

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Brilliant Star

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HOW DO YOU COPE
WITH CHANGE?

THE A-Z OF HAVING
A GROWTH MINDSET

TRANSFORMING
OUR SPIRITS



Brilliant Star

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Brilliant Star empowers kids to explore their roles as world citizens. Inspired by the principles of peace and unity in the Bahá'í Faith, we encourage readers to use their virtues to make the world a better place.

The Bahá'í Faith is the second most widespread religion in the world, with over five million Bahá'ís. It was founded by the Prophet Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and all religions come from one God. Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

Today, Bahá'ís work to bring love and justice to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Do you eagerly wait for fall leaves to pop with color or for the first snowflakes to fall? It's exciting to watch the seasons change. It starts slowly, but before you know it, the world outside has completely transformed.

Like colorful leaves or sparkling snowflakes, we can brighten our families and communities. When we practice virtues like kindness, gratitude, and resilience, our unique beauty shines. And when we work together so everyone has a chance to grow, vibrant neighborhoods spring to life.

In this issue, journey through the magical world of transformation. Explore qualities that help us change and develop, just as clay becomes pottery. Quiz yourself on how well you seize new opportunities. Make a cool snowflake craft with Nur. And get to know Eric Harper, whose inspiring music touches hearts around the globe.

Our world is always in motion, and there's a lot we can improve. With your help, we can step boldly through these seasons of change so the beauty of our human family can bloom and flourish.

LOVE,
BRILLIANT STAR ✨



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Do You Seize Opportunities?

“Give them power and strength and cause them to mirror forth Thy divine aid and confirmation . . .” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Pack your bags and grab your gear—your next adventure awaits! Maybe you want to explore ocean depths, navigate by the stars, or scale mountain peaks. Whatever your dreams are, the first step is setting goals and confidently walking toward them.

Learning to spot opportunities can help you on your journey. Look for **confirmations** from God. They’re like signs or trail markers pointing you in the right direction. If you’re

curious about rock climbing and you find a cool club to join at school, it could be a confirmation that you’re heading in a positive direction. Twists and turns create chances to learn and grow. Even roadblocks can be ways to build patience and strength.

Accomplishing goals takes dedication and skill. But with confirmations from God and support from family and friends, you can reach new heights.

Do you make the most of opportunities? Circle your answers, then add up your points.



1. I have clear, specific goals, and I list small steps I can take that will help me reach them.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

2. I ask friends and family to help me identify my strengths, and I work on building them.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

3. I list skills I’d like to improve and look for opportunities to get better.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

4. I look for inspiration all around me to stay motivated and moving forward.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

5. I adapt to changes and adjust my goals when I need to.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

6. I ask questions and explore new ideas and activities that interest me.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

7. I look for small and big confirmations to help guide me on my path.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

8. I picture myself achieving my dreams.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

9. With self-talk, I encourage myself, like I would a friend.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

10. I keep track of my progress and celebrate success, with gratitude for the strengths I’m building.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

11. I pray and meditate each day to help me feel at peace.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

12. I look for people who inspire me and try to learn from them.*
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



MY SCORE

36–28 POINTS You’re progressing with purpose! You have clear goals, and you look for opportunities to reach them.

27–20 POINTS You’re learning to navigate toward your dreams. Keep searching for chances to learn and grow.

19–12 POINTS You can strengthen your skills to move along on your journey. Choose a few tips from the quiz to try.

Taking Shape

Clay starts out as a lump of soil, but it's full of possibilities! It has the potential to transform into pottery of all kinds, from dutiful dishes to spectacular sculptures. First, the clay is molded into shape. Then it's heated, or fired, in a scorching oven called a kiln. This hardens the clay so it can be painted with glaze and fired again. It comes out even stronger and able to last through time.

Like clay, we're rich with possibilities. Just as heat turns clay into pottery that serves a purpose, our challenges can strengthen us. Taking on a big project, like making a pitcher on a potter's wheel, can help your perseverance burn brightly. Tests are tough, but if you stay positive, your limitless capacity can take shape!

COMPLETE MY FRIENDS' NAMES TO DISCOVER QUALITIES THAT HELP US FIRE UP OUR TRUE POTENTIAL!

BOOE
BOWL

1

COETIE
CANDLESTICK

2

EOTHOSASTOC
EARRINGS

3

INOOL MUG

4

ERSOEN
PLANTER

5

RUHOUL
TEAPOT

6

OEN-INOE
ORNAMENT

7

PATOOT PITCHER

8

VEOSATOLE
VASE

9

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Transforming 'Akká

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

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.

The summer sun blazed down on Bahá'u'lláh and His companions as their boat inched across the windless bay toward the prison-city of 'Akká (now in Israel). Their miserable journey brought them to the sea gate, where they were met by a jeering crowd. The people of 'Akká thought that the newcomers were criminals, but they were mistaken. The new arrivals were Bahá'ís. Though they had done nothing wrong, they were being imprisoned for their beliefs.

The exhausted travelers made their way through the winding, filthy streets to the prison barracks. At that time, 'Akká had no fresh air or clean water. The aqueduct that once brought water into the city had broken decades before. Water had to be hauled in from springs outside of 'Akká.

At the prison, Bahá'u'lláh was put in an empty room covered in dirt, with a crumbling ceiling. His companions huddled together in another room. The smell was so terrible that Bahá'u'lláh's daughter, Bahíyyih Khánum, fainted.

The prisoners weren't given any food or fresh water on their first night. Their only source of water was a polluted pool used for washing. They had to wait until the next day for water and bread. Nearly everyone got sick, and three people died.

During these hardships, Bahá'u'lláh gave the Bahá'ís hope and assured them that the Faith would not be defeated. He wrote, "Sweeter than honey to Me is the bitterness of such tribulations."

Eventually, Bahá'u'lláh was allowed to leave the prison barracks and live in a series of houses in the city. At first, people were scared of the Bahá'ís. They



This aqueduct once carried water through channels from a source on higher ground down to 'Akká. When Bahá'u'lláh arrived in the city, it had been broken for about 30 years.

believed rumors that had been spread about them. But they saw Bahá'u'lláh and His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, act fairly and treat everyone with respect. Slowly, the citizens' hearts changed, and they began to trust Bahá'u'lláh and His family.

Even the governor admired Bahá'u'lláh and His holy writings. He often sent his son to learn from 'Abdu'l-Bahá. When the governor visited Bahá'u'lláh, he insisted on taking off his shoes before seeing Him, to show respect. One day, he asked Bahá'u'lláh if there was anything he could do to be of service to Him. Bahá'u'lláh didn't ask for anything for Himself. Instead, He thought about the people of 'Akká. He advised the governor to fix the broken aqueduct so fresh water could flow to the city.

The governor agreed. In time, the aqueduct was repaired. When they finally had clean water, the people of 'Akká were so happy, they fired 101 cannon shots to celebrate.

“This Servant hath had no end in view but to promote the betterment and well-being of the world.” —Bahá’u’lláh

Bahá’u’lláh’s act of selfless service changed their lives. Their admiration for Him grew. They said that the transformations they saw in ‘Akká were because of Bahá’u’lláh’s presence, and they called Him their “august leader” or “his highness.”

Bahá’u’lláh stayed in ‘Akká for several more years, sharing His teachings of peace and justice. At times He called these holy words the “Water of Life.” Like fresh, pure water in a garden, His guidance helps world peace and unity to grow and flourish.

In the aqueduct bricks, find 12 words related to community transformation.
Search backward, forward, up, down, and diagonally.

CARING
CHANGE

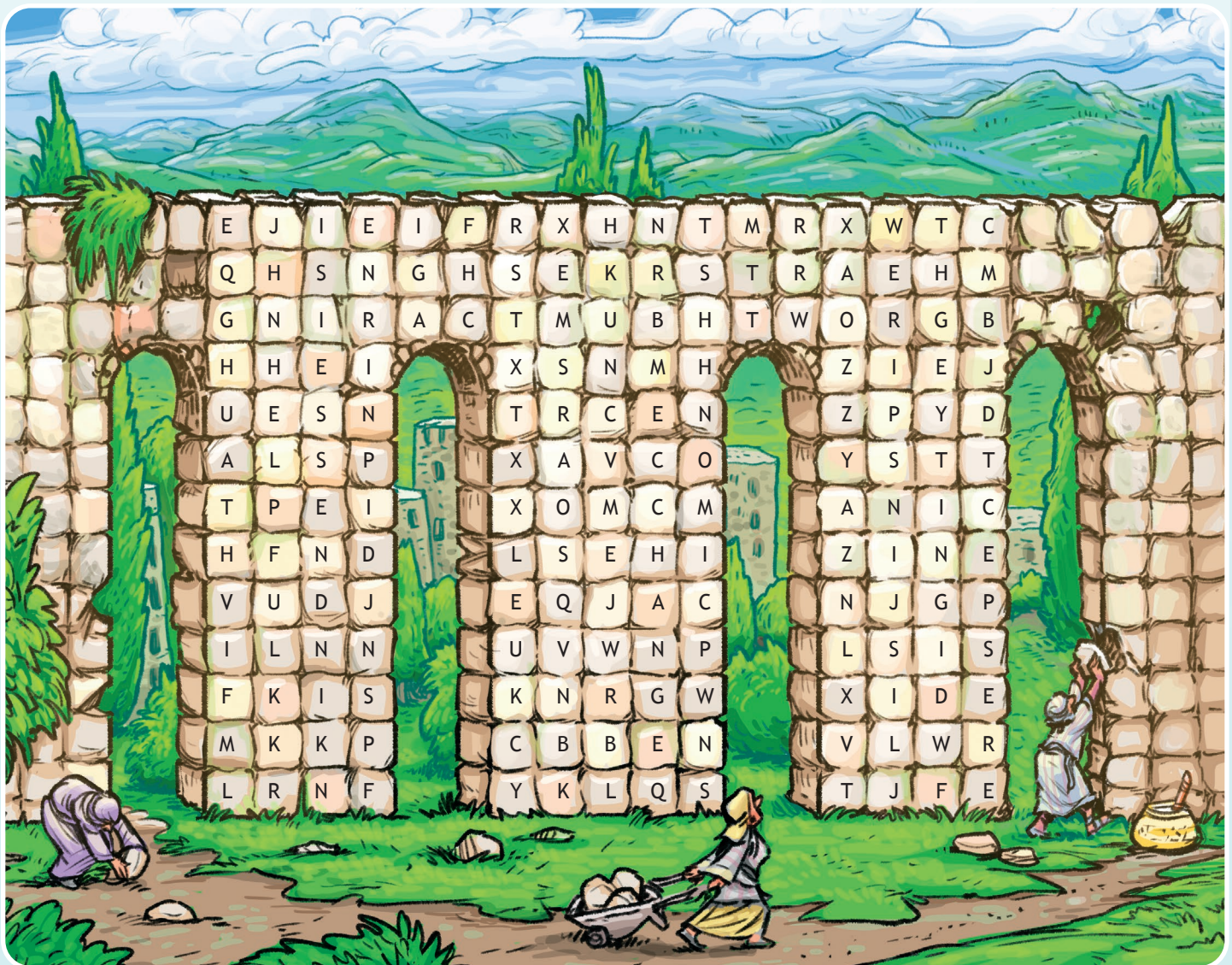
DIGNITY
GROWTH

HEARTS
HELPFUL

INSPIRE
KINDNESS

LOVE
RESPECT

SERVE
TRUST



An Unforgettable Visit

Across the river from the Eiffel Tower in Paris, 'Abdu'l-Bahá stayed in a sunny apartment where he welcomed visitors with warmth and kindness. People from all walks of life and many faiths came to speak with him. During his travels throughout the West from 1911–1913, he met leaders in society and saw some of the world's most famous sights. But just as often, he spent time lifting the hearts of people in need.

One day, 'Abdu'l-Bahá invited some friends to join him in meeting Victor and Fanny Ponsonaille, just outside of Paris. When this couple became Bahá'ís, they felt drawn to help orphans. They gave up their own lunches to feed the kids, and they shared Bahá'í writings with them. In time, Victor built a small cabin where the kids could gather, using materials given by the Bahá'ís of Paris.

'Abdu'l-Bahá's guests arrived at the simple cabin before he did. It was at the end of a narrow street in a poor neighborhood. Kids of various ages waited inside, wearing clothes that didn't fit well. A desk made of rough boards stood at one end of the room, and Arabic calligraphy of Bahá'u'lláh's name hung in a frame.

Fanny led the kids in song, then Victor read them some of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's writings. Everyone watched the cabin door, eagerly anticipating 'Abdu'l-Bahá's arrival. Some boys began to get rowdy and noisy.

At last, 'Abdu'l-Bahá entered the cabin. All the kids rose to their feet. The restless boys grew perfectly quiet. 'Abdu'l-Bahá walked to the front of the room, and a French Bahá'í translated as he spoke to the kids in Persian. He said, "I am very glad to see you all here. I love you very much. I have been in many beautiful houses, but this is more beautiful to me than any of the others, for the spirit of the love of Bahá'u'lláh is here."



"When I think of Paris in the future, I seem to see her bathed in the light of the Holy Spirit!" said 'Abdu'l-Bahá, during his 1911 visit to the French capital.

Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá praised Victor and Fanny. "This is a great work you are doing for the love of God," he said. "Your names will go down through all the ages. Kings and queens have never been talked of and remembered as you will be."

After his talk, 'Abdu'l-Bahá chanted a prayer and a blessing. Then he moved toward the door. The kids crowded around him. He laid his hands on some of their heads and took the hands of others. He gave everyone a loving smile.

Outside, Victor stood by the door. 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave him a generous gift of gold pieces. Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá strode down the street to his waiting carriage as neighbors watched from doorways and windows.

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá left Paris in December, he had made an unforgettable impression on many. He told his friends, "Now I say 'Good-bye.' This I say only to your outer selves; I do not say it to your souls, for our souls are always together."



SNOW UNIQUE

When snow drifts down from the sky, every snowflake looks alike. But if you catch some on your glove and take a closer look, you'll see that each one has a distinct shape and pattern. When they join together, they can transform the landscape into a frosty wonderland. Snow cool!

Similar to snowflakes, each of us sparkles in a unique way. We all have our own ideas and strengths. When diverse people come together, we can make our communities more unified, fair, and fun. Appreciating each person's individual outlook can help us break the ice with people and build new friendships!

Match snowflake pairs to find nine words that help us connect with new friends.



1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____

Cool Changes: Make a Snow Mobile

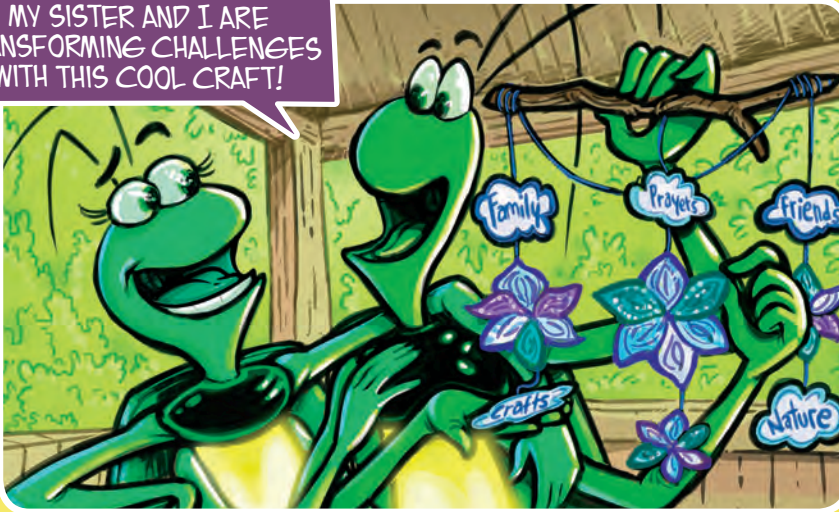
“Through their individual transformation and through their combined efforts they will transform the conditions of the world . . .” —Bahá’í Writings

Snowflakes are a *cool* example of transformation! They form in clouds, which are made of water. When a cloud gets cold enough, water can freeze around a bit of dust and become an ice crystal. As a crystal falls to the ground, it may bump into other ice crystals or encounter shifts in temperature, moisture, and wind. These changes can transform it into a glistening, starlike snowflake.

Isn't that awesome? Snowflakes inspire me to be more flexible. When my plans get canceled or stress piles up, I try to relax and go with the flow. Building snow sculptures and spending time with my family and friends for fun and for prayers helps me chill out.

When you have a challenge, what transforms your perspective? Create this craft with your family and explore crystal-clear ways to brighten cloudy days.

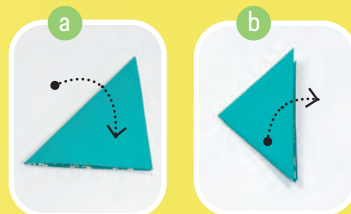
MY SISTER AND I ARE TRANSFORMING CHALLENGES WITH THIS COOL CRAFT!



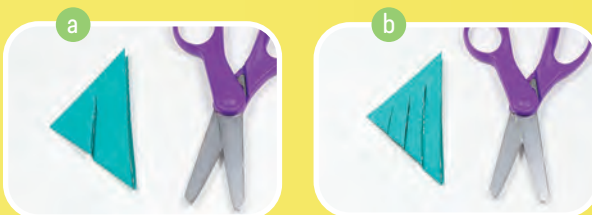
You'll Need

- white and colorful card stock
- white and colorful paper in 3" (7.6 cm) squares
- scissors
- pencil
- tacky glue
- ruler
- clear tape
- markers
- a stick
- string or thin ribbon

- 1 (a) Fold paper square in half so corners meet. (b) Fold in half again so short edges of triangle meet.



- 2 (a) Cut slit from center of triangle's short edge, stopping ¼" (.6 cm) before opposite edge. (b) Repeat cut on left and right of slit, so three slits are evenly spaced.



- 3 Open paper. Put pencil tip in center of paper. Roll corners of central flaps around tip to form tube shape. Secure with glue. Remove pencil.



- 4 Flip paper over. Roll corners of second pair of flaps into a tube shape and secure with glue. Use pencil for support, if needed.



- 5 (a) Repeat Step 4 for corners of third pair of flaps. (b) Flip paper over and glue corners of outer flaps together.



- 6 Repeat Steps 1-5 to make five more snowflake branches. Glue two branches together at sides and one end. Keep adding branches. Let each one dry before adding another.



- 7 Follow Steps 1-6 to make more snowflakes. Optional: Make some with 2" (5.1 cm) or 4" (10.2 cm) squares.



- 8 Cut cloud shapes from cardstock. Glue together cloud shapes of different sizes and colors if you wish. With markers, write on each cloud a word that helps you transform your outlook about a challenge (examples: family, friends, nature, or prayers).



- 9 Tape end of a piece of string to top of each snowflake and cloud. Strings should vary in length.



- 10 Knot top of some strings to stick. Tape any remainders to shapes you've hung. Pieces shouldn't touch when suspended. Trim string ends. Cut a string (for hanging) that's twice the length of stick and knot at stick's ends.



Cuttlefish Community



What has eight arms, two tentacles, and wild stripes? It could be a cuttlefish! It's no joke—like octopuses and squid, cuttlefish are super-smart masters of disguise. When cuttlefish flex their muscles, pigment cells shift, bringing different colors to the surface of their skin. They can make countless colors and patterns. This enables them to blend in with the background and hide or helps them attract a mate.

It would be cool if we could quickly transform into

someone smarter or faster. But it's even more satisfying to alter the patterns of our lives to become kinder, braver, or more patient. We can start a wave of positive action that flows to others.

We can't change our lives with the simple flex of a muscle. But with effort, prayer, and help from family and friends, we can bring our virtues to the surface. In time, we can transform ourselves, our communities, and the world!



Find nine cuttlefish using their virtues to transform themselves and their community.



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

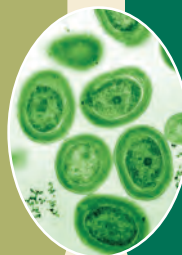
EARTH-SAVING TIP

Sustainable Swapping

The dyes and chemicals used in new clothing pollute the environment. Instead of only shopping for new clothes, try thrift stores, or have a clothing swap with friends.

WOW, REALLY?

Microscopic bacteria *Prochlorococcus* in the oceans are responsible for about 20% of all photosynthesis on Earth. Thank these plankton for the oxygen we breathe!



OUR CONNECTIONS



Earth's original atmosphere had almost no oxygen.

Scientists say it was a haze of gases like carbon dioxide and nitrogen. Then microscopic

bacteria appeared. Through **photosynthesis**, bacteria used sunlight to create food from carbon dioxide and water, releasing oxygen. Oxygen built up in the atmosphere, and new life flourished! Now our atmosphere is 21% oxygen. Thanks to photosynthesis, humans, animals, and plants can thrive.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Dr. Sallie (Penny) W. Chisholm is an oceanographer in Massachusetts, U.S. She led the team that discovered *Prochlorococcus*, one of Earth's most abundant types of bacteria. It's found in our oceans, along with plants and algae. She says, "Oceans are responsible for half of the photosynthesis on Earth and they produce half of the oxygen . . ."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Near the capital city of Reykjavík, a volcano was born in Spring 2021. Super-hot magma erupted from 9 miles (15 km) deep, transforming the landscape. Located on a ridge between continents, this country has 130 volcanoes! *Unscramble the letters to find its name:*

CELDNAI

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

AMAZING ANIMALS



Vikings brought this breed to its northern island country in the ninth century. For 1,000 years, no other kind of horse has been allowed here. Strong, curious, and friendly, it comes in over 40 colors. *Fill in the blanks to find its name:*

● C E ● A N D ● C ● ● R ● E

IT'S A TREAT
TO TRANSFORM
OUR COMMUNITY
TOGETHER!

"The principle of the Oneness of Mankind . . . implies an organic change in the structure of present-day society, a change such as the world has not yet experienced." —Shoghi Effendi



TASTY TRANSFORMATIONS

I'm having a blast with my chemistry club at school! We're exploring the chemicals that make up our awesome planet. When chemicals combine, they can make something new.

We did a tasty activity to see how this works. We mixed milk, cream, and sugar in a bag. At first, it just looked like plain milk. But then we added it to a bag of ice and sodium chloride (that's salt) and

shook it up. In minutes, it transformed into delicious ice cream! How cool is that?

It tasted so good! And it reminded me of my neighborhood. We have so many diverse friends. Everyone brings new ideas and strengths to the mix, like different ingredients. When we get together and treat each other with love, we create something new—a totally sweet community.

MAKE YOUR OWN ICE CREAM

You'll Need: 1 cup (237 mL) heavy cream, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (118 mL) milk,* $\frac{1}{3}$ cup (66 g) sugar, pinch salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp (1.2 mL) vanilla, sealable quart and gallon bags, 2 cups (577 g) coarse salt, bowl of ice cubes



- 1 Pour first five ingredients into quart bag. Seal securely.



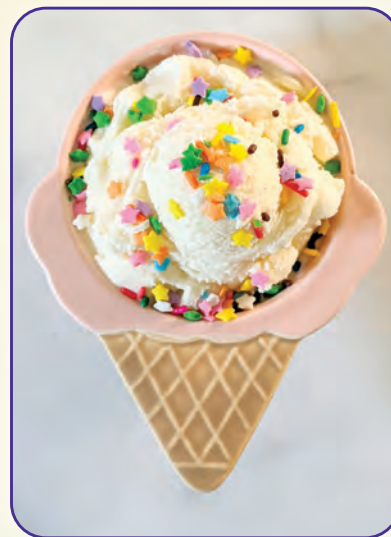
- 2 In gallon bag, mix ice with coarse salt. Place quart bag inside gallon bag and seal.



- 3 Shake gallon bag over sink for 8–10 minutes until mixture thickens, like soft serve ice cream. Remove quart bag from gallon bag. Optional: freeze for two hours for a firmer texture.



- 4 Remove bag from freezer and rinse with cold water to remove salt. Scoop it out and add your favorite toppings, like sprinkles, nuts, or chocolate chips.



HOW IT WORKS

The salt on the ice lowers the temperature at which water freezes. The ice-salt mixture absorbs heat from the ice cream, so the ice cream freezes as the ice melts. Shaking makes ice crystals in the ice cream smaller and mixes them with air, creating a smooth, creamy treat!

Magic OF Transformation

“Change is an evolutionary process requiring patience with one’s self and others . . .” —Bahá’í Writings

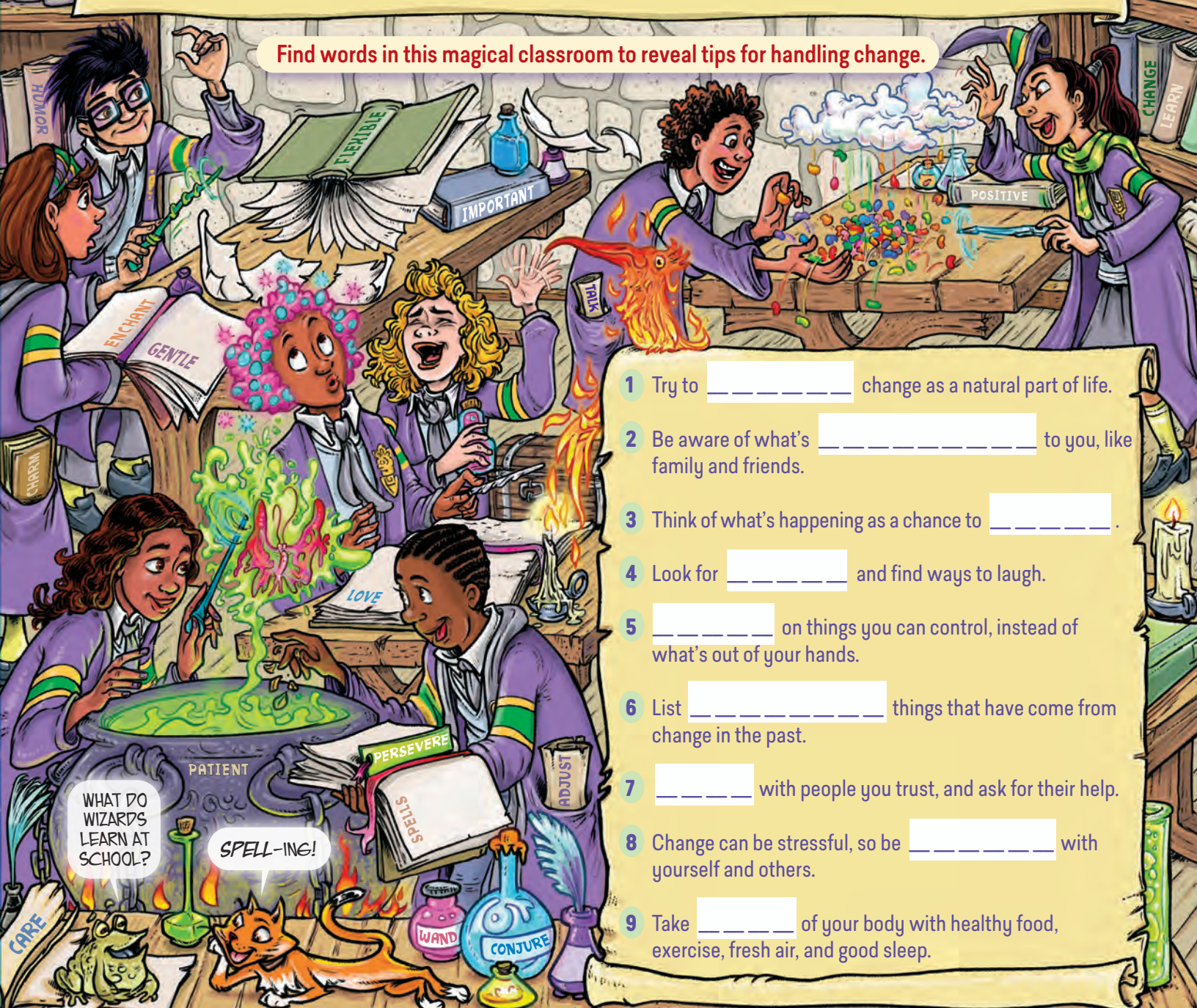
Wouldn't it be spectacular to wave a wand and control the world around you? With a flick of your wrist, you could magically move your best friend next door or conjure a blizzard for snow-day fun! You could even make sickness, bullying, war, and poverty disappear.

Life is bursting with changes and unexpected twists that can feel like spells gone wrong. We're not wizards, but we do have incredible powers to transform tough situations.

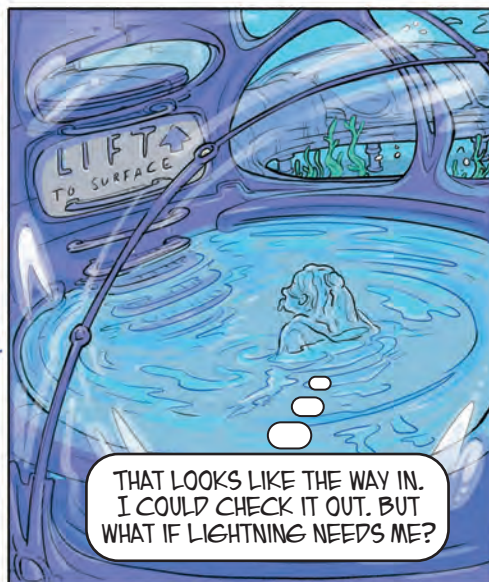
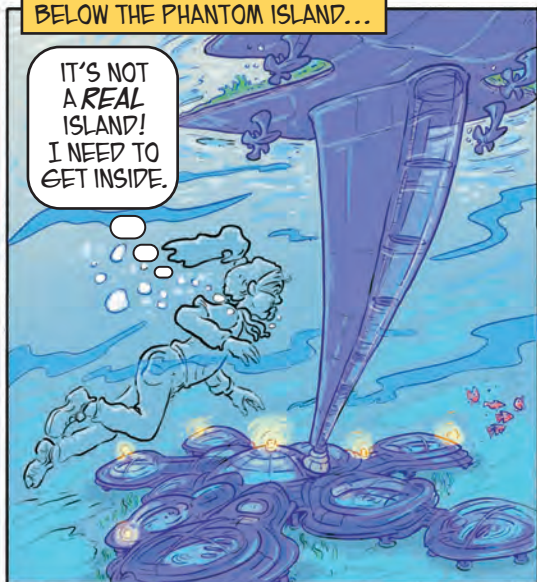
Is your sibling stomping around like a troll? See what happens if you charm them with patience and empathy. Did your soccer game or performance get canceled? Enchant your friends with an encouraging note to ease the disappointment.

When we respond to challenges with virtues like love, courage, and hope, we create our own kind of magic—even without a wand!

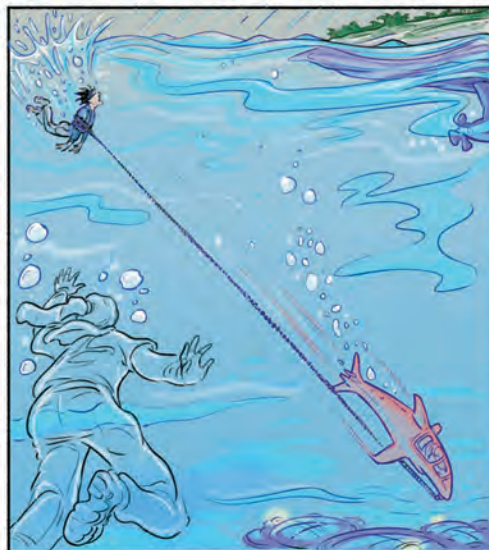
Find words in this magical classroom to reveal tips for handling change.

- 
- 1 Try to _____ change as a natural part of life.
 - 2 Be aware of what's _____ to you, like family and friends.
 - 3 Think of what's happening as a chance to _____.
 - 4 Look for _____ and find ways to laugh.
 - 5 _____ on things you can control, instead of what's out of your hands.
 - 6 List _____ things that have come from change in the past.
 - 7 _____ with people you trust, and ask for their help.
 - 8 Change can be stressful, so be _____ with yourself and others.
 - 9 Take _____ of your body with healthy food, exercise, fresh air, and good sleep.

BELOW THE PHANTOM ISLAND...



MEANWHILE, ON THE SURFACE...



THANKS! YOU CAME BACK JUST IN TIME!

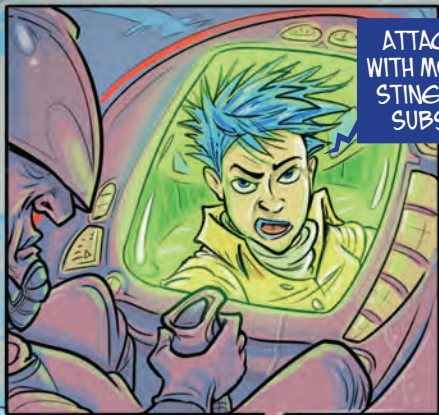
NO PROBLEM, BRO. I'LL CALL FOR BACKUP!

ON THE HARMONI...

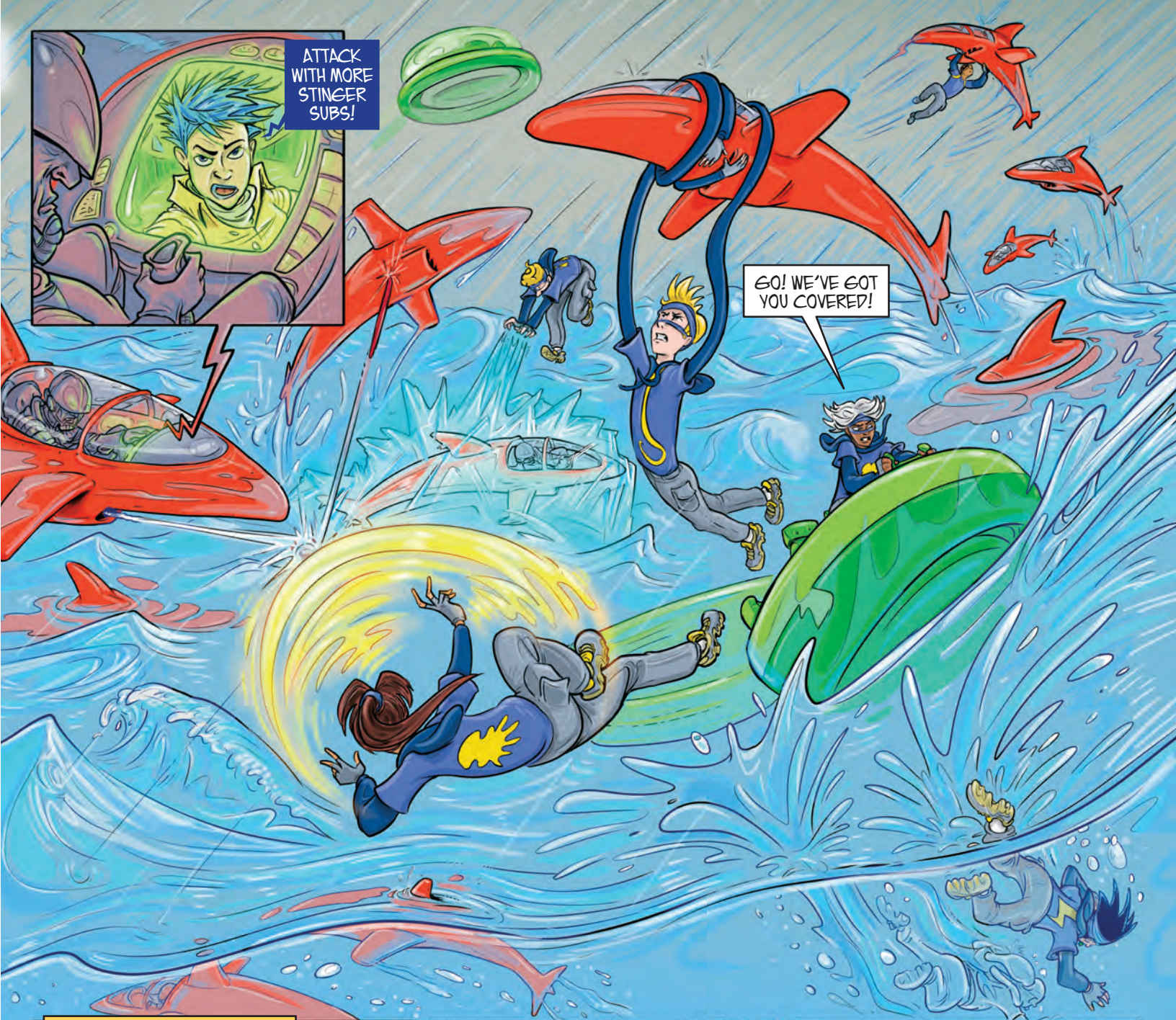


SOON...





ATTACK
WITH MORE
STINGER
SUBS!



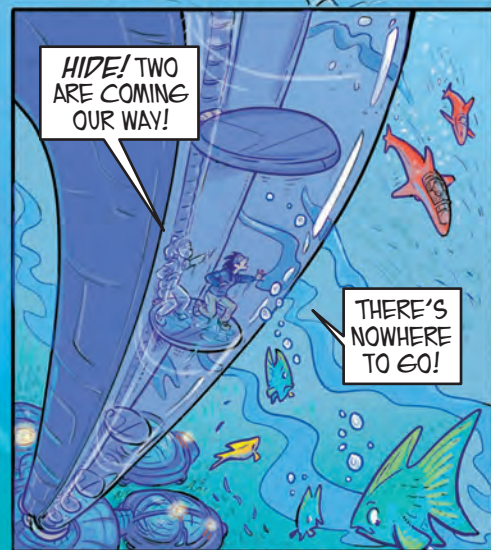
GO! WE'VE GOT
YOU COVERED!



DEEP BELOW, AT THE DOCK...



HERE'S
THE WAY IN.



HIDE! TWO
ARE COMING
OUR WAY!

THERE'S
NOWHERE
TO GO!

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?

Lillian G.

Age: **13**

I live in: **West Virginia, U.S.**

I want to be: **Professional soccer player/soccer coach**

This career interests me because: **I love playing and coaching soccer.**

Favorite Bahá'í activity: **Junior youth group**

To make the world a kinder place, I'd: **Work toward ending hunger in the world**



Virtues I admire most: **Kindness and humor**

A hero or role model: **[U.S. pro soccer player] Alex Morgan**

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

A big change I experienced: **When I started middle school. I was nervous about going to a bigger school, but I ... made a bunch of new friends.**

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see: **If humans are living on other planets**

Nature teaches us: **Nature adapts to change. It might be difficult, but humans can learn to adapt ... For example, during COVID-19 we learned to use masks and tried to find a cure.**

Roman W.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be: **An environmentalist**

This career interests me because: **I want to save our Earth.**

Virtue I admire most: **Truthfulness**

Favorite Bahá'í activity: **Devotions**

A hero or role model: **My amazing parents**

A favorite food: **Pizza**

What helps me with challenges: **Taking deep breaths**

A big change I experienced: **I went to Bahá'í camp, and it changed how I saw the Bahá'í Faith.**



Hobbies or sports: **I like to play the drums.**

I like to help people by: **Asking them if I can render them any service**

To make the world a kinder place, I'd: **Spread love throughout the world**

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see: **How technology has changed**

Nature teaches us: **We should learn from change and not be afraid of it.**



Jasmine A.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be: **Medical doctor**

This career interests me because: **I want to help people by curing their sickness.**

Virtues I admire most: **Honesty and kindness**

Hobbies: **Drawing**

Favorite Bahá'í activity: **Junior youth group**

Favorite animal or pet: **Cockatiel**

A hero or role model: **[Singer and rapper] Jennie Kim**

I like to help people by: **Teaching them virtues**

What helps me with challenges: **My mom and friends**

A big change I experienced: **I got scammed on the internet, and I learned to never trust random strangers.**

To make the world a kinder place, I'd: **Be very kind to people**

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see: **World peace**

Nature teaches us: **That change can happen any time. We should accept the change and prepare ... like ants gather food for winter.**

Alex M.

Age: **11**

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

I want to be:
A game designer

This career interests me because:
I have always loved games.

Virtue I admire most:
Kindness

Hobbies or sports: **Biking**

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Children's classes

A hero or role model:
My parents

I like to help people by:
Helping with whatever they are trying to do, for as long as it takes

To make the world a kinder place, I'd:
Make it so people could only say loving things about each other

A favorite food: **Sushi**

What helps me with challenges:
I push myself forward.

A big change I experienced:
When we moved to a different town and school. I learned that sometimes change is a good thing, even when it might seem scary.

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see:
If the world fixed the environmental crisis. Also, how my friends and family are doing.



Layli C.

Age: **9**

I live in: **British Columbia, Canada**

I want to be:
A dance teacher

This career interests me because:
I love dancing.

Virtue I admire most:
Patience

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Summer camp and children's classes. I also have a YouTube channel called Bridging Beliefs Buddies.*

I like to help people by:
Comforting, supporting, and encouraging them

A big change I experienced:
When I moved . . . I realized that changes can be good.

A hero or role model:
My mom

What helps me with challenges:
Thinking of the happiness I will have once I've achieved [my goal]

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see:
How the world has improved

Nature teaches us:
Not to fiddle and try to change things, but to see how life unravels



"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

Abbie K.

Age: **11**

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

I want to be: **A baker**

This career interests me because:
I love art and enjoy baking, so this would give me the opportunity to be artistic and creative.

Virtue I admire most:
Loyalty

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Morals class that my grandma teaches

A hero or role model:
My older brother, Sean

What helps me with challenges:
My mother

A big change I experienced:
Last year, I had to complete 5th grade as a remote student. I learned to be accommodating, flexible, and use technology.



I like to help people by:
Being there for them when they are sad and need someone to talk to

To make the world a kinder place, I'd:
Take opportunities with friends and children to bring awareness of how similar we all are even though we are all so different

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see:
What I'd become in life, the family I'd have, and how my present family is doing

Nature teaches us:
We can learn to adapt in different environments.

How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7-14, go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org. From the top menu, choose "Discover." Then click "Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer," and fill out the form. Or email us at brilliant@usbnc.org. Include your name, age, birthdate, 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).

Arman Y.

Age: **11**

I live in: **Western Australia**

I want to be: **Doctor**

This career interests me because:
I want to help people.

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Youth camps

Hobbies or sports:
Soccer, basketball, drawing

Virtue I admire most:
Loyalty

A hero or role model:
My parents

I like to help people by:
Listening and trying to help solve their problem

To make the world a kinder place, I'd:
Spread love and unity

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see:
No more wars

A big change I experienced:
I am a school captain and I am responsible for running assemblies. When my committee didn't help me set up, I didn't give up. I got help from my friends and got the job done.

Nature teaches us:
To not give up. If a tree or plants die, they will grow again in the next season.



Lua L.

Age: **9**

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

I want to be:
A doctor or a gymnast

This career interests me because:
I'm interested in how the body works and [in] helping people.

Virtue I admire most:
Truthfulness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Going to gatherings with my family or going to children's classes. I love the stories, the drama, and singing prayers.

A hero or role model:
My Grandma Shoori, because she lived through some hard times in Iran as a Bahá'í and I want to know how she did that.



I like to help people by:
I like to help my aunt and uncle by watching their kids when they are tired. Playing with kids is fun, and it makes me feel responsible.

What helps me with challenges:
My mom and my dad

A big change I experienced:
When my little sister was born. I learned how to help those smaller than me, [and] to be generous, as I shared many things with her.

Maya S.

Age: **9**

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

I want to be: **An actor or work in marketing**

This career interests me because:
I love to be on stage, and I love to create and come up with ways to advertise a product.

Favorite Bahá'í activity:
Children's classes

A hero or role model:
My mom and dad

Places I'd love to visit:
Paris, Australia, and Africa

A favorite food: **Sushi**

I like to help people by:
Caring for [their] feelings, making sure they're not hurt

What helps me with challenges:
Music calms me down.

A big change I experienced:
One time, I lied to my parents. The pain in my heart was so big that I learned never to lie again.

To make the world a kinder place, I'd:
Fight for equal rights for all

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see:
Peace and unity

Nature teaches us:
That change is good and there is nothing to be scared of



Ariana A.

Age: **8**

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

I want to be: **Lawyer**

This career interests me because: **[I want] to help innocent people.**

Virtue I admire most:
Loyalty

Hobbies or sports:
Gymnastics

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Ayyám-i-Há*

Favorite animal or pet:
My dog, Raven

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

I like to help people by:
Donating to those in need

What helps me with challenges:
My family

A hero or role model:
[Gymnast] Simone Biles



A favorite book:
Percy Jackson and the Olympians series

A big change I experienced:
When COVID-19 started, I couldn't see a lot of my friends, so I realized how important they are to me.

To make the world a kinder place, I'd:
Teach little kids how to make the world a kinder place

If I could visit the future, I'd like to see:
How my family has changed

*Ayyám-i-Há is a festival of hospitality, gift giving, and preparing for the Bahá'í Fast.

Mindset Tools from A to Z

Imagine you're excited to start a woodshop class. But when you see the first project, you start to feel uneasy. Good thing there are powerful tools for building confidence! With a **growth mindset**, you believe you

can succeed, even if you don't know how to do it yet. Instead of giving up when you're stressed, you keep learning. Unscramble these mindset tips to construct positive thoughts from negative ones.

I'm **A** _____ (SSEAVETRI)
by asking for help when I need it.

I'll be **B** _____ (EARVB)
and try something new.

I'm **C** _____ (NEDCFOINT)
I can figure it out.

My **D** _____ (CRFESENDFEI)
will make my work more interesting and unique.

I tune in to people who
E _____ (OAE CGUNER) me.

I **F** _____ (COSFU) on my
strengths, not my weaknesses.

I'll adjust my plans or
G _____ (SGALO), if needed.

I'll be mindful to take care of my
H _____ (AHETLH) and safety.

I _____ (ISOITPANINR)
can come from anywhere, at any time.

I enjoy the **J** _____ (NOYJREU)
instead of trying to be perfect.

If I don't succeed, I'll
K _____ (EPKE) trying.

I **L** _____ (RALNE)
from my mistakes.

I take breaks when my **M** _____ (DNMI),
body, and spirit need them.

I help **N** _____ (TNURREU)
others in my community or family.

With an **O** _____ (NOEP) mind and
patience, I can get fresh ideas.

I **P** _____ (YPAR) for guidance, listen to
my spirit, and find helpful resources.

Asking **Q** _____ (TSUOQSNEI) helps me learn.

I **R** _____ (LTCEFRE) on my
progress and make changes as I go.

The more I **S** _____ (VRSEIT),
the more likely I am to succeed.

I'm **T** _____ (LTUFU THR) about
my skills and what I want to work on.

If I don't **U** _____ (TEUDSNANDR),
I explore to learn more.

I celebrate my
V _____ (EIRTSCOIV).

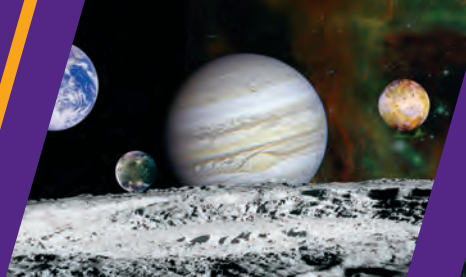
I find ways to bring joy to
my **W** _____ (KWRO).

I try to learn from the
X _____ (ESNEPIXCER) of others.

It could take **Y** _____ (ASRYE) to succeed,
but I'm improving with practice.

Stepping out of my comfort **Z** _____ (NZEO)
can increase my knowledge.





ASK A SPACE SCIENTIST

Our universe is full of mysteries, and some of the most mind-boggling are in space. Curious kids asked questions, and we sent them to two space scientists. Have questions about space? Send them to brilliant@usbnc.org (with your name and age).

Is it hard to sleep in space, using a sleeping bag attached to the wall? – Bahia, age 14

Hi, Bahia,
Sleeping in space is wonderful. You float into your crew quarters, zip up in your sleeping bag, and fall asleep. Remember, we are weightless, so the orientation of the sleeping bag makes no difference to your feelings. – Don



Astronauts Mike Massimino (left) and Michael Good rest in sleeping bags attached to lockers on Space Shuttle Atlantis in 2009.

What do astronauts in space eat? How does it last from Earth to the Moon? – Darya, age 13

Hi, Darya,
In space we eat camping food. It's either freeze-dried, where we add hot water, or the food is sealed in pouches, like tuna fish from the store. Once rehydrated, or if the package is opened, we have no way to keep it from spoiling. We only prepare what we can eat in one meal, with no leftovers. – Don



In space, meals are held in place with magnets, springs, and Velcro.



ON THE WEB

When NASA Astronaut Leland Melvin went to space, it changed his perspective forever. Find out how in our new Space Ace video: www.brilliantstarmagazine.org/videos/space-ace-leland-melvin

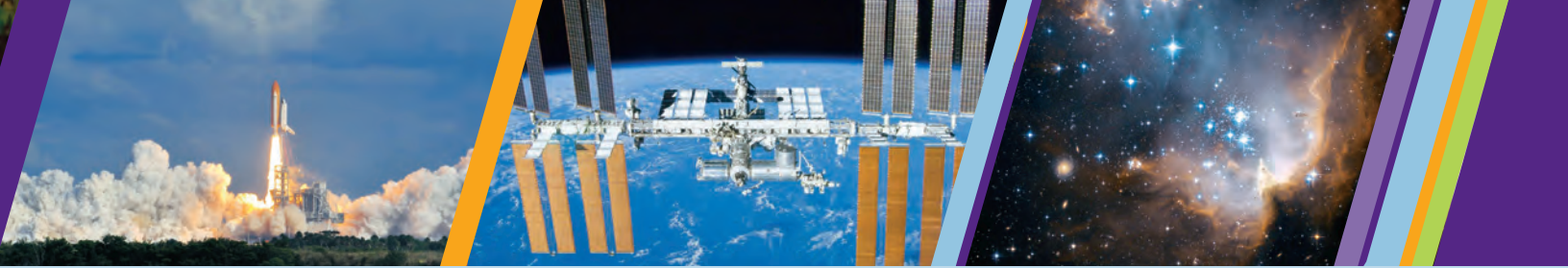
COSMIC QUIZ

When hydrogen atoms get squeezed together inside stars, they transform into helium and release energy, which includes the light that makes the stars shine. This process is called:

- A) Fusion
- B) Fracking
- C) Fermenting
- D) The Force



Stars in globular cluster NGC 1805



What do you think about when you're designing spacecraft? — Rachel, age 12

Hi, Rachel,
Designing a spacecraft is similar to designing an airplane, but more difficult. The first thing you consider is making the spacecraft as efficient as possible. If you can make a spacecraft lighter, less energy is needed, and you can use a smaller rocket to launch it. You can make a spacecraft lighter by using lighter materials and more efficient vehicle structures. You can use smaller and lighter systems (such as the communication and life support systems), and put everything together in an efficient layout.



An artist's concept of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS), the most powerful rocket built for deep-space missions.

There are also concerns about a vehicle's safety and reliability. An airplane can be repaired between flights, but not a spacecraft. So most systems on a spacecraft are designed to be "redundant," having a backup in case something goes wrong with the main system. Some critical systems on a spacecraft have additional backups in case the redundant system fails! And when the spacecraft is crewed, the crew's health and safety are most important. We're still learning how to design spacecraft to take care of astronauts for missions beyond Earth's orbit. — Steve



DON PETTIT is an active NASA astronaut who has been on three flights to the International Space Station. He lived there for over a year in total and spent 13 hours on spacewalks. While aboard, he sent videos to Earth and even invented a zero-G coffee cup. An avid photographer since sixth grade, he took thousands of photos from space and published his favorites in the book *Spaceborne* in 2016.



STEVE SCOTTI is *Brilliant Star's* STEM Education Advisor and a Distinguished Research Associate at NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, U.S. His background is in developing lighter, stronger materials and structures for aircraft and spacecraft. Watching the first astronaut launched into space inspired his interest in space exploration, and he enjoys sharing his enthusiasm about science and space with kids.

BACK IN TIME

Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin earned the first doctorate degree in astronomy from Radcliffe College in 1925. She's known for discovering that stars are mostly made of:

H Y ☐ R ☐ G ☐ N and H ☐ L ☐ I ☐ M



Eric Harper



Do you have a passion that you dream of turning into your career? For musician Eric Harper, that fire ignited when he heard a song on the radio when he was about seven years old in Texas. He stood in awe of how the song made him feel and thought, "I want to make people feel like that!"

Eric's mom is a classical pianist, so he tried piano, and then drums, like his older brother. But in seventh grade, he discovered the guitar—a transformation that influenced his entire career. He focused on heavy metal music until age 15, when his family moved to Portugal and he went to a classical music school. After high school, Eric came back to the U.S. and earned a degree in film scoring at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Today, he's an Emmy award winner who's composed for 10 films and over 1,000 TV shows, in addition to recording albums and performing live. He lives in British Columbia, Canada, with his wife, H  l  ne, and son, Shiloh.

Q: What's one of your favorite childhood memories?

A: Going down to the creeks in Texas and catching crawdads and snakes . . . It was so fascinating as a kid . . .

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

A: Moving a lot and [facing] bullying . . . We moved to New Mexico when I was seven or eight . . . In those days, the typical mentality [was] you don't complain about being bullied . . . which we know now is a terrible thing to do. I never went to anybody [to] say that I was being bullied . . . I adopted this stance of just staring at the ground anytime I would walk anywhere.



Left: At about age 9, Eric loved exploring music and nature.

Right: When he was 15, Eric moved to Portugal with his family and enrolled in a classical music school.

Q: At 15, why did you shift from heavy metal to classical music?

A: My hair was grown all the way down my back . . . and I loved playing Metallica . . . When we got to Portugal, [I went to] a classical music school . . . I was the only male in town that had long hair . . . People would shout obscenities at me to cut my hair every day . . . I remember walking down the street with my Portuguese teacher . . . She said, "Why are you staring at the ground?" I said, "So they don't beat me up." She burst out laughing. She's like, "They are not going to beat you up, Eric. They are just fascinated by you." And that began the slow transformation of me allowing [myself] to show up in my life and let go of these grievances.

Questions and Answers with an Inspirational Bahá'í



Left: Eric and Hélène got married in 2017. Eric's son, Shiloh, joined in the festivities.
Right: Eric performs at the 2018 Grand Canyon Bahá'í Conference in Arizona.

Q: What virtues are important to practice in your work?

A: Dedication. Patience. Wisdom. Wisdom is a big one, because you have to understand that it's going to take many hours of dull repetition for something magical to come out . . . I didn't write "Rain" until I had written so many horrible, horrible songs. So there's no such thing, in my opinion, as writer's block, because it's just our inability . . . to accept imperfection.

Q: How has the Bahá'í Faith influenced your career choices?

A: It's influenced me in trying to stay true to that initial thought I had when I was seven or eight, which was I want to make people feel the way I felt in that moment . . . Feeling close to the Holy Spirit is sort of what I equate it to . . . I gave up a really big opportunity to become a big name in Mexico . . . I didn't feel like it resonated with me trying to bring people closer to God.

Q: What it is like working with kids and youth to set the Bahá'í writings to music?

A: They are so enthusiastic . . . It's such an empowering thing that you've got this thing up in your head and all of a sudden it comes through your body, through your hands, and it comes into the world of reality. I don't think there's anything more powerful that I've experienced . . . Helping them get past the "Oh, but it's not good enough" conversation we all have in our heads . . . Giving them the space and the freedom to just create and see what happens is a wonderful act of discovery.

Q: Why do you think music can have such a powerful impact on people?

A: It's one of those things that is material in nature but has a spiritual effect. And I think when it's done right, it can cause people to have so many different reactions . . . It can cause somebody to relive a childhood moment . . . something beautiful that you remember . . . or something that hasn't been resolved . . . That's a very powerful thing just by these vibrations that come through the air . . . This power allows you to teleport across the globe without you ever leaving your chair or your home. To me, this is a wonderful, magical experience.

Q: What are some ways that kids can help change the world for the better?

A: Get deeply educated in reading and writing . . . If you're not creating opportunities for yourself, then you can't effect change in others . . . Discover what it really means to be of service . . . My Portuguese album, *Romper a Madrugada*, was written specifically [as a service]. The Portuguese needed [devotional] songs, so I wrote all of them for them . . . That CD went everywhere . . . Kenya, Brazil, Japan . . . That's the magic of service: it's not about you, and you don't know where it's going to go. It's really about what is the need and how can you provide for that need.

RILEY'S RAINFOREST

"Send down ... from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing..."

—Bahá'u'lláh

Explore & Soar: Chill About Change

Try these tips to handle change and soar with resilience!

- ☐ Accept your feelings. It's normal to feel nervous.
- ☐ Write down positive things that could come from the change.
- ☐ Relax by doing things you enjoy, like making music or playing a game with family.
- ☐ Ask for advice from a friend who's been in a similar situation.
- ☐ If possible, try to find humor in the situation to reduce stress.



- ☐ Exercise to relieve anxiety. Go for a walk or dance to your favorite song.
- ☐ Think about strengths you've gained from past changes.
- ☐ Express your feelings in a creative way by making a work of art. It could be a song, a short story, or a painting.

Confident Coping

Today was my first day at my new school. I was *really* nervous. I didn't know anyone there, my classes sound like they'll be super hard, and I got lost on my way to flying class! It wasn't a great day. I miss my old school.

At dinner, my family could tell I had a rough day. We talked about how big changes can be overwhelming and scary, but they can also help us get stronger. My brother said being brave enough to fly out of your comfort zone can help you be more flexible and resilient. My brother can say wild things, but I agree with him *this* time.

Trying new activities can help you feel happier and less stressed over time. Sometimes coping with change shows us we have strengths

we didn't know we had. When I thought about that, I noticed I'm pretty good at starting a conversation with someone new—even if it *does* make my feathers quiver.



I decided to focus on good things that could happen. It can be hard to see at first, but change can lead to awesome opportunities. Maybe I'll make some great new friends at this school. There's also a flying club, which sounds pretty cool. I could finally learn how to do a triple tail twister!

I'm still kind of nervous to go to school tomorrow. But I feel more prepared and hopeful after talking to my family. If you face change, talk to people you trust. And try our other ideas for boosting your confidence!

Curiosity Canopy



Crabs are crafty at adapting to change. When they get too big for their exoskeletons (shells), they shed them in a process called **molting**. This allows them to grow a bigger shell that fits. As with crabs, times of discomfort can help us come out of our shells and grow in new ways!



Stuart & Gabriella: SUPER SKILLS



Hi, I'm Stuart, with my friend Gabriella. We're reporting from the Animal Adventure Games, where our friends are showing their awesome skills. They inspire me to leap out of my comfort zone!

When Gabby and I started reporting, we were nervous and made mistakes. But we broke our tasks into small steps,

made a plan, practiced, and got better. Working on new skills is like building muscles—over time, we get stronger.

We may not always win, but it feels great to achieve a goal and try something new. You can discover hidden talents, overcome fears, and boost your confidence. Pushing yourself to grow and change makes you a true champion!

AT THE ANIMAL ADVENTURE GAMES, MATCH EACH ANIMAL TO ITS STATEMENT.

1 Camel

2 Lion

3 Kangaroo

4 Cheetah

5 Ostrich

6 Godwit

7 Hummingbird

8 Chameleon

With my powerful back legs and big tail to balance me, I can leap over 25 ft (7.6 m). **A**

My roar is 114 decibels—as loud as a rock concert! I use it to claim my territory and communicate with my family. **B**

I fly non-stop from Alaska to New Zealand—over 7,500 miles (12,070 km)! I use my long bill to forage in marshes. **C**

My sharp claws help me speed up quickly and turn sharply. I can sprint up to 58 mph (93 km/h). **D**

To grab a snack, I launch my sticky tongue over twice my body length. It speeds up faster than a sports car! **E**

I can run a marathon twice as fast as a human. I'm so tall, my running stride can be 16 ft (5 m) long! **F**

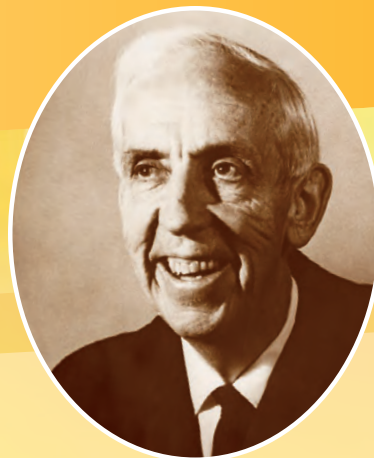
I'm small, but I'm the only bird that can fly backwards. My wings flap 200 times a second! **G**

I can carry about 200 pounds (100 kg) across the desert, and I can skip food and water for two weeks! **H**

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Curtis Kelsey (1894–1970)



Through the darkness, Curtis Kelsey watched a spotlight shine from the slopes of Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel. The Shrine of the Báb lit up the mountain. A second beam twinkled across the bay, lighting the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh at Bahjí. Curtis had traveled all the way from the U.S. to bring light to these holiest places on Earth for Bahá'ís, and his huge task was now complete.

Independent Spirit

Born in Utah, U.S., in 1894, Curtis loved exploring nature and working with his hands. As a young man, he got a job laying pipelines for his father's company. But he soon developed typhoid fever, which caused intense headaches, and he had to stop working.

One evening, Curtis cried out in terrible pain. To his astonishment, the room filled with majestic music. Unable to find its source, he was overcome with wonder. Then the music faded. Amazingly, his headache disappeared. His mother was a Bahá'í, and she tried to help him understand the mysterious incident. The experience transformed him, and he embraced the Bahá'í Faith.

Illumined Service

From then on, Curtis had a new purpose. He studied the Bahá'í teachings and shared them with others. When 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the head of the Faith, invited him to serve in Haifa, Curtis jumped at the opportunity. He arrived in September 1921 and was thrilled to meet 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Curtis said, "There are

no words to describe the majesty of this personage that came through the door . . ."

Curtis was humbled to be trusted with installing lights at the holy shrines. He worked with a Persian electrician named Husayn-i-Kahrubá'í. They spoke different languages, but they happily used gestures to communicate.

Helping 'Abdu'l-Bahá was a highlight in Curtis's life. One day, Curtis asked him about the mysterious music that cured him. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "You heard music of the Kingdom and it caused your spiritual awakening."*

All too soon, heartbreak struck. At 1:00 a.m. on November 28, 1921, Curtis woke to pounding on his door. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had passed away. He rushed to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's room to grieve with the family. Later, he had the honor of taking photos at 'Abdu'l-Bahá's funeral, which ten thousand people attended.

Curtis lovingly continued his assignment and finished in April 1922. 'Abdu'l-Bahá's grandson, Shoghi Effendi, thanked Curtis for his wonderful service to the Faith.

For the rest of his life, Curtis continued to serve and lift people's spirits. He returned to his father's business and eventually became the head of the company. But his highest priority was sharing the Bahá'í Faith. He said, "Each day as you live grows happier and more enjoyable, and you look forward to . . . the glorious things that are ahead for all of us and for humanity."

Curtis passed away on February 20, 1970. Until the end of his life, he remembered the love he felt from 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and he tried to share that love with others.

BLOOM WITH PRAYER

Like flowers in a garden, humanity is made up of diverse people. Just as roses, lavender, marigolds, and other flowers make a garden beautiful, different races and cultures brighten our world and bring it to life.

Praying together is a wonderful way to connect with people from different backgrounds. It helps us focus on what we have in common, such as our desire for peace on Earth. Through prayer, we can plant seeds of unity that will transform the world.

FILL IN THE LETTERS TO COMPLETE THIS PRAYER IN ENGLISH, THEN MEMORIZE THE PRAYER. TRY LEARNING THE PRAYER IN PERSIAN AND SPANISH, TOO.

O T_o_ t_e Co_pa_ _ionate Go_ .
 _e tow _pon _e a _eart w_ic_ ,
 like _nto a gla_ , _ay _e ill_ _ine_ .
 wit_ t_e lig_t of T_y love, an_ _
 confer _pon _e tho_g_t_ w_ic_ _
 _ay c_ange t_i_ worl_ into a ro_e
 gar_en t_ro_g_ t_e o_tpo_ring_ _
 of _eavenly grace.

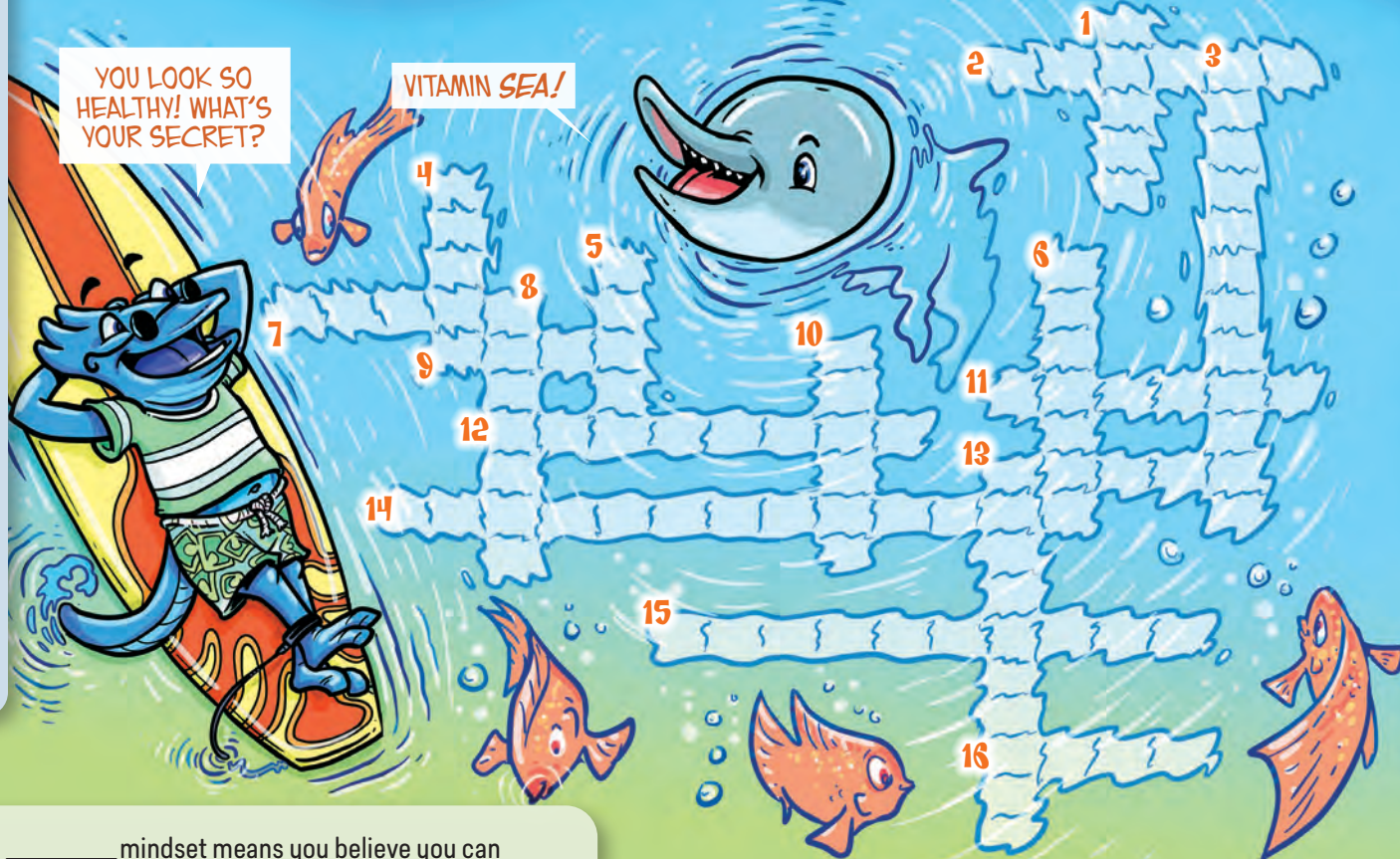
—'Abdu'l-Bahá

ای خدای مهربان
 دلی عطا کن که
 مانند زجاج به سراج
 محبت روشن باشد
 و فکری عطا کن که
 به فیض روحانی
 جهان را گلشن نماید.

—عبدالبهاء

¡Oh Dios compasivo!
 Concédeme un corazón que,
 como el cristal, se ilumine
 con la luz de Tu amor, y
 confíéreme pensamientos que
 cambien este mundo en un jardín
 de rosas, mediante las efusiones
 de la gracia celestial.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá



ACROSS

2. A _____ mindset means you believe you can succeed. (p. 19)
7. When we respond to challenges with virtues, we create our own kind of _____. (p. 13)
9. Sodium chloride is also called _____. (p. 12)
11. Half of the photosynthesis on Earth comes from the _____. (p. 11)
12. When Eric Harper was 15, his family moved to _____. (p. 22)
13. Through prayer, we can plant _____ of unity. (p. 27)
14. _____ are like signs or trail markers pointing you in the right direction. (p. 2)
15. Super-smart masters of disguise (p. 10)
16. To make pottery, clay is fired in a scorching oven called a _____. (p. 3)

DOWN

1. Whatever your dreams are, the first step is setting _____. (p. 2)
3. Roman and Lua admire the virtue of _____. (pp. 16-18)
4. Ariana and Maya would both like to visit _____. (p. 18)
5. As amphibians, frogs can live both in and out of _____. (p. 29)
6. Working on new skills is like building _____. (p. 25)
8. In space, astronauts eat _____ food. (p. 20)
10. When designing a spacecraft, the crew's _____ and safety are most important. (p. 21)
13. A brilliant example of transformation! (p. 8)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



It makes me feel happy inside to read about the Bahá'í Faith and things we can do to make the world a better place. From reading *Brilliant Star*, I've learned that we should be our true selves and that we should help others in need. If I could choose an issue theme, it would be helping underprivileged children and adults all over the world.

—Marisa K., age 14, California, U.S.

ANSWERS

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

Page 3: 1) Brave Bowl, 2) Creative Candlestick 3) Enthusiastic Earrings, 4) Mindful Mug, 5) Persistent Planter, 6) Truthful Teapot, 7) Open-Minded Ornament, 8) Patient Pitcher, 9) Versatile Vase

Page 7: Courage, empathy, friendly, humor, kindness, listening, patience, reliable, respect

Page 10: Cora at BL, Kelpy at CR, Flota at BR, Huller at C, Jibby at BC, Lob at CL, Pacifica at CL, Tido at CR, Voyo at TL

Page 11: Iceland, Icelandic horse

Page 13: 1) accept, 2) important, 3) learn, 4) humor, 5) Focus, 6) positive, 7) Talk, 8) gentle, 9) care

Page 19: assertive, brave, confident, differences, encourage, focus, goals, health, Inspiration, journey, keep, learn, mind, nurture, open, pray, questions, reflect, strive, truthful, understand, victories, work, experiences, years, zone

Page 20-21: A) Fusion; Hydrogen and Helium

Page 25: A) 3, B) 2, C) 6, D) 4, E) 8, F) 5, G) 7, H) 1

Page 27: Missing letters: B, D, H, M, S, U
"O Thou the Compassionate God. Bestow upon me a heart which, like unto a glass, may be illumined with the light of Thy love, and confer upon me thoughts which may change this world into a rose garden through the outpourings of heavenly grace."

Leap Into Possibility

Ribbit! In a pond ecosystem, things are always changing—especially for frogs. They begin as tiny, jelly-like eggs and hatch into water-breathing tadpoles, with long tails for swimming. Over the next few months, their tails shrink as they develop powerful legs. Their gills get covered by skin and their lungs form so they can breathe air. When fully grown, they're **amphibians**, able to live both in and out of water. That's a lot of transformation!

For people, it can be scary to take a big leap, like starting school or moving to a new place. If you feel overwhelmed or wish things could stay the same, talk to family and friends about your feelings. Try to check out your new environment in advance. Change can help you develop cool skills and virtues, make new friends, and reach exciting goals. Like a tadpole becoming a frog, you can jump into a world of possibilities!

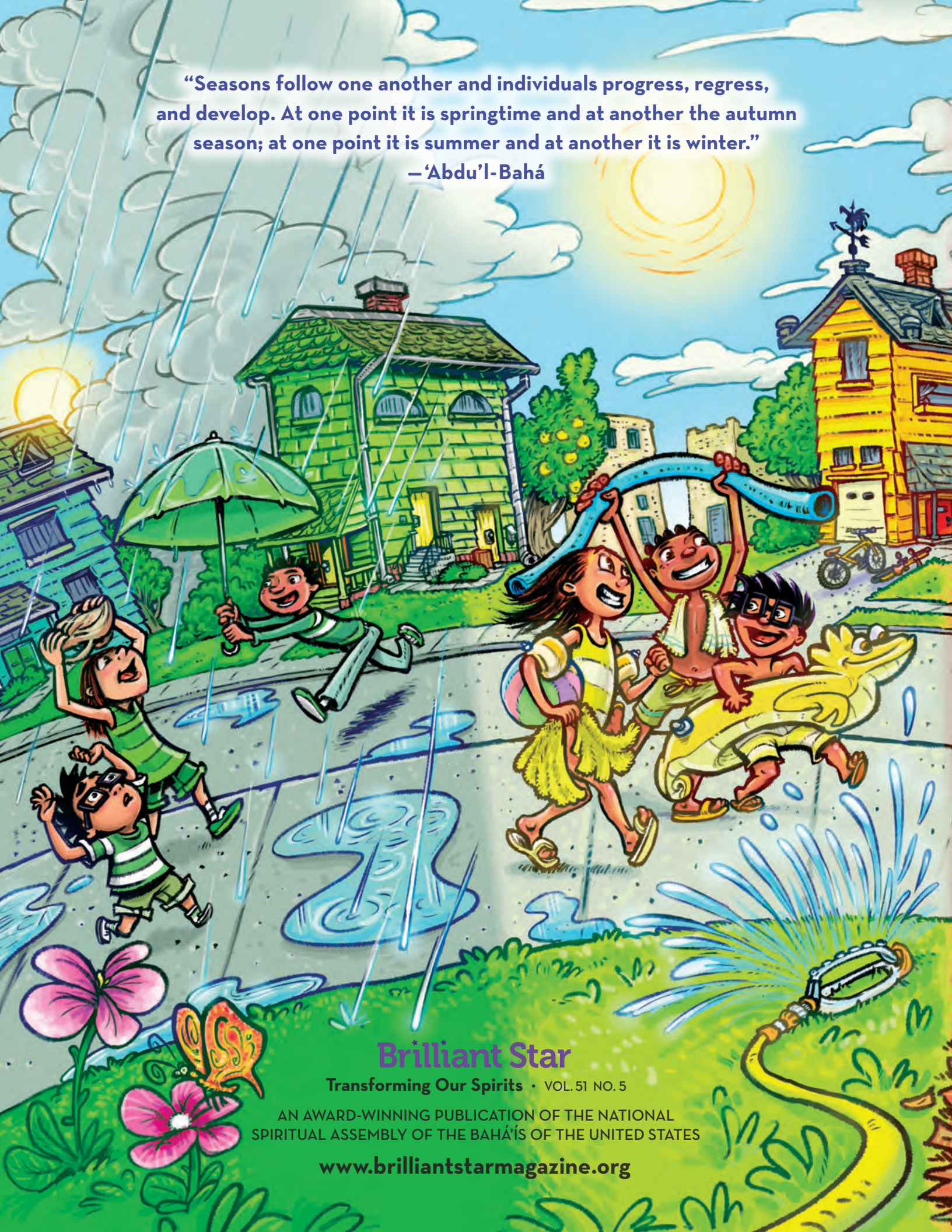
Help the frogs hop along paths of connected lilypads to reach the Bank of Blossoming.

**BANK OF
BLOSSOMING**



“Seasons follow one another and individuals progress, regress, and develop. At one point it is springtime and at another the autumn season; at one point it is summer and at another it is winter.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá



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