

Brilliant Star

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013



ARE YOU A
TEAM PLAYER?

SAVOR LIFE'S
MAGICAL MOMENTS

REACH FOR
THE STARS

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.

WHAT'S INSIDE FAVORITE FEATURES



Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

He was known as "Father of the Poor."



Riley's Rainforest

See the real you.



Nur's Nook

Create a unique book to honor Earth's blessed spots.



We Are One

Explore and care for the place we all call home.



Radiant Stars

Get to know kids who shine, like you.



Lightning & Luna: Episode 58

Trouble erupts during a visit to their grandparents.



Maya's Mysteries

Make a hovercraft and glide over life's rough terrain.



Stargazer: Shabnam Mogharabi

She inspires millions through her work at SoulPancake.



Treble Chef's Music Café

Celebrate the hero in you.



Shining Lamp: Abu'l-Qásim Faizi

A teacher who won people's hearts with kindness



Cosmo's Corner

A crossword and more from our favorite chameleon



aMAZEing ADVENTURE

Take a spin with Repairobot and challenge your brain.

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Your virtues help you reach great heights.



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Amaze a friend with the power of math.



DEAR FRIENDS,

Did you know that after the sun, the nearest star, Proxima Centauri (at left), is about 25 trillion miles away? In our fastest spacecraft, it would take over 73,000 years to get there!

But that doesn't mean we shouldn't reach for the stars. Part of the thrill of life is thinking big, dreaming outrageously exciting dreams, and going for them! The only way to find out what you can do is to give it your best shot.

In this issue, let your goals soar, and take steps to achieve them. Draw an imaginative vehicle for your life's adventures, make a cool hovercraft to glide you through stressful times, and take a quiz on being a team player with your family. Get tips on using technology wisely and staying organized. And meet Shabnam Mogharabi, who loves helping people explore life's big questions.

Our planet is full of opportunities and wonders—and you get to help create the world of tomorrow. Reach for the stars—and see how far you can go! Check out fun tools for exploring on our new website at www.brilliantstarmagazine.org.



With love from **Brilliant Star**



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LOOK UP WITH COURAGE

"Strive as much as ye can to turn wholly toward the Kingdom, that ye may acquire innate courage and ideal power." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

A sky-high cliff looms before you. It looks 10 times taller than it did in the distance. Your heart races with excitement and fear. How will you ever reach the top?

Rock climbers who scale daunting heights do so after a lot of practice and training. They carry the right gear and know how to use it. And they stay safe with an experienced guide or partner. Climbing a rock face is similar to overcoming other

challenges, such as starting a new school or giving a speech. Practicing your skills gives you confidence. Virtues are the tools you use—such as the courage to express yourself or the self-discipline to study hard. And when you need it, you can ask for help by praying to God. You can also talk to friends, family, and teachers.

If you're dealing with a challenge, spiritual strengths help you face your fears, stay calm, and think positively. You never know how high you'll climb until you try!

CRUSHED CHALK HELPS KEEP YOUR HANDS DRY FOR A BETTER GRIP ON THE ROCK.

Find nine tools named for virtues that can help you climb to great heights.



**Calm
Camera**



**Confident
Carabiner**



**Cheerful
Chalk Bag**



**Focused
First Aid Kit**



**Knot Guide
of Knowledge**



**Lantern of
Leadership**



**Resilient
Radio**



**Persistent
Pulley**



**Wise Water
Bottle**



The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
in Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as
a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the
"Black Pit" of Tíhrán

1853–1863

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

1863 April 22

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

1863–1868

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

1868

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

1877

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

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace A Lofty Career

Do people often ask you what you want to be when you grow up? People wondered that about Bahá'u'lláh, too. He was 22 years old when His father, Mírzá Buzurg, passed away. Mírzá Buzurg had been an important minister in the court of Iran's sháh, or king, and Bahá'u'lláh was offered the job. But He had no interest in this position of power, and He turned the job down.

Many were surprised by Bahá'u'lláh's choice. But the prime minister said, "Leave him to himself. Such a position is unworthy of him. He has some higher aim in view . . . I am convinced

that he is destined for some lofty career."

Bahá'u'lláh focused on helping those in need. His home was open to all. He generously shared His wealth and was known as "Father of the Poor." Later, Bahá'u'lláh called on people to "Dedicate the precious days of your lives to the betterment of the world . . ." He said work is "an act of worship."

Do you want to be an architect or an astronaut? An artist or an athlete? Maybe you want to invent a whole new career! Whatever you choose, you can use your talents to serve with joy.

Find words about getting ready for your future. Look forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.





RILEY'S RAINFOREST

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

See the Real You

When you look in the mirror, do you see yourself? "Of course!" you might think. But what you see is your body—which isn't really *you*. Your real self is your *soul*. Your soul uses your body to do its work in this world, such as helping others, developing your talents, and building good character. The Bahá'í writings say that the body is like a lantern. The soul is the light that shines through the lantern.

It can be easy to focus on what your lantern looks like instead of how well it works. And it is important to be clean, well-groomed, and healthy. But when you see celebrities on TV or other media, you might start to think that you should look a certain way.

The truth is that photos in the media are often changed to make people look thinner, smoother, rounder, or unrealistic in other ways. Real bodies come in all shapes



and sizes—and those differences add to the beautiful diversity of our world.

Your body is a sacred tool, which helps your soul grow, progress, and serve. So it's crucial to take care of it with nutritious food and physical exercise. Treat your body kindly—it's the most complex and amazing machine ever created!

Look at your reflection in the mirror with love and acceptance, and appreciate the things your body can do. If you practice smart habits, you can help your body be stronger, healthier, and the best it can be.

Explore & Soar: Be Kind to Yourself

When you love someone, you express it by treating them with respect and kindness. Here are ways to treat your own body with care:

- ☐ Drink plenty of water. You'll be healthier and more energetic.
- ☐ Move it. Regular exercise strengthens your bones, muscles, and heart.
- ☐ Eat a rainbow each week. Each color of fruits and veggies has diverse health benefits.
- ☐ Protect it from the sun. Use sunscreen and avoid the sun during peak hours.
- ☐ Speak about it kindly. You don't tell your friends they're ugly or fat, so don't be negative with yourself either.
- ☐ Use helmets and other safety gear for sports. One body is all you've got!

Curiosity Canopy



Do you know one of the best ways to avoid getting a cold or the flu? Wash your hands to get rid of the pesky germs that spread illness. Use soap and warm water, and scrub for 20 seconds (try singing "Happy Birthday" to yourself twice) before rinsing.





TIME TRAVELER

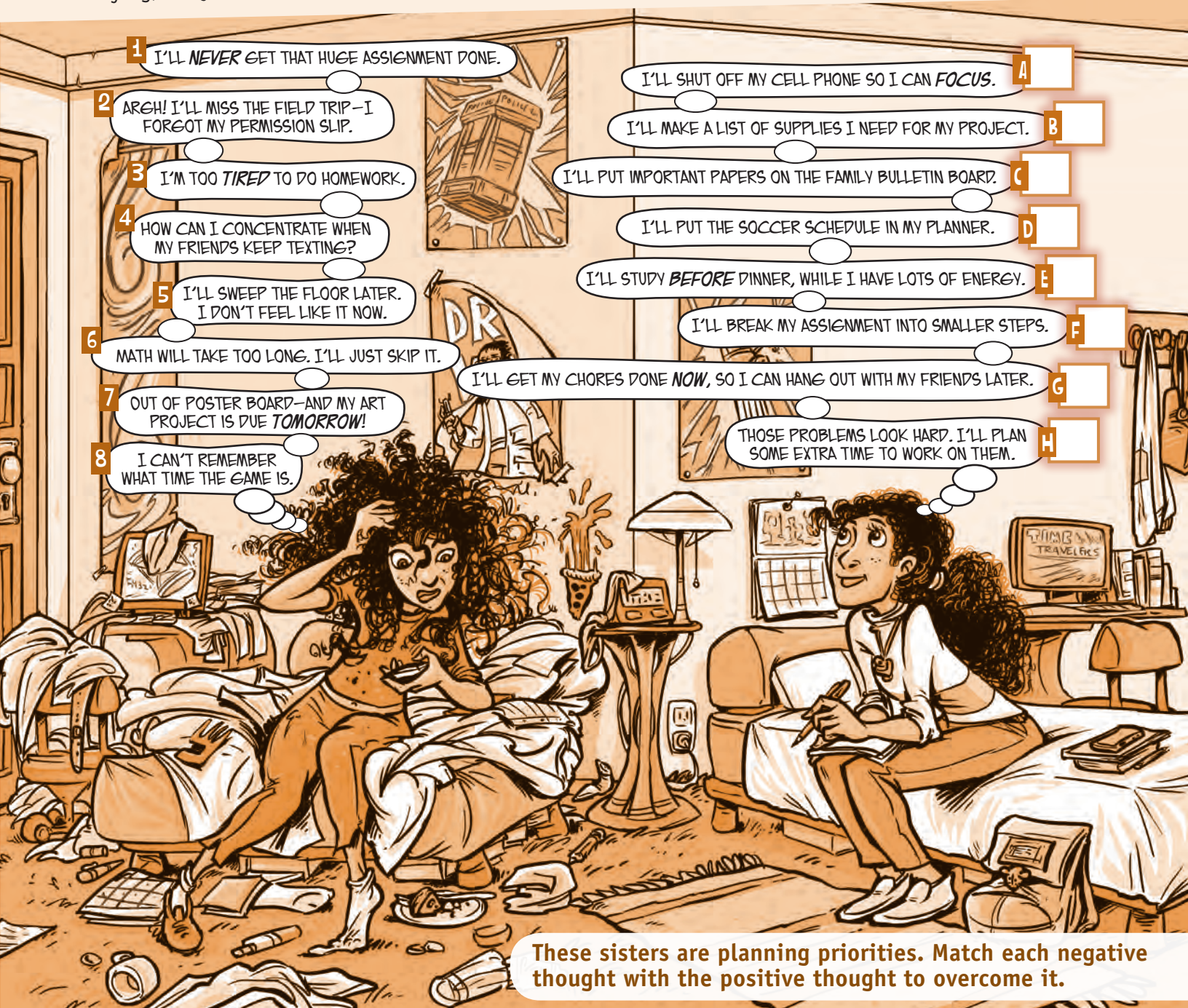
Stressed? Need to find another couple of hours, or even a week? Maybe you can! You don't need a time machine, just a planner and a pencil. Organizing your life can give you more time to enjoy the things you love.

Update your planner daily, and make a to-do list of homework, projects, chores, and events. Write your deadlines and set priorities, so the most important things get done first. Have a desk or quiet place for studying, away from TV and other distractions.

Organize a spot to keep your school stuff, so you don't waste time looking for it.

If you're overwhelmed, look at your extra activities—are you doing too much? Talk to your parents about cutting back. Make time to get enough sleep—most kids need at least 10 hours.

Staying organized and keeping a positive attitude help you get more done and feel less stress. And that's almost like having your own time machine!



1 I'LL **NEVER** GET THAT HUGE ASSIGNMENT DONE.

2 **ARCH!** I'LL MISS THE FIELD TRIP—I FORGOT MY PERMISSION SLIP.

3 I'M TOO **TIRED** TO DO HOMEWORK.

4 HOW CAN I CONCENTRATE WHEN MY FRIENDS KEEP TEXTING?

5 I'LL SWEEP THE FLOOR LATER. I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT NOW.

6 MATH WILL TAKE TOO LONG. I'LL JUST SKIP IT.

7 OUT OF POSTER BOARD—AND MY ART PROJECT IS DUE **TOMORROW!**

8 I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT TIME THE GAME IS.

A I'LL SHUT OFF MY CELL PHONE SO I CAN **FOCUS**.

B I'LL MAKE A LIST OF SUPPLIES I NEED FOR MY PROJECT.

C I'LL PUT IMPORTANT PAPERS ON THE FAMILY BULLETIN BOARD.

D I'LL PUT THE SOCCER SCHEDULE IN MY PLANNER.

E I'LL STUDY **BEFORE** DINNER, WHILE I HAVE LOTS OF ENERGY.

F I'LL BREAK MY ASSIGNMENT INTO SMALLER STEPS.

G I'LL GET MY CHORES DONE **NOW**, SO I CAN HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS LATER.

H THOSE PROBLEMS LOOK HARD. I'LL PLAN SOME EXTRA TIME TO WORK ON THEM.

These sisters are planning priorities. Match each negative thought with the positive thought to overcome it.



A Prayer to Share

Brrrrring—school's out! You make a beeline to your best friend to talk about your day. After a great chat, your friendship grows stronger. In a similar way, we talk with God when we pray. Prayer connects us with our Creator. Just as food nourishes our bodies, prayer can bring strength and joy to our spirits.

Praying with others is a powerful way to build unity. Invite friends to a prayer party at home, at a park, or anywhere. Make this book to help you memorize or share a beautiful prayer.

You'll Need

8 envelopes • ruler • ribbon $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.6 cm) wide (length = 5 x envelope width) ribbon $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.6 cm) wide (length = 8 x envelope width) • scissors • tacky glue • colorful pens • magazines • photos • optional: decorative paper, sticker labels

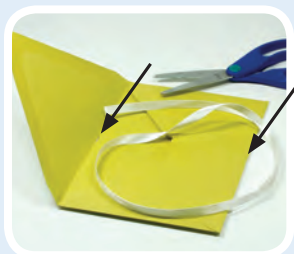
Blessed is the spot, and the house,
and the place, and the city,
and the heart, and the mountain,
and the refuge, and the cave,
and the valley, and the land,
and the sea, and the island,
and the meadow where mention
of God hath been made,
and His praise glorified. —Bahá'u'lláh

THIS PRAYER...

HONORS EARTH'S WONDERS!

Make a Blessed Book

- 1 For envelope that will be last, cut $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.6 cm) slits at top and bottom for ribbon.



- 2 Thread shorter ribbon through slits. Secure with glue so ends are same length.



- 3 With envelope pockets facing up, glue inside of each flap to non-pocket side of another envelope. Repeat for all, ending with last envelope.



- 4 Glue long ribbon across center of entire book to create two pockets per book page.



- 5 Like an accordion, fold envelopes along flap crease. Front and back covers of book won't have pockets. Cut off first envelope's flap.



- 6 Write different parts of prayer on envelope pockets. Or write on paper or sticker labels and stick to pages. Decorate cover. Add title.



- 7 A) Fill pockets with drawings or photos that represent the words. Mount some on decorative paper.
B) Tie ribbon to close.





STEERING TO SUCCESS



"We must strive with energies of heart, soul and mind to develop and manifest the perfections and virtues . . ." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

What are your dreams for your future? Do you want to travel the globe as a photographer, start a service project in Asia, go to medical school, or be an Olympic athlete? To be happy with your career, it's best to find something that you love. To reach your dreams, you've got to take the wheel and steer with courage.

Start by describing your goals. Then map out your route with a timeline. What can you do now to head in

the right direction? Join a school club that relates to your goals? Is there a place where you can volunteer to learn about the career? Can you contact someone who does that work and ask for advice? Give each milestone a deadline and get moving!

You may hit roadblocks along the way. Ask friends and family to help you keep going. Every turn enables you to build the skills you need for an exciting journey.

Fill in the missing letters to find some important skills and qualities for your life's adventures.

MIND AND SPIRIT

1. FAI _ H
2. IN _ E _ RI _ Y
3. LE _ RNIN _
4. SE _ _ _ ING GOA _ S
5. BEIN _ PO _ I _ IVE
6. RE _ LIEN _ E
7. H _ MO _

HEALTHY HABITS

8. PH _ SI _ AL FI _ N _ SS
9. N _ T _ ITION
10. TI _ E _ _ ANA _ E _ ENT
11. H _ N _ LING ST _ ESS
12. MA _ AGI _ G MO _ EY
13. OR _ ANI _ ATION

COMMUNITY

14. CITI _ EN _ HIP
15. JU _ TI _ E
16. LE _ _ _ ER _ HIP
17. _ ER _ ICE
18. S _ ARIN _
19. CO _ _ _ U _ ICATIO _
20. TE _ MWOR _





TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND SHARING

BY ANISA P., AGE 14

You may be familiar with the three Bahá'í events in February and March: Ayyám-i-Há, fasting, and Naw-Rúz. Ayyám-i-Há is four or five days long, from sunset on February 25 to sunset on March 1. You may be asking, *What do you do during Ayyám-i-Há?* Well, the purpose is to appreciate the bounties of God. Bahá'ís often donate time and money to charity and participate in random acts of kindness, such as helping at soup kitchens.

This is also a time to exchange gifts, whether homemade or from the store. You and your family can pick a service project or give each other a gift for each day of this wonderful holiday. Ayyám-i-Há is a time to appreciate the people around you. Sometimes on holidays, people are rushing around and forget to enjoy their family because they are so busy with other things. So remember to enjoy this blissful time with your loved ones.

After Ayyám-i-Há is the 19-Day Fast, from March 2–20. Some Bahá'ís above age 15 do not eat or

drink from sunrise to sunset. Yeah, you are thinking: *Why would you starve yourself all day?* The idea is to get closer to God by abstaining from food and drink. You are required to fast from ages 15–70 if you are healthy. If you are sick, are pregnant, travel more than nine hours in a day, or are over age 70, then you shouldn't fast, because it could do more harm than good.

During this time, Bahá'ís also pray and meditate. Fasting minimizes our selfish desires, and it puts us in the shoes of someone who is less fortunate than we are. Next year, I will be fasting, and I look forward to the time where I will get closer to God. I experience the fast by waking up with my parents and eating breakfast, and then I don't eat or drink anything until 12:30 p.m. This is one way I practice a half-fast.

The last holiday is Naw-Rúz! It's "New Day" in Farsi (Persian), and it's the Persian and Bahá'í New Year. There is no set way to celebrate it. It's my favorite holiday, because it is always fun decorating our table with Haft-seen, a traditional Persian setting. It means "Seven S."

Each item starts with S and symbolizes something significant:

1. Sabzeh (wheat or lentil sprouts): Growth, freshness of spring
2. Samanu (sweet pudding): Hard work, patience
3. Seeb (apple): Health, beauty
4. Senjed (dried fruit of lotus tree): Productivity
5. Seer (garlic): Medicine
6. Somaq (sumac): Spice in life
7. Sombul (hyacinth): Spring, fragrance, beauty



Naw-Rúz is on March 21, which is also the first day of spring. The point is to renew and refresh your life, as nature does. My Persian family celebrates it by having Haft-seen, relaxing, and enjoying each other's company. I hope you enjoy these holidays, and best wishes in the new year!

Are You a Team Player?

"If love and agreement are manifest in a single family, that family will advance, become illumined and spiritual . . ." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Are you a team player in your family? Take this quiz to find out.
(If you don't have a sibling, think of a cousin or another relative.)

It's Friday night, and the crowd is roaring at your school's big game. You and your teammates have practiced and sharpened your skills. You've learned to listen to each other and cooperate with your strategies. Now it's game time!

Being in a family is like being on a team. It involves using peaceful skills, such as listening, giving encouragement, and having respect for each other.

But there may be times when you don't feel like a team player. It can be frustrating if your older brother gets to stay up late or your little sister doesn't know how to share. When there are conflicts, ask for a family huddle to express your feelings and consult about solutions.

When families work together like a team, everyone can win!



- 1 I focus on the good qualities in my siblings.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 2 I share my stuff with my family members.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 3 When I need a parent's attention, I ask instead of getting upset.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 4 If I'm angry with a sibling, I wait until I'm calm and then talk about it.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 5 I'm careful not to shove, hit, or physically hurt any family member.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 6 When a family member wants to talk or share news, I listen with respect.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 7 I understand that my parents may have different rules for me and for my siblings because of our different ages or other reasons.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1



- 8 I focus on doing my best, instead of comparing myself to others.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 9 I cheer about my siblings' successes, like a good grade or winning a game.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 10 When I want to borrow something that doesn't belong to me, I ask first.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 11 I do my fair share of chores around the house without complaining.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1
- 12 If my sibling doesn't want to be teased about something, I stop.
Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

MY SCORE:

36–28 points You're an expert team player in your family! Your skills will help you throughout your life.

27–19 points You're on your way to victory. Exercise your teamwork muscles for even more success.

18–12 points Time for a practice session. Share some tips from the quiz with siblings to strengthen the family team.



SEA OF SCREENS

"In all matters moderation is desirable." —Bahá'u'lláh

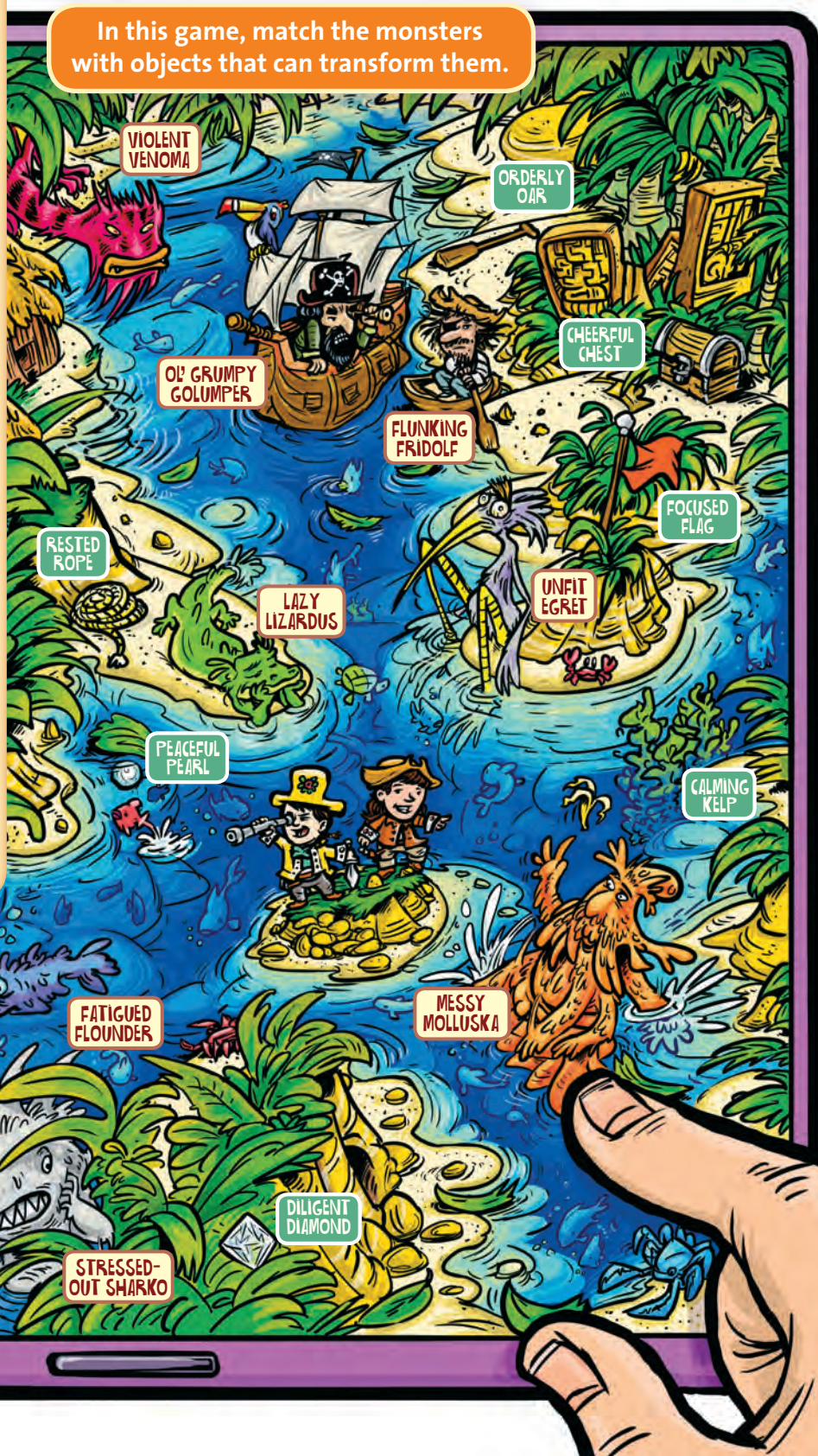
Ahoy, Captain! You're sailing the seas in a high-stakes game of strategy. As you troll for treasure, you have to avoid pesky pirates and battle fierce beasts.

But those monsters don't just dwell in the virtual deep—they lurk in your living room and prowl in your pockets. They rear their ugly heads when you overuse technology, such as cell phones, computers, video games, or TV. If you're not careful, they can take over.

We live in a fun and amazing world, with oceans of entertainment at our fingertips. But gadgets can easily get distracting. They can rob you of time for important things like outdoor play, schoolwork, and sleep. They can pillage your schedule, plunder your motivation, and hold your goals hostage!

Planning and moderation can help you avoid those pitfalls. Talk with your parents about responsible use of screen time and stick to time limits. Try some board games or crafts with friends. Navigating your days is a lot less stressful when you keep the tech beasts at bay.

In this game, match the monsters with objects that can transform them.



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

Game on!

Like to play card games on your computer? Grab a deck of real cards and a friend, and play anywhere—while saving energy.

WOW, REALLY?

The Arctic tern makes the longest migration of any animal: about 44,000 miles (71,000 km) between Greenland and Antarctica — every year!

OUR CONNECTIONS



From North American prairies to African savannas, about a quarter of Earth is grassland. There are about 10,000 species, including rice, wheat, and corn. Grasses are Earth's most important food, providing over half of humans' calories and feeding many creatures. Grasslands are threatened by issues such as climate change and urban development. They're also home to diverse animals. We can work together to protect them. Learning more is the first step.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Dr. Amanda Vincent, a marine biologist in Canada, was the first to study seahorses underwater. Seahorses are vulnerable to overfishing and habitat destruction, so she co-founded Project Seahorse and leads global efforts to protect them. She says, "It's all about marine conservation . . . To save the seahorse, we have to save the seas."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Cape Town, a seaport at the foot of Table Mountain, is in a diverse nation with 11 official languages. Nelson Mandela, the late president, shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for ending legal discrimination in this country. *Unscramble the letters to find its location:*

HOSTU ACIFAR

AMAZING ANIMALS



With skin cells that mimic its surroundings, this creature is the king of camouflage. Found from California to Japan, the largest reach about 25 feet wide (7.5 m). It can solve mazes and recognize people. *Fill in the blanks to find its name:*

G I A T P A I F I O T O U S

RADIANT STARS

Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world! How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

Nava R.

Age: **13**

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

I want to be:
Neurologist [or have] a career in medical sciences

The virtues I admire most in people: **Loyalty, honesty, and kindness**

Hobbies or sports:
Playing viola

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Going to Bahá'í schools, like Louhelen Bahá'í School

Favorite animal or pet:
My cat, Abigail



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

I like to help people by:
Giving them advice or comforting them

My biggest challenge is:
Having a lot of work and becoming stressed out by it. I handle it by giving breaks to myself and calming down.

If I could travel through time:
I would want to see if I become successful, and all the new technology.

One of my role models is:
Marie Curie, because she was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, studied many different fields of sciences, and discovered two periodic elements (radium and polonium).

Something I've accomplished that made me feel confident:
Getting into Honors Orchestra

Amahn E.

Age: **14**

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

I want to be:
A biomedical engineer

The virtue I admire most in people: **Perseverance**

Hobbies or sports:
Computers, consumer electronics, basketball

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Junior youth [group]

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

I like to help people by:
Helping around the house by keeping it clean and helping with yard work and cooking. I also like to help my friends with their studies and problems.

If I could travel through time:
[I would want to see] what my family is like (wife, kids, etc.), and how the world has changed technologically.



One of my role models is:
Bill Gates . . . He's a perfect example of generosity. He also is one of the most dedicated people I know. He will get something done no matter what . . .

Something I've accomplished that made me feel confident:
Playing a good game of basketball . . . especially if I did something special in the game.

A talent I would love to have:
Be[ing] able to know when anything is going to happen before it happens, because then I could prevent disasters, such as fires or shootings.



Alilah P.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be:
A pro basketball player and a veterinarian

The virtue I admire most in people: **Trustworthiness**

Favorite animal or pet:
All animals, but my favorite are wolves and dogs

I like to help people by:
Making them smile and being reliable

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

My biggest challenge is:
Math, but I have become better by studying more and practicing.

If I could travel through time:
I would want to see if I had achieved my dream of playing in the WNBA!*

One of my role models is:
[NBA champion] Dwyane Wade, because he inspired me to try harder in basketball . . .

Something I've accomplished that made me feel confident:
I was kind of nervous to go to middle school, but by passing fifth grade, I knew I could do it.

A talent I would love to have:
Dunking a basketball, because I feel like it's really cool.

Carmel D.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be: **Doctor**

The virtue I admire most in people: **Perseverance**

Hobbies or sports: **Soccer and listening to music**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Going to junior youth gatherings

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

My biggest challenge is: **To stay calm when I face new things that I have never done/seen before ... Once I push myself forward ... I [feel] more comfortable ...**

If I could travel through time: **I [would want to] see myself getting into a medical school and becoming the best doctor I can be.**

One of my role models is: **My parents are my true heroes ... they never give up on me. I know they are always there for me ... They always say that they have unconditional love for me, and I am slowly finding out what that means.**

Something I've accomplished that made me feel confident: **I participated in a service project with my Bahá'í community during Ayyám-i-Há** by going to a nursing home. We were helping and ... having fun!**



“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

Amin F.

Age: **8**

I live in: **Kingdom of Tonga**

I want to be: **A scientist and architect**

The virtue I admire most in people: **Helpfulness, because sometimes when people fall and hurt themselves it makes them happy when someone helps them.**

Hobbies or sports: **Rugby and kickball**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Going to Bahá'í summer school, because it's fun and I meet new friends. I also like going to my school ... because it's a Bahá'í school, and we learn about virtues as well as maths and reading.**

Place I'd love to visit: **New Zealand, because I have lots of family there.**



I like to help people by: **Giving lots of hugs, making people laugh, and letting them know I love them.**

If I could travel through time: **I want to see myself serving at the Bahá'í World Centre in Haifa.**

One of my role models is: **My friend Joshua ...**

Something I've accomplished that made me feel confident: **Helping to clean up my school and house. Also, when I learned to dive and swim in deep water.**

A talent I would love to have: **Drawing and long-distance swimming**

Maxine K.

Age: **9**

I live in: **Quebec, Canada**

I want to be: **A doctor**

The virtue I admire most in people: **Truthful[ness]**

Hobbies or sports: **I like to swim and read.**

Favorite animal or pet: **Koalas and dolphins**

Place I'd love to visit: **New York**

I like to help people by: **Making them happy**

My biggest challenge is: **Being bullied. I handle it by telling what happened to my teacher or my parents.**

If I could travel through time: **I would like to see if I did a good job teaching my baby brother to be a good boy.**

One of my role models is: **‘Abdu’l-Bahá, because of all his good qualities that I would like to have as well.**

Something I've accomplished that made me feel confident: **I played with one of my friends who was left out.**

A talent I would love to have: **Building things, because I love to do that ... [I built] a birdhouse with my grandfather and a model airplane with my dad. I would like to build a house ...**



How to be a Radiant Star:

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

**Ayyám-i-Há is February 26–March 1, days of hospitality, charity, gift giving, and preparing for the Bahá'í Fast.



AT THE BLAZE SOLAR FARM ...



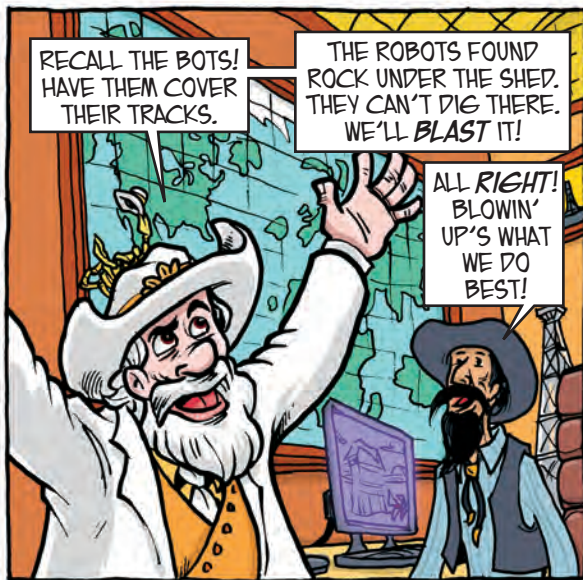
IN HUGO HAVOC'S CONTROL ROOM ...



RECALL THE BOTS! HAVE THEM COVER THEIR TRACKS.

THE ROBOTS FOUND ROCK UNDER THE SHED. THEY CAN'T DIG THERE. WE'LL **BLAST** IT!

ALL RIGHT! BLOWIN' UP'S WHAT WE DO BEST!



THE NEXT MORNING ...

LENA, THE FORCE FIELD ALARM WENT OFF LAST NIGHT.

OH NO! WHAT WAS IT?

I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S NOTHING THERE NOW. NO TRACKS, EITHER.



EVERYONE SLEEP WELL?

LIKE A ROCK!

I HAD NIGHTMARES ABOUT *GIANT SCORPIONS*!

OH, DON'T WORRY—THE GIANT ONES WERE PREHISTORIC.



THAT AFTERNOON ...

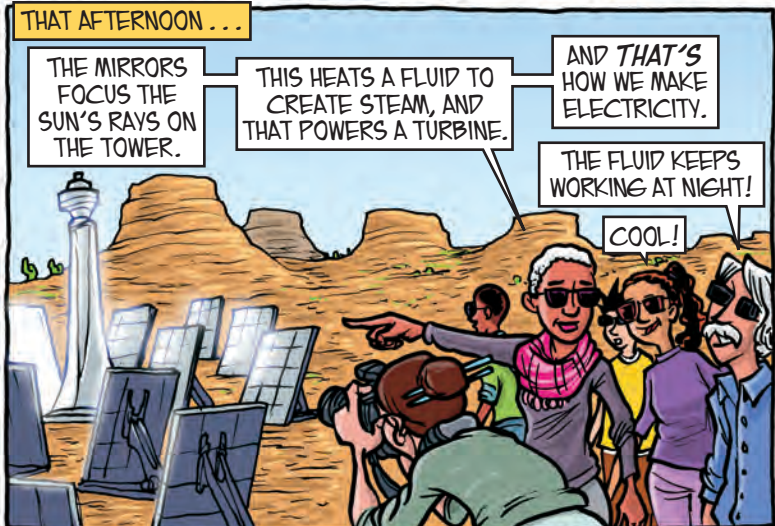
THE MIRRORS FOCUS THE SUN'S RAYS ON THE TOWER.

THIS HEATS A FLUID TO CREATE STEAM, AND THAT POWERS A TURBINE.

AND *THAT'S* HOW WE MAKE ELECTRICITY.

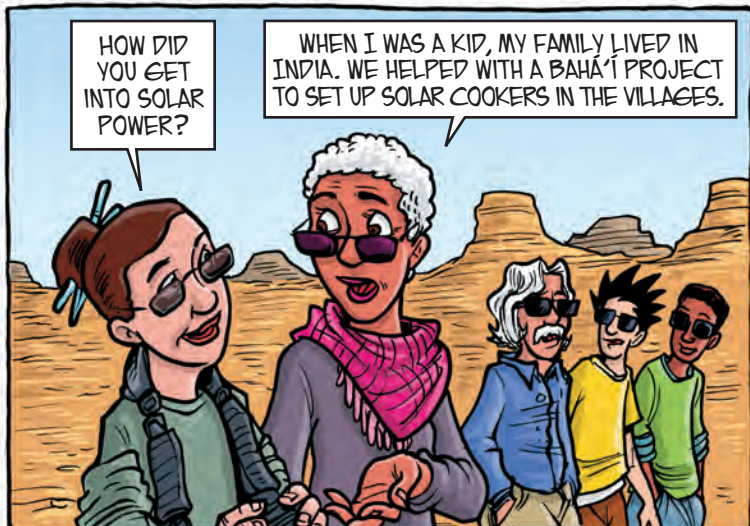
THE FLUID KEEPS WORKING AT NIGHT!

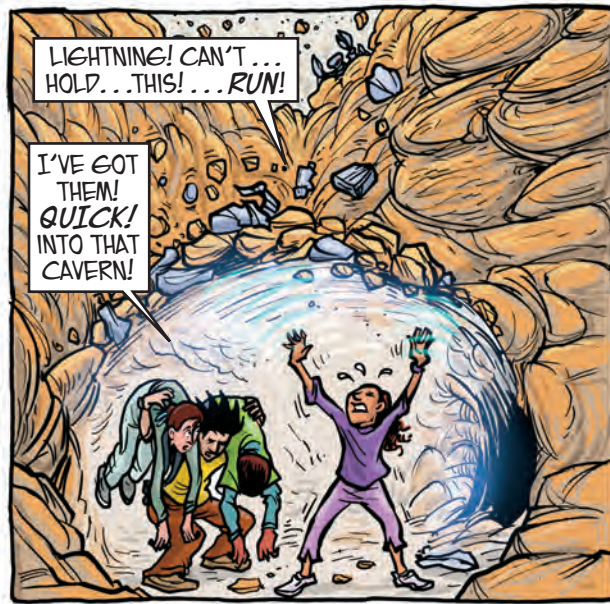
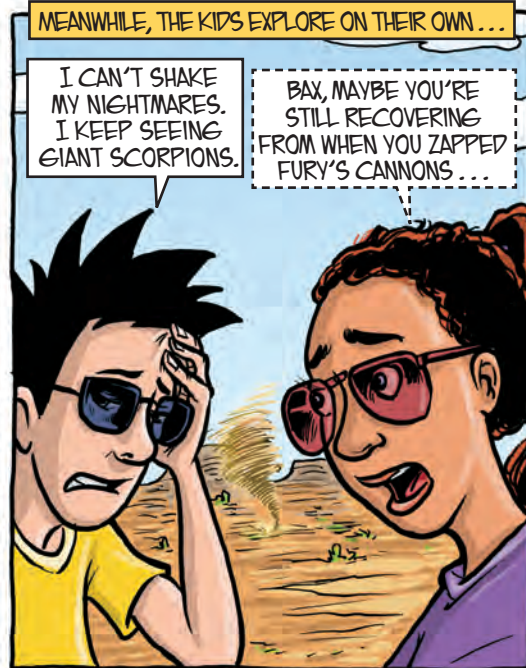
COOL!

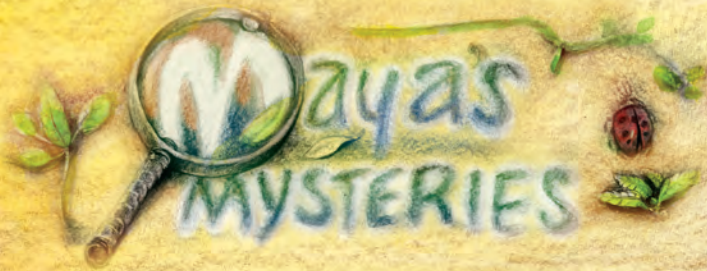


HOW DID YOU GET INTO SOLAR POWER?

WHEN I WAS A KID, MY FAMILY LIVED IN INDIA. WE HELPED WITH A BAHÁ'Í PROJECT TO SET UP SOLAR COOKERS IN THE VILLAGES.







BUILD YOUR OWN
COOL LITTLE
HOVERCRAFT!



Gliding Through Life

What can speed over land, water, ice, or rocks—and float in the air? The amazing hovercraft! This vehicle glides above Earth's surface on a cushion of air created by fans. It navigates difficult terrain for rescues, research, the military, or just for fun.

Like air that keeps a hovercraft afloat, you have tools to help you rise above problems, including

gratitude and patience. When you focus on blessings, you're better able to handle stress or anxiety.

It's not always easy to feel grateful. You may get upset about a fight with a friend or a bad grade. But after you take steps to solve a problem, focus on the positive. Pay attention to what lifts your spirit, and glide over rough terrain in your life.

Hovercraft Happiness

You'll Need: Clear packing tape • old CD • pushpin • mounting putty • pop-top cap from a plastic bottle • round balloon • permanent marker • large smooth surface

1. Tape over bottom side of CD hole, pressing tape flat. With pushpin, punch six evenly spaced holes in tape. Wiggle pin slightly to widen holes.



2. Roll putty into ½" thick ring shape that can fit snugly around bottom of cap.



3. Turn CD right side up. Fit cap inside putty ring and place in center of CD. Press putty to firmly secure cap to CD, making an airtight seal. Write activities you enjoy on surface of CD.



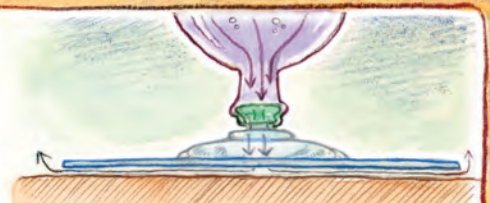
4. Blow up balloon. Completely cover closed cap with balloon opening. Put hovercraft on smooth surface and give it a push. What happens?

Open cap, stand balloon straight up, and push. What happens now?



How it Works

When two objects rub against each other, they create friction, which slows them down. When you open the cap of your hovercraft, air from the balloon flows down and under the CD. That reduces friction by creating a cushion of air which lifts the hovercraft slightly above the surface, so it no longer rubs and it glides smoothly.



BEING CYBER-SMART

Zap! On the Internet, things can spread like lightning. A school counselor wanted to prove that to her students. She posted a photo of herself, noting her goal, and asked people to “like” it. It was shared so widely that over five million people had liked it in a couple of weeks!

It’s fun to learn and connect with others online. But before you click, **THINK**: Is it **True**? Is it **Helpful**, not hurtful? Does it **Inspire** others? Are you being **Noble**? Is it **Kind**? If the answer is yes, you’re on the path to positive posting.

The Internet is gigantic, and it’s easy to get lost. It can absorb your attention so much that you ignore others and forget to do important stuff. But with wisdom and courtesy, you can safely find your way!

YIKES! THESE KIDS ARE TRAPPED IN THE INTERNET. TO HELP THEM ESCAPE, COMPLETE THE TIPS.



- 1 IF YOU’RE BU _ _ I _ D ONLINE, DON’T GET INTO A FIGHT. TELL YOUR PARENTS OR TEACHER.
- 2 KEEP _ _ SSWO _ DS PRIVATE, AND CHANGE THEM OCCASIONALLY.
- 3 GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR S _ _ EE _ NAME. DON’T USE YOUR FULL NAME.

- 4 DON’T F _ R _ AR _ PEOPLE’S E-MAILS WITHOUT PERMISSION.
- 5 ASK YOUR PARENTS BEFORE GIVING OUT YOUR _ ER _ O _ AL INFO.
- 6 _ IMI _ YOUR SCREEN TIME, AND CONNECT WITH FRIENDS IN PERSON.

- 7 GOT A PHOTO TO SHARE? C _ EC _ WITH YOUR PARENTS AND THE PEOPLE IN THE PHOTO.
- 8 DELETE _ I _ ES FROM STRANGERS. THEY COULD BE COMPUTER VIRUSES.
- 9 NEVER MEET PEOPLE YOU ONLY KNOW O _ LIN _ WITHOUT YOUR PARENTS’ INVOLVEMENT.
- 10 KEEP YOUR C _ _ L, AND DON’T POST OR E-MAIL WHEN YOU’RE MAD.

Shabnam Mogharabi



From her youth, Shabnam Mogharabi longed to change the world by telling stories. Today, her work sparks curiosity, creativity, and spirituality in millions of people. She's CEO/Executive Producer at SoulPancake, a media company encouraging people to "talk about stuff that matters." It asks questions like, "What did you do to be awesome today?" Shabnam says, "SoulPancake has taught me to be more joyful . . . there's so much beauty and amazingness in the world . . ." Since 2009, she's helped to coordinate fun, inspiring content like the "Kid President" videos, which attracted President Obama.

Shabnam studied journalism at Northwestern University in Illinois, U.S. She discovered her power for change by writing award-winning stories about high rates of drowning among minority kids. Her stories inspired a *New York Times* article, a movie, and a Red Cross swimming program.

Shabnam lives in California and loves dancing, camping, and sailing.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: I've got five younger [siblings and cousins] . . . I was oftentimes left in charge . . . My favorite childhood memories are of that—hanging out with [them] during the summer, trying to come up with games and plays and making up stories and playing hide and seek, and just the six of us all being together . . .

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

A: In elementary school, I got called so many things because my name was hard to say . . . It almost immediately made me feel like I was an outsider . . . I learned to kind of tease kids back and just roll with it, almost.



Left: Shabnam, age 9, loved being with her sisters. **Right:** Shabnam (third from left) celebrates with her parents, Fardad and Victoria, and her sisters (from left) Shawya, Nahel, and Neilou.

Q: You said you were nerdy as a kid. What advice do you have for kids who feel that way?

A: I think nerdiness [has] actually become cool . . . Being nerdy means that you're a little bit different, and it makes you a little bit special. And being smart is okay. And being creative is okay. And being artistic is okay . . . It means that [you've] got something that other kids don't.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for how siblings can resolve conflicts?

A: Growing up, you know, we definitely had our share of sibling rivalry . . . Your siblings are your first best friends . . . What we've had to learn as we got older is that we're on the same team . . . You have to form a friendship with your sibling . . . to find the things that are worth loving . . .



Left: On a set in California, Shabnam talks about the day's filming with the cast and crew.

Right: The SoulPancake team creates shows for Oprah Winfrey's TV network. Left to right are Shabnam, Rainn Wilson, Oprah Winfrey, Golriz Lucina Gundry, Devon Gundry.

Q: What is SoulPancake, and how did it begin?

A: SoulPancake is a company that makes stuff . . . that matters . . . There are all these things that we think about but don't necessarily talk about, like, *Why am I here? What's my purpose? What do I hope happens after I die? What is love?* . . . Rainn Wilson, who is the actor from *The Office* . . . started this company to get people talking and having meaningful conversations. So we started with a website, and then . . . a book . . . About three years ago, we . . . [started making] videos for the web and for television . . .

Q: What's your advice for kids who are interested in a career in journalism or writing?

A: Actually try it out and see if you love doing it . . . Watch newscasts and read newspapers and look at magazines and, you know, read every article in *Brilliant Star*, because that's how you're going to learn to be a better journalist.

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

A: I was really . . . really lucky because my parents [said] . . . find what you love . . . because at the end of the day, it's more important to be happy than to get a big paycheck or have some prestigious title . . . That was the best advice they gave me.

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

A: SoulPancake was . . . based on a Bahá'í principle . . . the independent investigation of the truth . . . Rainn wanted to make a place where it was safe for people to ask questions, and it wasn't about the right answer or the wrong answer . . . And whatever path that leads you on is awesome, because . . . any path towards spirituality in any way is an important one.

Q: Tell us about "Kid President."

A: A little kid in Tennessee and his brother-in-law . . . made [a video in front of a cardboard Oval Office], and the whole message . . . was, if it doesn't make the world more awesome, don't do it . . . [We] loved [his] energy . . . So they came on board as a SoulPancake partner . . . One of his videos, the pep talk, went viral, and it got millions of views . . . We got an e-mail . . . saying . . . President Obama wants to collaborate with "Kid President" . . . We were just blown away that that actually happened.

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

A: My wish would be for every . . . kid to learn that you are your own best friend . . . You have to learn to do the things that make you happy and that fulfill your heart, and it doesn't matter what other people think about . . . the things that you find joyful and inspiring . . . It's really important to have that . . . self-worth and to see that . . . you are the person that's going to take care of yourself.



MUSIC CAFÉ

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

TODAY AT SCHOOL, I SAW TWO HEROES! ONE GOT HELP FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS BEING BULLIED.

THE OTHER MADE FRIENDS WITH A NEW KID AT LUNCH WHO WAS SITTING BY HIMSELF. THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO BE A HERO. I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW . . .

THE HERO IN YOU by Ellis Paul

1. Ev'-ry-bod-y's got a sto-ry of all their trou-bles, all their glo-ries Tell me yours, you can-not bore me

4 I love to lis-ten to you All your bumps and all your scratch-es, all your holes and all your patch-es It's

7 you! It's true! You have no match-es There's a he-ro in you You can make the he-ro you are With your

11 brains, your aim, and your bat-tle scars. 2. 3. E Chorus Ev'-ry-bod-y's got a sto-ry of

14 all their trou-bles, all their glo-ries Tell me yours, you can-not bore me There's a he-ro in you

2. Everybody's got a tale
Of how they chased a great white whale
Some succeeded, some just failed
Trying's what you gotta do
Cause in the trying, you feel you're flying
The whole wide world's beneath you lying
It's you! It's true! There's no denying
There's a hero in you

3. So use your brain and do some thinking
You could be the next Abe Lincoln
Use your muscle, try to hustle
You could be Muhammad Ali
Use your toes and dance on pumpkins
You could be Isadora Duncan
It's you! It's true! I hope it's sunk in
There's a hero in you

BRIDGE

BRIDGE

CHORUS

CHORUS

Adventures AHoy!

What's the most exciting, exotic place you can think of? Now imagine zooming around it—in a vehicle *you* designed. What does your craft look like? Does it dive deep into the ocean? Reach thrilling speeds in air?

Life is an adventure, with new places to see, people to meet, and skills to gain. Think of your strengths as a magical ship, carrying you anywhere your dreams may lead. Your goals are a map to help you reach different destinations. When you choose

specific goals that you're really passionate about, it's more fun to navigate your route.

So, where do you want to go? Which skills and virtues will help you get there? Don't limit yourself to what you see every day. Look to the stars and aim high.

Brilliant Star's virtual ship—the Mystic Explorer*—traverses land, sea, air, and outer space to help kids explore physical and spiritual worlds. Envision your own adventure craft, and chart your course for thrilling new horizons.

Design a vehicle for your life's adventures. Does it fly, sail, zip over land, or launch into space? All of the above? Give it a fun name and express your goals, virtues, and interests. Then grab the captain's chair and take off!



MAGIC of LIFE

Have you ever wished you had magical powers? In books and movies, wizards cast spells and make potions to do the impossible—zip through time, make objects come to life, or turn an ordinary room into a palace of wonders. Even if you can't wave a wand to make your wishes come true, you can savor the magic all around you.

Imagine how you feel when you stare at a starry night sky, when warm grass tickles your toes, or when you laugh with your friends. Lots of life's moments are magical when you're mindful of them. Just as a wizard has to concentrate to make a spell work, you have to be aware of the marvels around you to appreciate them.

You don't need a wand or special potion to look for the beauty, joy, and wonder in our world. Just keep your eyes open—you'll know true magic when you see it.

1 REDOWN
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7 REEAPPTCIA
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8 MOHUR
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UNSCRAMBLE WORDS
THAT HELP YOU FIND
THE MAGIC IN
YOUR WORLD.

WHAT DO YOU CALL A WIZARD
FROM OUTER SPACE?
A FLYING SORCERER!

Unity in Diversity

PHOTO CONTEST



Do you love taking pictures? Take a shot at **Brilliant Star's** fun photo contest! How would you capture "Unity in Diversity?" Friends from many cultures playing music together? A deep-sea view of dolphins swimming with other ocean creatures? A garden blooming with a rainbow of plants and flowers in all shapes and sizes? When different people, creatures, or things exist together in peace, that's unity in diversity—and it's awesome! Explore the wonders of life. Capture examples of unity in diversity that inspire you. Then share your best photos with us!



Here's What You Do

1. Use a camera that has at least three megapixels. Use the highest resolution setting possible. Submit up to three of your best pictures.
2. In 125 words or less, tell us about each photo: when you took it and how it shows unity in diversity.
3. **ENTRIES ARE DUE BY JUNE 25, 2014.** Send your description and photos as high resolution digital images or as original photographic prints (no photocopies). Include your name, age, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Entries can be sent:
 - By e-mail to brilliant@usbnc.org
 - At www.brilliantstarmagazine.org. Click the "Play" tab, and choose "Gallery." Click "Submit Your Art" and complete the form. Choose the photo contest gallery. (We'll only post your first name, last initial, and age online.)
 - By mail to **Brilliant Star**, Unity in Diversity Photo Contest, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201

A Few Rules

1. Photos must be original work done by kids ages 7–15.
2. If you're in the running for a prize, we'll send you 1) a permission form for you and your parent/guardian to sign, and 2) a request for a close-up photo of your smiling face.
3. Winning entries may be published in **Brilliant Star** magazine or on our website. Your written work may be edited for length. Questions? Contact us at 847.853.2354 or at brilliant@usbnc.org.

The Prizes



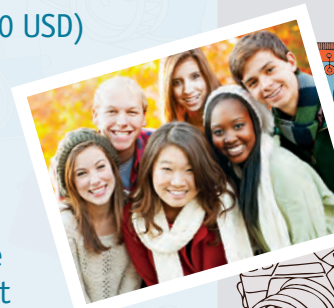
Compact digital point & shoot camera (valued at about \$125-\$150 USD)



Brilliant Star's Super Cosmic Creativity Kit



Brilliant Star's Incredible Intergalactic Creativity Kit



For photo tips, go to: www.brilliantstarmagazine.org/uploads/play/pdf-play/Photo_TIPS.pdf



JOSIE THE DETECTIVE'S BLOG

[HOME](#)[ARCHIVES](#)

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 5:35 p.m.

I had a blast doing my tae kwon do demo in gym today. It felt amazing! Ms. Jackson says my footwork is strong, and I should try out for soccer. I love soccer. What a great idea!

19 COMMENTS > MOST RECENT >

ready2rule: You're a joke, Josie. Stay off the soccer team, or you'll be sorry!

Josie: Whoa. Who are you, ready2rule? You just messing around to be funny?

Monday, Sept. 23, 9:20 p.m.

Been getting more h8ful messages from ready2rule. This person is for real. I told my parents and blocked whoever it is from my blog. It's a mystery. Time to open "The Case of the Baffling Bully." :(

38 COMMENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6:12 p.m.

Found a clue today. Ready2rule left a nasty note in my locker. So this bully goes to my school for sure. I told Mom, Dad, Ms. Jackson, and the principal. Eric and Aziz are going to start walking to school with Frieda and me. I don't want to be a whiner, but you gotta ask for help when bullies are after you. Bullying must stop!

Who is r2r and what's her (or his) deal with me? I felt pretty down about it. But after school, I said some prayers by the lake. Feeling calmer now.



This is the note I got from the bully. I have no clue who it is. Why does this person hate me? What did I do?



Lake Lucien is awesome, and I love going there with Eric, Frieda, and Aziz. It's sooo peaceful, with a cool waterfall and bridges.

55 COMMENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6:45 p.m.

Aziz is dying to find the bully. He's from Jordan and his dad is Muslim, and he got bullied about that. He wanted to fight back, but not physically. It's like in tae kwon do. You can be strong enough to *avoid* a fight.

Whoever r2r is must be unhappy—and *really* not want me on the soccer team. By the way, any of my tae kwon do peeps seen my belt at the studio? Can't find it.

62 COMMENTS

Thursday, Sept. 26, 3:33 p.m.

Get this! On my way to class, someone stuck out a foot and tripped me. On purpose! I almost wiped out. By the time I caught myself and turned around, I couldn't see who it was. Bet it was the bully. And I got a glimpse of the shoes—lime green, orange, and blue. Clue #2!

79 COMMENTS

Thursday, Sept. 26, 9:10 p.m.

Unbelievable! At soccer tryouts today, I got pushed hard against the wall! It was ready2rule! I know because she called me the same names from the note I got on Tuesday. "I *told* you to *stay away*," she snarled. Got to be r2r, right? Plus, I recognized her shoes. Before I could escape, Frieda ran over with Ms. Jackson. The bully's identity is solved! Still a mystery: Why does she hate me so much?

Also, still can't find my tae kwon do belt. Sheesh. More later.

95 COMMENTS > MOST RECENT >

Frieda: I'm so sorry that happened to you, Josie. It was *really* awful.

Josie: I'm so glad you were there, Frieda. Thanks for being a great friend.

> THE CASE OF THE BAFFLING BULLY

Friday, Sept. 27, 7:46 p.m.

So Ms. Jackson called our parents in. We all talked about what's been happening and why. Guess what? R2r said her older brother and sister bully *her* big time. Her parents were upset and said she should have spoken up sooner. They were mad about what she did to me, too. They weren't sure what to do next. Ms. Jackson gave them the name of a family counselor.

R2r is benched from playing soccer for now. To earn her spot back, she's gonna handle the team's equipment. They made us shake hands, but she glared at me. I'm still a little nervous.

80 COMMENTS

Monday, Sept. 30, 7:50 p.m.

Woohoo! I made the team! My new teammates are cool. While r2r moves our gear, I see her staring at me. Still.

52 COMMENTS

Friday, Oct. 4, 4:35 p.m.

This week flew by. The school paper, tae kwon do, and now soccer. Still looking for my tae kwon do belt. Been using my old green belt, but I miss my blue one!

23 COMMENTS

Monday, Oct. 7, 5:40 p.m.

I love writing for our school paper, *The Global Citizen*. My editor asked me to write an article about bullying and how to stop it. I'll have to think hard about this.

40 COMMENTS

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7:29 p.m.

After soccer practice today, it started raining. R2r was lugging a huge bag of soccer balls, and she dropped a bunch of water bottles in the mud. I don't know *what* came over me, but I ran over and picked them up. Then it *really* started pouring hard. We ran like crazy. Like a doofus, I fell flat on my face. I thought she was gonna laugh. But no! She helped me up, and we ran for cover.

The cool thing is, when we got to the locker room, r2r said, "Hey, I'm sorry about what I did to you. I lose my temper sometimes." I asked why she didn't like me. She said it was because I reminded her of her sister, who's the best at everything. I told r2r that her sister's *not* the best if she's a bully. I told her to come to tae kwon do club, because it helps me stay calm. She said maybe.

And get this. She reached into her locker and pulled out . . . my blue belt!



Another mystery solved!

109 COMMENTS

ABOUT ME



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

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

MY FAVORITE THINGS

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

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Abu'l-Qásim Faizi (c. 1906–1980): Noble Teacher

With much dread, Abu'l-Qásim Faizi walked to school every day. It was the early 1900s, and his one-room school in Qum, Iran, was an awful place. The harsh teachers whipped students on the soles of their feet as punishment.

Fortunately, Faizi—as he became known—had a happy home. Around his teens, his life changed when his family moved to Tihván. He went to Tarbíyat Bahá'í School, where the teachers inspired him, and he became a Bahá'í.

Faizi attended the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. He traveled to Haifa, Israel, several times to visit Shoghi Effendi, who led the Bahá'í Faith at the time. Shoghi Effendi welcomed Faizi like a brother. He urged Faizi to be different from others and not become attached to material things. Faizi loved those visits and once wrote, “I cannot tear myself away from here.”

Teaching with Love

Faizi earned his degree in education in 1933, and he hoped to teach at the Tarbíyat School. But due to religious prejudice, the Muslim government closed all of Iran's Bahá'í schools. Faizi got a high-paying job with an oil company, but he longed to be of greater service to humanity. He quit his job and moved to Najafábád, Iran, to teach about 400 Bahá'í children. He set up classes in homes and went from house to house, teaching students with encouragement and enthusiasm.

Faizi lived simply and spent his money on school supplies. He bought blank booklets, and in each one, he wrote a prayer in beautiful calligraphy.



“He was just like a fireplace, you could get nice and warm by the spirit of Faizi,” said Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm, the wife of Shoghi Effendi.

Bahá'ís were not allowed to publish Bahá'í books, so older students made handwritten copies. Faizi stayed in Najafábád for over four years, training kids and teachers. He said they were “years full of spiritual upliftment, discipline and benefit.” In 1939, he married Gloria ‘Alá'í, whom he had met in Beirut.

“Shining Example”

When Shoghi Effendi asked Bahá'ís to leave Iran to share the Bahá'í teachings, Faizi and Gloria moved to the small island nation of Bahrain. Faizi worked as a teacher. They were the only Bahá'ís for years, until more moved there. Faizi guided the community with loving kindness as it grew. In 1957, Shoghi Effendi honored him as a Hand of the Cause of God. In this role, Faizi encouraged Bahá'ís and helped to teach and protect the Bahá'í Faith.

When Shoghi Effendi passed away soon afterward, Faizi moved to Haifa to help guide the global Bahá'í community. He served as a Persian and English translator and wrote books and articles about the Faith, as well as novels. Gloria and their two children joined him later.

The Universal House of Justice—the governing body of the international Bahá'í community—was elected in 1963. Faizi traveled to dozens of countries at its request, giving talks and advising the Bahá'ís. He said, “Servitude is the only path of success we can ever tread . . . The path of servitude gives us a way to explore our own hearts and souls . . .”

On November 19, 1980, Faizi passed away in Haifa. The House of Justice praised his “SHINING EXAMPLE” and assured prayers for “HIS NOBLE RADIANT SOUL.”

1. 72



Try out your math powers on a friend. First, write "1,089" on a piece of paper, but don't let anyone see it.

-

GOOGLE "GOOGOL" AND SEE IT'S A REALLY BIG NUMBER: 1 + 100 ZEROS.

THERE'S ONLY ONE NUMBER SPELLED WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF LETTERS AS THE NUMBER ITSELF. WHICH ONE IS IT?

MULTIPLY ANY NUMBER BY ME, THEN ADD THE DIGITS IN THE RESULT. THEY ALL EQUAL 9! (IF YOU GET MORE THAN 9, ADD THOSE DIGITS, TOO.)

11 x 11 = 121 AND
111 x 111 = 12,321.
WHAT'S 1,111 x 1,111?



WHAT DID THE MATH BOOK SAY TO HIS BEST FRIENDS?

WHAT?

YOU GUYS ARE AWESOME FOR HELPING ME SOLVE MY PROBLEMS!

2. An important healthy habit for your journey through life. (p. 7)
4. Your real self is your _____. (p. 4)
6. Next time you're not sure what to do, use your creativity and _____. (p. 29)
7. Abu'l-Qásim Faizi said, "The _____ of servitude gives us a way to explore our own hearts and souls . . ." (p. 26)
8. In Farsi, Haft-seen means "_____ S." (p. 8)
9. When different people, creatures, or things exist together in peace, that's unity in _____. (p. 23)
12. After you take steps to solve a problem, focus on the _____. (p. 16)
14. Nelson _____ shared a Nobel Peace Prize for ending legal discrimination in his country. (p. 11)
15. With the power of _____, you can change the world. (p. 27)

ACROSS

1. Lots of life's moments are magical when you're _____ of them. (p. 22)
3. Josie says tracking this down is like a treasure hunt! (p. 25)
5. _____ strengths can help you face your fears, stay calm, and think positively. (p. 2)
10. Staying _____ and keeping a positive attitude helps you get more done and feel less stress. (p. 5)
11. The Arctic _____ makes the longest migration of any animal. (p. 11)
13. Being in a family is like being on a _____. (p. 9)
16. Amin would like to serve at the Bahá'í World Centre in _____, Israel. (p. 13)
17. On the Internet, before you click, _____. (p. 17)
18. From her youth, Shabnam Mogharabi longed to _____ the world by telling stories. (p. 18)
19. Amahn and Carmel admire this virtue. (pp. 12-13)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



"[Brilliant Star] helps me, as it relaxes me, especially the idea it gave once about having an attitude of gratitude. It often helps me calm myself down! . . . I like the comics, [and I] always learn more about the environment. I would also like to learn more about Bahá'is around the world."

—Kevin A., age 9, Virginia, U.S.

ANSWERS

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

Page 2: Camera at CR, carabiner at BL, chalk bag at CR, first aid kit at TR, knot guide at TC, lantern at TR, radio at BR, pulley at CL, water bottle at TL

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

Page 7: 1) faith, 2) integrity, 3) learning, 4) setting goals, 5) being positive, 6) resilience, 7) humor, 8) physical fitness, 9) nutrition, 10) time management, 11) handling stress, 12) managing money, 13) organization, 14) citizenship, 15) justice, 16) leadership, 17) service, 18) sharing, 19) communication, 20) teamwork

Page 10: Violent V. – Peaceful P.; Ol' Grumpy G. – Cheerful C.; Flunking F. – Studious S.; Lazy L. – Diligent D.; Unfit E. – Healthy H.; Messy M. – Orderly O.; Fatigued F. – Rested R.; Stressed-Out S. – Calming K.; Distracted D. – Focused F.

Page 11: South Africa, Giant Pacific Octopus

Page 17: 1) bullied, 2) passwords, 3) screen, 4) forward, 5) personal, 6) Limit, 7) Check, 8) files, 9) online, 10) cool

Page 22: 1) wonder, 2) contentment, 3) friendship, 4) wisdom, 5) mindfulness, 6) gratitude, 7) appreciate, 8) humor

Page 27: #4=four, #11=1,234,321

ON A ROLL!

aMAZEing
ADVENTURE

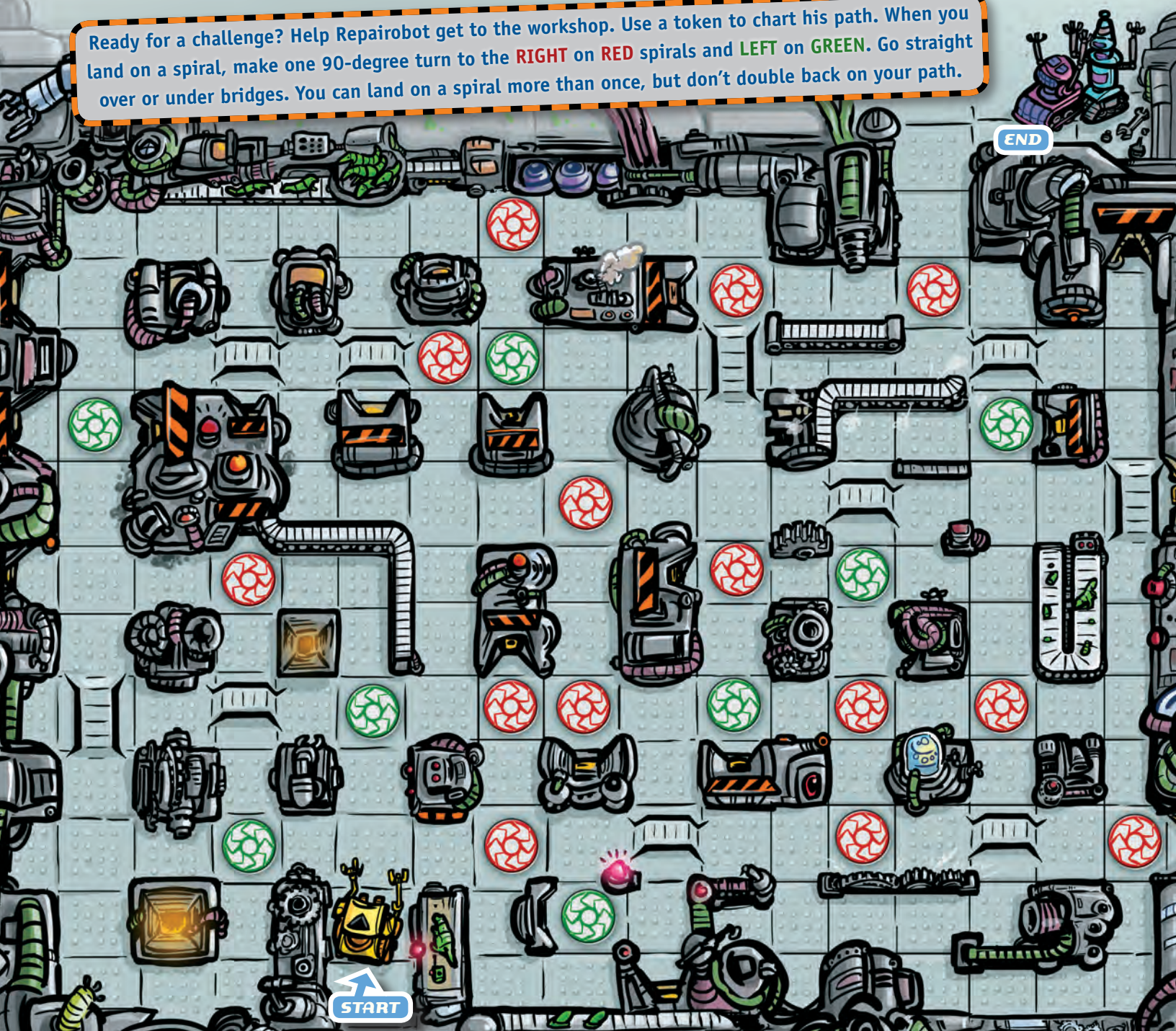
Robots help make cars, computers, toys, and much more. They're programmed to do specific tasks, such as drill, rotate, or stack. But what if something breaks or gets in the way? When a robot hits an obstacle, it's usually stuck.

Scientists are working on new robots that can adapt to challenges—like humans do. We have amazing brains that face problems and figure out solutions. Maybe you're

challenged by tough homework, trouble with bullies, or a need to raise money. You can dream up ideas, brainstorm with family and friends, or do research online. You can break big projects into small steps. And it helps to say prayers for assistance.

Next time you're not sure what to do, use your human tools of creativity and flexibility to help you decide which way to turn.

Ready for a challenge? Help Repairobot get to the workshop. Use a token to chart his path. When you land on a spiral, make one 90-degree turn to the **RIGHT** on **RED** spirals and **LEFT** on **GREEN**. Go straight over or under bridges. You can land on a spiral more than once, but don't double back on your path.





*"Make ye a mighty
effort, and choose
for yourselves a noble goal."
— 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

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