became a Bahá'í as an adult. In 1988, she joined him on a trip to South America, where native Bahá'ís shared their culture, including music and dance. She felt at home among the Bahá'ís and soon joined the Faith. Its teachings of unity were reflected in her motto: "All peoples have the same need to love that we do, the same family ideals, the same need for joy, the same need for understanding."

Patricia won a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship in 1991 for her activism in education and tribal rights. In 1993, she became the first American Indian woman elected to the National Spiritual Assembly, the guiding council of the U.S. Bahá'í community, and was a member for the rest of her life.

When Patricia passed away in 2001 at age 73, the Universal House of Justice praised her as a "highly devoted, self-sacrificing servant" of the Faith and offered prayers for her "illuminated soul."

You Can Do Anything

“The rights of both sexes should be equally respected since neither is superior to the other in the eyes of Heaven . . . Human virtues belong equally to all!” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Have you ever been told you can't do something because you're a girl, a boy, or a kid? How do you face those barriers?

Mana Abdi of Maine, U.S., wanted to be a runner in high school, but running and wearing pants were considered wrong for girls in her Somali community. Mana respectfully talked to her mom and a religious leader about her goals. She got the okay, and she

became the first Somali girl to win a cross-country meet in her state! She won a national award honoring her as a role model. Now she inspires other girls to go for their dreams.

Girls may hear that they can't play sports or understand technology. Boys may hear that it's not cool to dance or sing. But don't let that stop you. You can challenge stereotypes and excel at whatever you love best.

These kids are getting ready to share their talents. Find items named for virtues that help overcome stereotypes.



Brave Ballet Shoes



Capable Crown



Determined Drum



Jump Rope of Justice



Motivated Microphone



Persevering Piccolo



Skillful Spotlight



Assertive Amplifier



Tenacious Top Hat



DOWN

1. Treble Chef and her family put on Concerts for _____ at their Music Café. (p. 20)
2. The youngest person to ever win a Nobel Peace Prize was _____ Yousafzai. (p. 23)
5. If you could get close to stars, you'd see they come in different sizes, temperatures, and _____. (p. 2)
7. Having an open mind is like opening a _____ to new ideas. (p. 4)
9. Paymon says three of the most important life skills for kids are _____, determination, and perseverance. (p. 18)
12. You can challenge stereotypes and _____ at whatever you love best. (p. 27)
13. Luna says she and Lightning have to _____ each other. (p. 14)
15. In their friendship. Adisa and Osaze figured out how to look at things from the other's point of _____. (p. 24)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



[If I could choose a theme, it would be the] equality of men and women. I think it's a really important theme that needs to be further explored and written about, especially how it connects to being Bahá'í . . . Reading *[Brilliant Star]* . . . leaves me feeling happy and at peace with everything. It's almost like a meditation.

—Rosie M., age 15, Virginia, U.S.

ANSWERS

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

Page 7: Cuthbert at TR, Cardena at TC, Frolo at C, Arlo at C, Lexia at CR, Nanta at TR, Pafko at CR, Tully at CL, Summy at TC

Page 9: 1) Smile, 2) justice, 3) lunch, 4) Learn, 5) cultures, 6) Invite, 7) movies, 8) sporting, 9) Worship, 10) teach

Page 10: A) 5, B) 2, C) 6, D) 1, E) 4, F) 3, G) 7

Page 11: Chile, Scarlet Ibises

Page 16: 1) True. 2) False. The U.S. Congress is only about 18% female. 3) True. 4) False. It was 2014, though Olympic ski jumping started in 1924. 5) True. 6) False. Only about 5% of Nobel Prize winners are women. 7) True. 8) True. 9) True. 10) True.

11) True. 12) True.

Page 17: 1) D, 2) C, 3) E, 4) G, 5) H, 6) F, 7) B, 8) A

Page 21: Drawing at TL and CR, trumpet at TL and TR, swimming at TC and CL, math at TR and C, biking at BR and C, science at BC and CL, soccer at BL and CL

Page 22: 1) Australia, 2) China, 3) Egypt, 4) France, 5) Scotland, 6) Zimbabwe, 7) Brazil, 8) Fiji

Page 27: Ballet shoes at BR, crown at BL, drum at BL, jump rope at BL, microphone at CR, piccolo at BC, spotlight at TL, amplifier at CL, top hat at BR

ACROSS

1. Make friends with people who come from diverse _____ or who have different interests. (p. 17)
3. Samiya and Sonali both like these animals. (pp. 12-13)
4. Our differences add beauty to the world, like _____ in one garden. (p. 22)
6. The first woman elected president in a national election was from _____. (p. 16)
8. Samiya and Luthando both like to help people by _____ them up. (p. 13)
10. If you make a mistake, a sincere _____ goes a long way. (p. 6)
11. A true friend treats you with _____, even if you disagree. (p. 8)
14. These are like Earth's arteries. (p. 11)
16. Patricia Locke said, "All peoples have the same need to _____ that we do, the same family ideals, the same need for joy, the same need for understanding." (p. 26)

One Family Orchestra

Imagine floating above Earth. Music from many different countries rises up to you, with sounds that cultures often share: drums, flutes, stringed instruments, and voices. But what if each musician tries to be the loudest? It would be hard to listen to the clashing notes and jumbled tempos. We have the same problem when people don't get

along. Arrogance, greed, and prejudice lead to conflict, making it impossible to recognize the unique gifts that each person has to offer. Just as a conductor steps in to guide an orchestra, God's teachings of oneness help our human family play in harmony. Though the instruments and players are different, working together can create a joyful symphony.

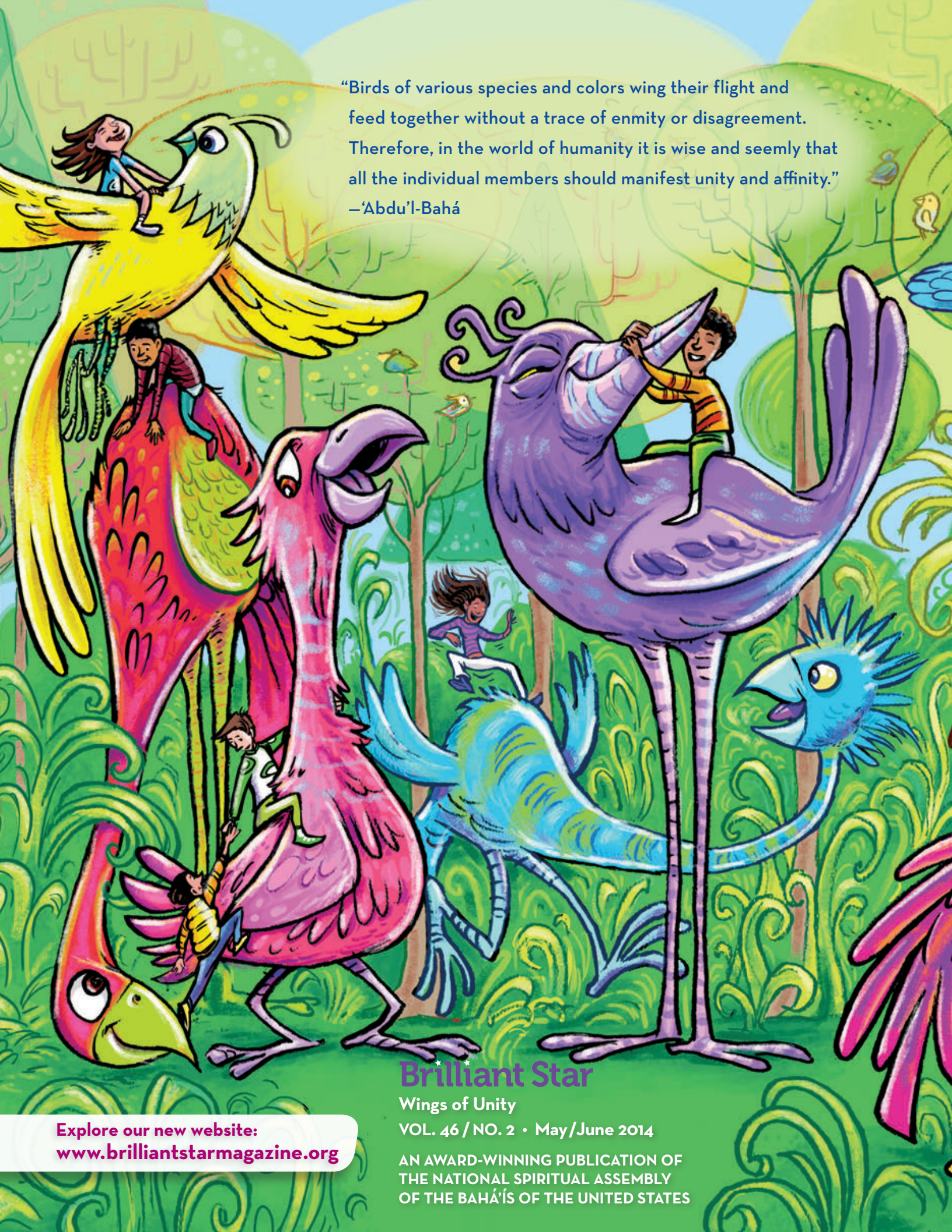
Immerse yourself in the music, and find your way to the shining notes at the end.

Music is
spiritual food
for soul
and heart.

END

START





“Birds of various species and colors wing their flight and feed together without a trace of enmity or disagreement. Therefore, in the world of humanity it is wise and seemly that all the individual members should manifest unity and affinity.”
—‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Brilliant Star

Wings of Unity

VOL. 46 / NO. 2 • May/June 2014

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

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