

# Brilliant Star

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

JULY/AUGUST 2009



## Changing the World

# Brilliant Star

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

The Bahá'í Faith was founded by the Prophet **Bahá'u'lláh** ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and that all religions come from one God. Bahá'ís work to bring peace and unity to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

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

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

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# CHANGING THE WORLD JULY/AUGUST 2009

Produced in observance of  
UN Decade of Education  
for Sustainable Development\*



## SPECIAL FEATURES



## DEAR FRIENDS,

“Strive ye with all your hearts, raise up your voices and shout, until this dark world be filled with light . . .”

The Bahá'í writings call on us to take action and help bring justice and peace to our troubled world. It may seem like an impossible dream to end wars, poverty, and pollution. Or to make sure that everyone is treated fairly, regardless of gender, religion, or background. But the Bahá'í Faith provides a vision of a united world. We can all do our part to create that future by using our strengths and talents.

In this issue of **Brilliant Star**, we invite you to define your role in creating a better world. Take a quiz about tools you need for change. Meet Dr. Joy Angela DeGruy, who writes and speaks about race unity. Explore a potion for peace, and draw three wishes you'd ask for if you met a magical genie.

Changing the world starts with your own heart and mind. When you have a vision, you inspire yourself and others. So put your ideas into action, and shine your light on the world!



With love from **Brilliant Star**



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# Ready for Take-off



“For man two wings are necessary. One wing is physical power and material civilization; the other is spiritual power . . . With one wing only, flight is impossible. Two wings are essential.” –‘Abdu’l-Bahá

**A**n airplane speeds along the runway. Air pressure builds under the wings, creating lift, an upward force. When the lift is strong enough, the airplane glides into the sky. Then the wings have to be carefully balanced to steer the plane through the air.

People are kind of like airplanes. To soar through our lives, we have to keep our “wings” in balance. One wing is the material world, and the other is the spiritual world.

The material world is all the physical stuff we need to live—such as our bodies, food, clothing, shelter, and money. These things are essential, but focusing too much on material things can make us neglect our spirits—and we get out of balance. Our spirits are our true selves—the part of us that lives forever. We can nurture our spirits by praying and practicing virtues. When we balance our spiritual and material needs, we can uplift ourselves and our community, and fly to new heights.

These friends are preparing model airplanes for flight. Find nine tools they can use to keep their lives in balance.



# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Blueprint for the Future

"Young people . . . will be the ones to help build up a new, better and more beautiful world . . ." — Bahá'í Writings

To construct a building, an architect produces drawings to show how it should be built. Similarly, to help us build a better world, God's Messengers—like Jesus, Muhammad, and Bahá'u'lláh—give us their teachings. Bahá'u'lláh wrote that He came "to build anew the whole world." His teachings are like a blueprint that shows us a design for a peaceful future.

world as it is now—with wars, inequality, and injustice. He explains that His teachings will lead us to a future of global unity. There are more than five million Bahá'ís around the world who believe in Bahá'u'lláh's teachings. Many other faiths, cultures, and groups, such as the United Nations, also promote similar principles of justice. What are these truths that will help us build a happier future? Discover them below.

In His writings, Bahá'u'lláh describes the

Use the key to decipher some of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings for building a peaceful planet.

World \_\_\_\_\_ must be established.



Women and men are \_\_\_\_\_.



People of all religions can live in \_\_\_\_\_.



All people are part of one human \_\_\_\_\_.



All people deserve to be \_\_\_\_\_.



Extreme poverty and \_\_\_\_\_ must end.



All people must seek the \_\_\_\_\_ for themselves.



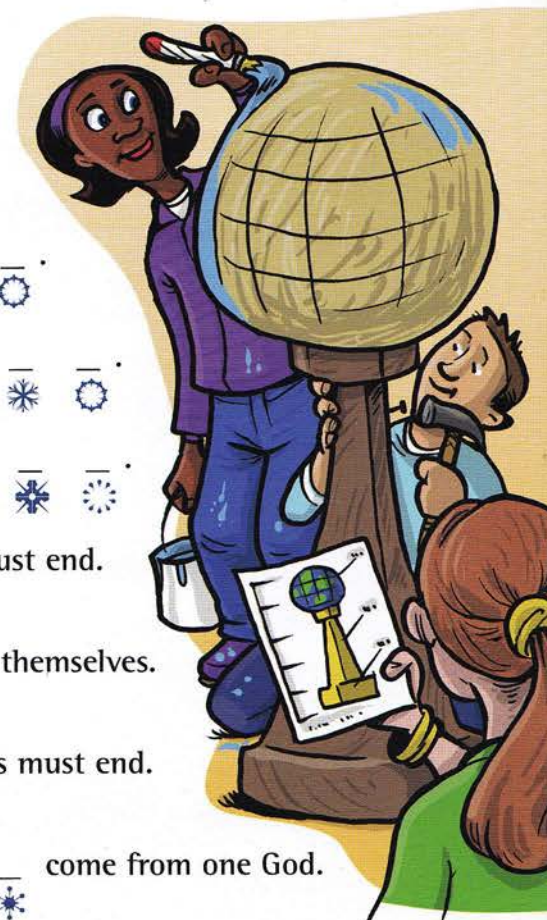
\_\_\_\_\_ of all kinds must end.



The world's \_\_\_\_\_ come from one God.



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



## A Brief Timeline

### The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

**1817 November 12**

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

**1844**

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

**1852**

Imprisonment in the Black Pit of Tíhrán

**1853–1863**

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. In 1854, He retreats into the mountains for prayer in solitude.

**1863 April 22**

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

**1863–1868**

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

**1868**

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

**1877**

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


**1892 May 29**

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

# RILEY'S RAINFOREST

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

## Feeding the World



About 963 million people live in hunger around the world—that's more than triple the entire U.S. population! Most of the hungry are in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where poverty, war, drought, and other problems make food scarce. But people also go hungry in developed nations, such as the U.S. and Canada. It's truly a global problem.

Hunger doesn't always mean people are starving. Even if they eat some food, millions suffer from **malnutrition**—lack of enough vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients. They may eat mostly one food, like rice or potatoes. To grow healthy bodies and minds, we all need a balance of important nutrients. Four in particular—iodine, iron, vitamin A, and zinc—are often lacking in developing countries. Disease, blindness, brain damage, and poor physical growth are just a few challenges that can result.



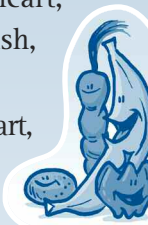
People who have lots of food choices are also at risk for malnutrition. Foods high in vitamins and minerals, such as fresh fruits and vegetables and whole grains, are good choices. Processed foods, such as canned goods and packaged snacks, are often high in unhealthy fat, sugar, and artificial ingredients. They might fill you up, but they don't help your body.

How can you help stop hunger? Brainstorm with your family and friends. You could donate to a food bank or raise money for a group that fights hunger worldwide. By getting involved, you can help feed the world.

## Explore and Soar Nutrients You Need

There are dozens of health-building nutrients. Here are some, with a few of their benefits:

- ☐ **Calcium:** Strengthens bones, teeth. In dairy and leafy green veggies, like spinach.
- ☐ **Fiber:** For digestion. In whole grains, fresh fruits, and veggies.
- ☐ **Iodine:** Helps brain development. In fish, eggs.
- ☐ **Iron:** Carries oxygen to muscles, boosts energy. In red meat, seafood, beans.
- ☐ **Magnesium:** Helps heart, muscles, bones. In fish, beans, whole grains.
- ☐ **Potassium:** Helps heart, muscles. In yogurt, potatoes, bananas.
- ☐ **Vitamin A:** For healthy eyes. In carrots, spinach, bell peppers.
- ☐ **Zinc:** Develops immune system. In beef, beans.



## Fruit for Thought

"Every human being has the right to live . . . Nobody should die of hunger . . . One man should not live in excess while another has no possible means of existence."

—'Abdu'l-Bahá



## Curiosity Canopy

Did you know that half the world's population depends on rice as a basic food? Unfortunately, rice crops suffer from flooding. Scientists at the University of California, Davis have created a new kind of rice that can resist flooding for 17 days—that's 2 weeks longer than normal rice. That discovery may help feed millions.





# MOVERS AND SHAPERS OF THE PLANET

**E**very day, we all do small acts of service—from opening a door for a friend to helping with chores at home. Sometimes, we get inspired to make a difference in bigger or more creative ways. Here are stories of kids who did just that. They took the initiative and carried out service projects they enjoy and believe in. They reached out to others with enthusiasm and kindness. Enjoy their stories and find out what happened next.



## TEACHING WITH LOVE

**LUCY W.**

Age 14, Vanuatu

**I**n the island nation of Vanuatu in the South Pacific, Lucy teaches Bahá'í children's classes almost every day. Some classes have up to 25 students, with kids ages 4 to 12.

Lucy says, "I used to go to the children's classes and wish I was old enough to do one myself."



She started by helping her teachers, then she launched her own class. "Once I started doing one, it gave me such a wonderful feeling that I wanted to do more classes, and then more!!!"

Lucy loves Vanuatu, where she's lived since she was a baby. She teaches in the Bislama language, using songs, prayers, stories, and games. She says, "I myself am more spiritually uplifted . . . I enjoy the energy the children share and how their faces shine when they hear about Bahá'u'lláh and learn their quotes."

## LIFTING SPIRITS WITH MUSIC

**SAMEEN M.**

Age 14, Oregon, U.S.

**S**ameen has a simple goal: "To be of service to the world of humanity and to hopefully inspire others to serve." He's pitched in with street clean-up projects, building homes for the homeless, food and clothing drives, and tutoring younger kids. Sameen especially likes to serve with music. In addition to the piano and snare drum, he plays traditional Persian drums called the *tombak* and the *daf*, and a Persian stringed instrument called a *santour*. At one conference, he played for 3000 people!

Sameen says, "I try to reach out to all age groups, faiths, and ethnicities . . . children in hospitals, senior citizens . . . people of faith, people without homes . . . or simply people whose spirits can be lifted with the sharing of my music." Sameen's service has earned him a gold President's Volunteer Service Award. Sameen says, "Every act of service can make the world better, no matter how small the scale . . . It feels really good inside when I can actually see my efforts make a positive change to help those in need."



“Undoubtedly, it **IS** within your power to contribute significantly to shaping the societies of the coming century; youth can move the world.”  
—Bahá’i Writings



## CARING FOR OUR PLANET

### HALLIE AND JOANNA C.

*Ages 14 and 13, Texas, U.S.*

**H**allie and Joanna are sisters who share a passion for the environment. Hallie says, “I’m very environmentally conscious, so I do as much to save the earth as possible.”

Together with six other kids, the sisters have planted 400 trees, helped their city find ways to save energy, and given talks about the environment to other kids—even to college students! They’ve planted gardens and shrubs to create 10 certified wildlife habitats. And they’ve made 25 monarch butterfly waystations with special plants that provide good nectar.\* Hallie and Joanna started doing service with their mother when they were younger. Joanna says, “It has always been a part of my life . . . I like helping other people.”

For the past three years, Hallie and Joanna received the gold President’s Volunteer Service Award, which honors kids who have done 100 or more hours of volunteer work in a year. “It’s really important to be of service,” says Hallie, “because God gave you so much, so you should give some back!”

## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

### ADIB AND MATEEN M.

*Ages 8 and 7, California, U.S.*

**A**dib and Mateen make the virtue of service a habit. With their family, the brothers traveled to Mexico in 2006 to help build houses for those in need. Last summer, they helped build a fence at a horse ranch for foster kids.

And every few months, Adib and Mateen join others to help hungry kids in Tanzania, Africa, by making 10,000 special packages of food (pictured at right).

Each package is developed by food scientists to give kids six nutritional meals.

Mateen says, “Sometimes we race to see who can fill more packages. When we fill more packages, more kids will not be hungry . . . We think the kids who get these packages become very happy.”

Along with their time and energy, the brothers have donated their own money to the project. Adib says, “We can help so many kids with this. We also want to go to Tanzania one day so we can give the food packages to the kids ourselves.”



Are you involved in a service project? Share your story with **Brilliant Star**.\*\*

\*\*E-mail us at [brilliant@usbnc.org](mailto:brilliant@usbnc.org)



# Make the Leap



**A** frog's transformation is one of nature's wonders. Most frogs start out as eggs that are laid underwater. In just a few weeks, they turn into tadpoles and grow legs and lungs. Tadpoles need a lot of energy to fuel their changing bodies, so they eat everything in sight. They also face the constant danger of *being* eaten by fish, birds, insects, and other animals.

The growth of a person may not be as dramatic

as a tadpole's, but it can be just as challenging. Like all creatures, we are constantly changing, both inside and out. Adjusting to change can take time, effort, and prayer. Sometimes you might want to give up. But if you keep at it, you'll develop the strengths you need, like a frog grows legs for leaping.

When you're open to change, you can make a positive impact on the world around you, and you'll be ready to leap into a better future.

**In this frog pond, each lily pad contains a word about change. Find the words and write them on the wooden post. Words can run clockwise or counterclockwise.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

A female lays thousands of **eggs**.      **Tadpoles** are born with gills.      The hind legs emerge first.      **Froglets** have front legs, lungs, and a tail.      **Adult frogs** can leap 20 times their body length.



# The Power of Comics

"Art can better awaken such noble sentiments than cold rationalizing, especially among the mass of the people." — Bahá'í Writings

**D**o you want to encourage people to save the earth? Or spread the word about a service project in your community? If you want to share something you're passionate about, comics are a dynamic art form that can come to the rescue.

Just like Lightning and Luna use their superpowers to help the planet, you can make an impact with the power of your creativity. Comics use a series of pictures, with or without words, to tell a story or

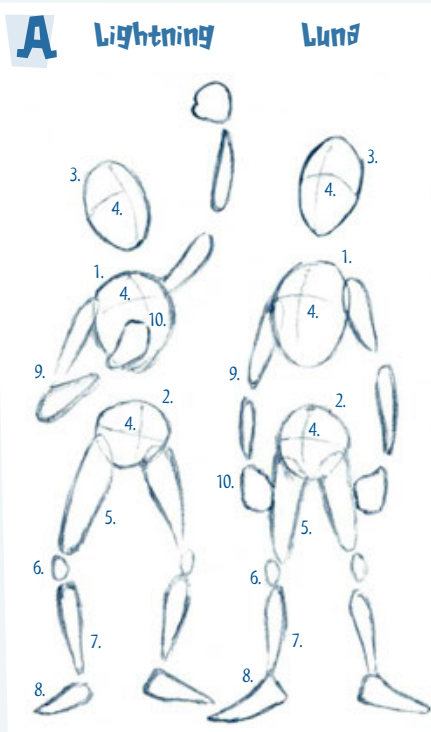
convey an idea. They can be funny or serious.

Start by creating your characters, and envision their personalities and strengths. Imagine your characters tackling a problem, and write a story about it. Then, turn your story into panels for your comic.\* With comics, the heroes in your imagination can achieve anything. And you can inspire others to use their own powers to make the world a better place.

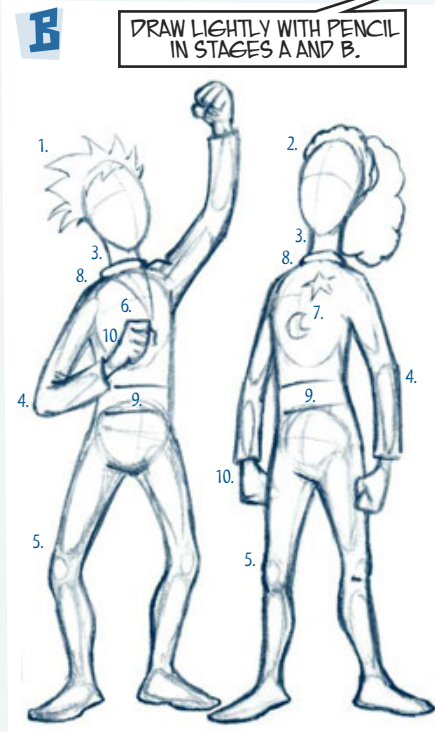
USE THESE STEPS TO CREATE MORE COOL CHARACTERS AND YOUR OWN COMICS!



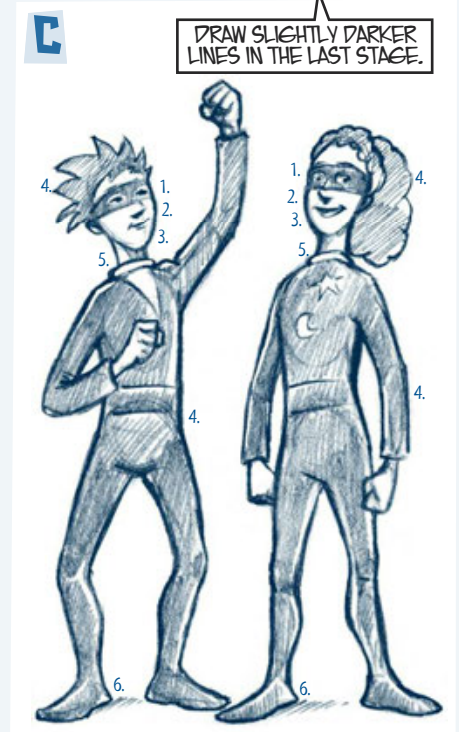
## Draw Your Own Lightning and Luna



1. Draw shapes to make each chest.
2. Draw circular shapes for each pelvis.
3. Draw upright ovals for heads.
4. Add crosshair guides to these six shapes.
5. Add rounded shapes for upper legs.
6. Make ovals for knee caps.
7. Draw rounded shapes for lower legs.
8. Draw feet.
9. Draw rounded shapes for arms.
10. Add rounded shapes for hands.



1. Add zigzag lines for Lightning's hair.
2. For Luna's hair, make wavy lines.
3. Draw neck lines.
4. Make outer lines of suit around body and arms.
5. Make outer lines of suit to form legs and feet.
6. Add "V" on Lightning's suit.
7. Draw star and moon shapes on Luna's suit.
8. Add collars at base of necks.
9. Add belt lines.
10. Add lines for fingers and wrists.



1. Draw two curved mask lines above and below guide line.
2. Add ovals for eye holes, and dots for eyes.
3. Draw noses, ears, mouths, and eyebrows.
4. Carefully shade suits, masks, and hair. Don't shade collars and shapes on suits.
5. Create shadow below each chin.
6. Create shadows on the ground.
7. With pens or markers, add darker outlines to create a more finished look.

\* For more tips on making a comic, see [www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Comic](http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Comic)

# Toolkit for Making a Difference

**Y**ou wouldn't try to hammer nails with a paintbrush, or cut lumber with a shovel. When you want to help others—whether you're building a house or having a bake sale—you need the right tools.

Some of the most important tools can't be found in an ordinary toolbox—they're part of you. Are you good at cooperating with a team?



Do you listen to other people's ideas and give everyone a chance to contribute? Are you aware of what's going on in your school and community? Those are all important skills for making a difference.

Changing the world can sometimes mean changing yourself, too. With tools like a positive attitude, teamwork, and enthusiasm, you can help build a better Earth.

## What's in Your Toolbox?

Circle the numbers that correspond to your answers, then add up your score.

- 1) I follow current world events by reading or watching the news.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never



- 2) I talk with family and friends about what's going on in the world.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

- 3) I like to learn about different people, cultures, and countries around the globe.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

- 4) I find ways to be of service to my family, school, or community.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

- 5) When I see prejudice or injustice, I try to speak up for fairness.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

- 6) When I run into a problem with a project, I stay positive and work patiently to solve it.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

- 7) When I say I'll do something, I follow through.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never



- 8) I like making friends with people who have interests and backgrounds that are different from mine.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

- 9) When I'm working in a group, I give others a chance to join in.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never



- 10) When I disagree with others, I listen carefully to their points of view and look for compromises.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

- 11) If I hear of a country that's new to me, I try to learn about it.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

- 12) When I don't understand something, I ask questions.  
3 = Always • 2 = Sometimes • 1 = Never

TOTAL SCORE:

## Check Your Score

**28–36:** Excellent! You have a toolbox full of constructive skills for helping the world. Keep working with these valuable tools.

**20–27:** Great! You have some important tools for making a difference. Check the quiz for ideas about what to add to your toolbox.

**12–19:** Good start! Your service can be even more helpful as you build new strengths. Try out some of the tools from the quiz.

# 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?

### Caiti M.

Age: 12

I live in: **Rhode Island, U.S.**

I want to be:  
**Teacher or shop owner**

Best quality or virtue:  
**Generosity and kindness**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Softball, reading, drawing comics, collecting Harry Potter things, and writing great stories**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Two youth groups**

Places I'd love to visit:  
**Japan and England**

I like to help people by:  
**Planting trees in desertish areas . . . and helping my friends**

If you could fix one of the world's problems, what would you choose?  
**Global warming by making everything earth-friendly . . . The earth needs us, and we need the earth!**

Why do you think youth are powerful?

**If [kids] are treated with respect, then they will treat others with respect. Then if that happens to everyone everywhere, the world would be a better place.**



### Arezou T.

Age: 13

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

I want to be:  
**Software developer**

Something I like about me:  
**My determination for finishing a task**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Playing/listening to music, reading the holy writings . . . learning about technology**

Favorite animal or pet:  
**Parakeets (especially the blue ones!)**

If you could fix one of the world's problems, what would you choose?

**Disunity, because it causes separation among people, and if we were unified, all of our problems would**

**be solved, and we could live in harmony.**

What is something you can do every day to make the world better?

**Recycle my papers and plastics, make compost using food leftovers, and grow plants . . .**

What inspires you to be of service?

**My junior youth group animator, my parents, and Bahá'u'lláh, because He made a difference [by] the great things He did for others\***

**community, and I try to go to every Feast.**

Favorite animal or pet:  
**Whale**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**The rainforests in Brazil and see Brazil's soccer team**

If you could fix one of the world's problems, what would you choose?

**I would . . . end . . . war and make peace in the world. I hate watching the news and seeing all the pain caused by wars and inequality.**

Why do you think youth are powerful?

**The[y] are the next generation, and they change the world. The youth in our community are awesome! We look up to them and they are good role models.**

### Omid R.

Age: 11

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

I want to be:  
**A professional soccer player or a doctor**

Something I like about me:  
**I am intelligent, I am very outgoing, and I have lots of friends.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**I'm the treasurer's assistant for our Bahá'í**



## Allen G.

Age: 12

I live in: **Belmopan, Belize**

I want to be:  
**Doctor**

Best quality or virtue:  
**Friendliness**

Something I like about me:  
**I'm funny.**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Mechanical things, like fixing my ATV\*\***

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

Favorite animal or pet:  
**Dog**

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

If you could fix one of the world's problems, what would you choose?  
**Stop wars . . . because so many people can die.**

Why do you think youth are powerful?  
**They are the future and will take over someday.**

What is something you can do every day to make the world better?  
**Recycle, grow trees, help people by running errands for them, such as watering their plants**

What inspires you to be of service?  
**[My family and friends] love me, and I want to help them back.**



**“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

## Kaavian S.

Age: 12

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

I want to be:  
**A doctor or a psychiatrist**

Best quality or virtue:  
**Being creative and happy**

Something I like about me:  
**I am confident most of the time . . . never give up, and . . . believe in justice.**

Hobbies or sports:  
**I do karate, and I love ping-pong.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Planted trees, donated toys to a children's hospital, and I've raised money for our Fund and the Temple in Chile.**

Favorite animal or pet:  
**Ravens and panthers, because they are both trouble-making, mysterious animals, and . . . my favorite color, black!**

Places I'd love to visit:  
**I love to visit scary places a lot . . . [and] Hawaii.**

If you could fix one of the world's problems, what would you choose?  
**Global warming, because a lot of people might be in a crisis . . .**

What inspires you to be of service?  
**I like helping my family and others, because I know how hard it is to be bullied or made fun of.**



## Emma S.

Age: 9

I live in: **Ontario, Canada**

I want to be:  
**An actress**

Best quality or virtue:  
**Cleanliness**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Soccer and swimming**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Children's classes**

Favorite animal or pet:  
**Guinea pig and cats**

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

I like to help people by:  
**Helping with the groceries and helping my friends with their schoolwork**

If you could fix one of the world's problems, what would you choose?

I would stop earthquakes and tornadoes, because they destroy property, housing, and take people's lives.

What is something you can do every day to make the world better?  
**I think it is important not to waste water, so every day I will use as little water as possible.**



## You can be a Radiant Star!

### Here's how:

1. If you're age 7–14, write us at [brilliant@usbnc.org](mailto:brilliant@usbnc.org) or Brilliant Star, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address.
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 forms, 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).

\*\* All-terrain vehicle



IN FANATICA FINN'S SECRET UNDERWATER LAIR ...

FANATICA, STOP!

WE CAN STOP THE UPLIFTERS WITH THE ORB OF GLOOM!

HA! YOU TRIED THAT AND FAILED, REMEMBER?\*



FANATICA, THE UPLIFTERS ARE HERE!

IT'S ABOUT TIME. I'M READY!



JUST ABOVE THE LAIR ...

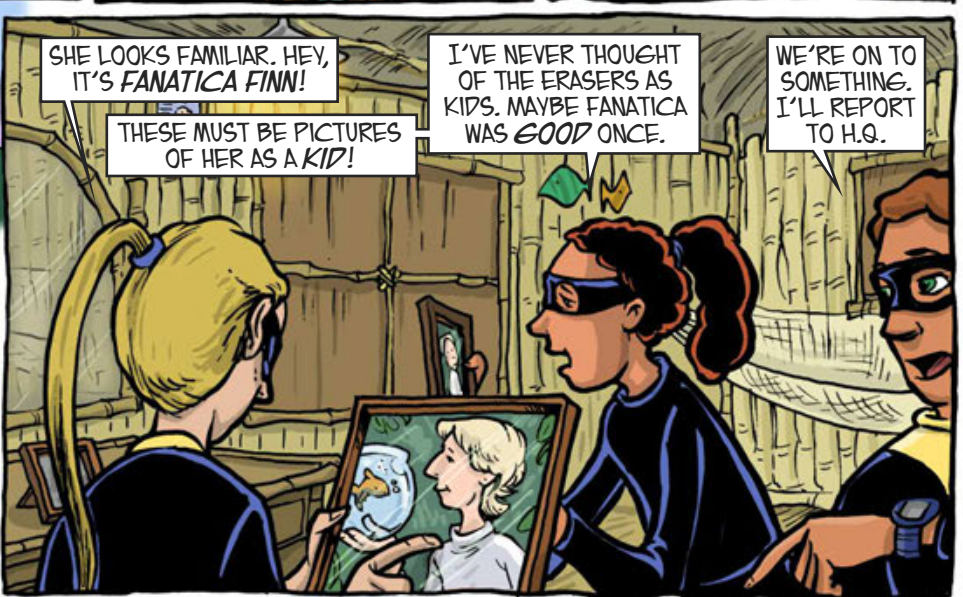
THIS ISLAND IS CREEPY.

THERE AREN'T ANY ANIMALS HERE.

LET'S CHECK OUT THAT HUT.



WHOEVER LIVES HERE LOVES SEA CREATURES.



SHE LOOKS FAMILIAR. HEY, IT'S FANATICA FINN!

THESE MUST BE PICTURES OF HER AS A KID!

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF THE ERASERS AS KIDS. MAYBE FANATICA WAS GOOD ONCE.

WE'RE ON TO SOMETHING. I'LL REPORT TO H.Q.



I WONDER WHAT WENT WRONG. DO YOU THINK THE ERASERS COULD EVER CHANGE THEIR WAYS?



H.Q. CLEARED US TO EXPLORE, AND TO CONTACT LIGHTNING.

I THINK HE'S GIVEN UP ON BEING AN UPLIFTER.

HE DIDN'T ANSWER HIS M.C., BUT I LEFT A MESSAGE.\*\*



LET'S LOOK FOR CLUES.

SIM, BUT WE HAVE TO BE FAST. H.Q. NEEDS US TO RESCUE MORE SHIPS.

WAIT, I'LL USE MY WIND POWER.



A TRAP DOOR!



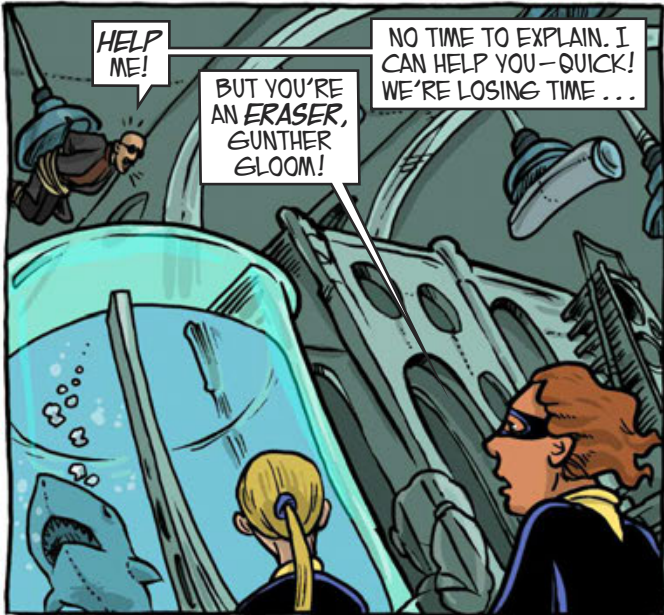
GOOD IDEA TO TURN INVISIBLE, LUNA. LET'S GO!

BACK IN FANATICA'S SECRET LAIR ...

WOW, IT'S THE ERASERS' ROBOT FACTORY!

THAT MUST BE THE POWER SOURCE.

LET'S SEE IF FANATICA IS HERE.



HELP ME!

BUT YOU'RE AN ERASER, GUNTHER GLOOM!

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN. I CAN HELP YOU—QUICK! WE'RE LOSING TIME ...



DON'T BREATHE! IT'S THE ORB OF GLOOM!

HA HA! YOU FOOLS!



HEY, WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MY SHARK TANK?



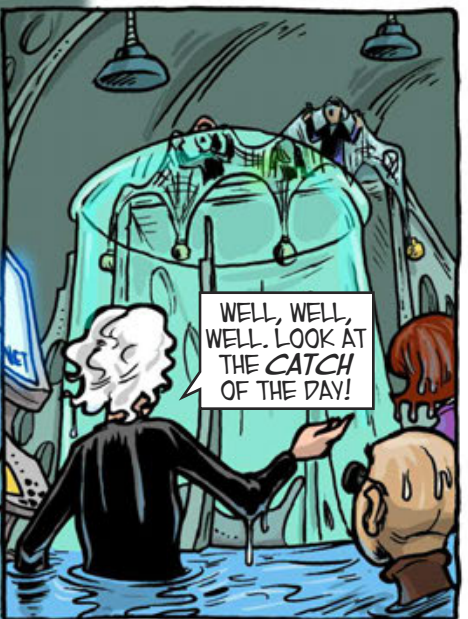
I FEEL SO SAD!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BLUEBIRD?

THE ORB'S GLOOM IS AFFECTING HER. I'LL WIPE OUT THESE ERASERS WITH WATER.



NET ACTIVATED!



WELL, WELL, WELL. LOOK AT THE CATCH OF THE DAY!

IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR THE UPLIFTERS?



## DR. JOY ANGELA DEGRUY

**A**s a child, Dr. Joy Angela DeGruy faced violence, poverty, and racism every day in her Los Angeles neighborhood. But in her teen years in the 1970s, she found a hopeful vision of the world. She learned about the Bahá'í Faith's message of peace from her brother, Oscar, who developed Bahá'í step dance performances for youth. Joy says, "I don't know what I would have done if there wasn't a Bahá'í Youth Workshop [dance group] . . . It gave us a way of expressing ourselves . . . [and getting] past a lot of the suffering . . . in our community." When she grew up, she dedicated her life to healing the world, and earned her doctorate degree in social work. Joy has helped abused kids, the poor, and the homeless. She wrote a book about racism, and she teaches students, organizations, and businesses about race unity and diversity. She says, "I want . . . everyone to know that every human being has the right to be treated with respect and dignity." Joy lives in Georgia, U.S., with her son, Nadim.

### Q. Who are your heroes?

My sister . . . and my older brother were my heroes . . . They were both very involved in the [Civil Rights and Black Power] Movement . . . All of the classics that my sister knew I would eventually have to read . . . *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and . . . all those books . . . about black history, they handed that off to me and fully expected me to understand it and know it.

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

I grew up in a neighborhood where people fought every day. Kids just beat you up. It was real. My challenge was to be able to rise in that environment and maintain some kind of sanity in healthy feelings about myself . . . Everyone knew how to fight, but the bottom line is, you didn't want to fight every day. One of the ways I avoided that was creating an ability to talk to people and talk them out of beating me up.

### Q. Slavery officially ended in the U.S. in 1865, yet racism and oppression are still around today.

#### Why do you think that is?

I don't think laws have ever been what cause change. Change occurs, I think . . . in the hearts and minds of people . . . [Discrimination] show[s] up on every level of American society, from housing to health care to criminal justice to education. It keeps showing up.



**Left:** Joy as a baby with her parents, Nellie and Oscar, and her siblings. They moved from Louisiana to California to escape the extreme racism common in the southern U.S.

**Below:** Joy (right), age seven, with her brothers and sister (left to right): Aaron, Oscar Jr., and Iris.



Therefore, unless we make those wrongs right, it's like a huge sore that festers . . . 'Abdu'l-Bahá says, "Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtue[s]." We cannot get to our own personal . . . healing or world health or peace that everyone seeks, if we don't tell the truth.



**Q. You wrote the book *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome*. Can you explain what that means?**

[It] suggests that the 246 years of American . . . slavery deeply injured African American people . . . You have black people who feel guilt and shame . . . You have the very people who have been oppressed . . . beginning to question their own value. There's nothing worse than that.

Children . . . are beginning to despise the skin that they were born in, as though there were something inherently wrong with it . . . To me, that's the travesty. You know, Bahá'u'lláh said, "Noble have I created thee." . . . That's our role—to uplift humanity and recognize that we are one. And you cannot contribute your part if you don't believe that you have value. So I want to teach every black man, woman, and child that you have . . . intrinsic value that God gave you.

**Q. Do you have advice for kids who face prejudice due to their culture, race, or religion?**

Understand [your] worth and [your] value . . . 'Abdu'l-Bahá says to act noble and you'll become noble. And despite what other people are doing around you . . . young people [have] to stand up . . . That's not always easy, but sometimes you have to be that singular voice that stands up and goes, "No, this is not okay. And I'm not willing to say that it's okay." And that doesn't necessarily make you popular.

**Q. You worked with disadvantaged kids in a program that included the arts and academic help. Why do you think the arts are valuable for kids?**

The influence of art on humanity is profound. It lasts for centuries. So we have to understand that, as we develop our artistic ability. Bahá'u'lláh says that He has endowed everyone with talents . . . I think the arts have a way of enriching everything in our society, everything that we

**Q. What do you think is the biggest challenge for kids today?**

I think one of the biggest challenges for kids today is to detach themselves from a world that . . . encourag[es] them to focus on their material well-being, as opposed to the spiritual . . . Everything in the world is telling them, you are what you *have*, and what it's all about is



Not Another Drop

CREATING . . .



**Top:** At a recent conference in London on violence and crime, Joy spoke about healing racism. Photo by Eugene Lum

**Bottom:** Joy encourages kids to go outside and play to boost their physical health. She plays with grandchildren Nasir and Naimé.

do . . . The arts . . . [are] disappear[ing] from schools. A lot of the art programs—music, art, dance—all those are being threatened now because somehow they are being undervalued. That's a real danger, because . . . sometimes the arts have a way of relieving pain and suffering.

accumulating stuff . . . I think that it's a greater distraction than it was, say, for me as a kid . . . Value your relationships, not your stuff . . . What it means to be a human being, what our goal is here in this world, [is] to know and love God and carry forward an ever-advancing civilization.

# The Magic of Peace

**W**endell the Wizard has been working on a potion for world peace. He's worried about the wars, disunity, and environmental trouble around the globe. Wendell has used magic to fix some problems—he's made it rain to end droughts, stopped floodwaters, and made trees grow instantly. He has helped warlords, world citizens, and other wizards solve disputes. Now he wants to

create a potion that will inspire people everywhere to take action.

Wendell's spell calls for an incredible list of ingredients. When it's ready, it will encourage people to use their own powers to help our Earth. By sharing our talents, ideas, and energy, we can conjure fantastic new ways of living in harmony—and that's the most powerful magic of all.

*Help Wendell find the ingredients for his Peace Potion. Read about each one, then search the shelves, and write in the correct item. (Some ingredients are hyphenated in the book.)*

## Potion for

Generous helping of harmony and agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

Large handful of fairness and opportunities for all: \_\_\_\_\_

Cup of understanding others' feelings: \_\_\_\_\_

Spoonful of courtesy and consideration for others' cultures and traditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Two cups of working together as a team, well blended: \_\_\_\_\_

Dose of releasing anger and giving people another chance: \_\_\_\_\_

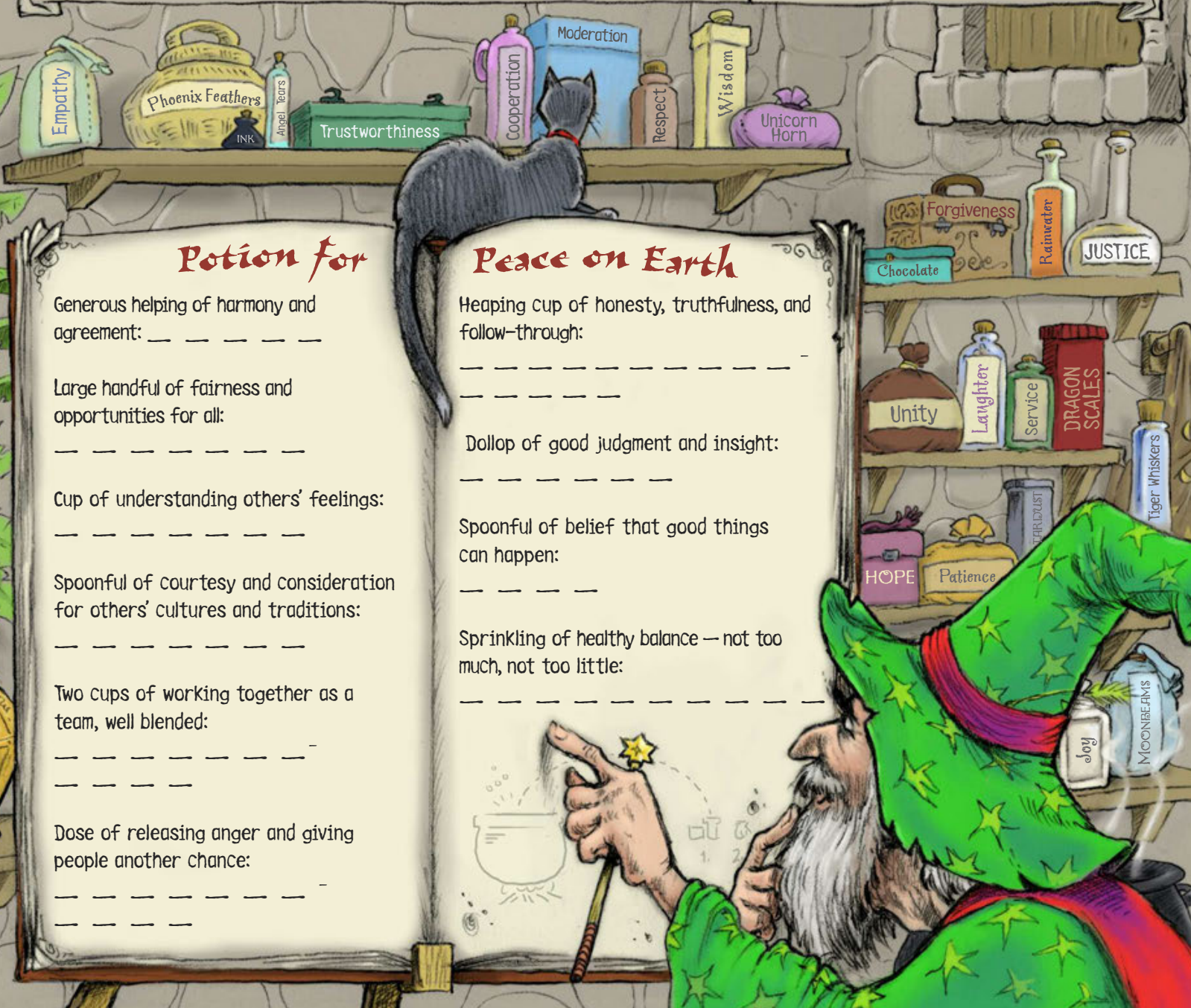
## Peace on Earth

Heaping cup of honesty, truthfulness, and follow-through: \_\_\_\_\_

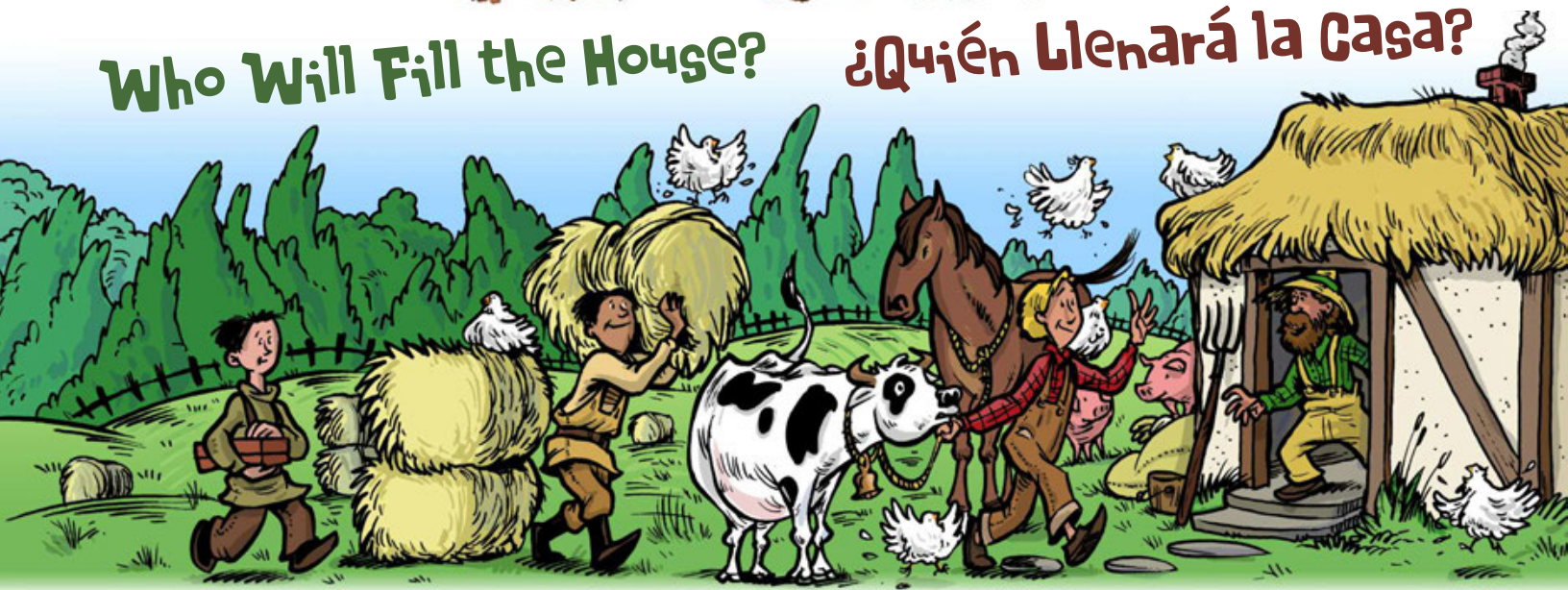
Dollop of good judgment and insight: \_\_\_\_\_

Spoonful of belief that good things can happen: \_\_\_\_\_

Sprinkling of healthy balance — not too much, not too little: \_\_\_\_\_



# Who Will Fill the House? ¿Quién Llenará la Casa?



A hard-working farmer had three sons. The two older boys always bragged to the youngest about how much stronger and smarter they were. In time, when the boys grew up, their father built a new cabin with his own hands. He said to his sons, “Whoever can fill this house will be the one to own it.” The oldest son was sure he would win. He brought in a horse, a cow, two pigs, and a dozen chickens. But they only took up one corner of the cabin. The second son sneered, and brought in bale after bale after bale of hay. But they only filled half the house. It was the youngest son’s turn. He brought in a small box. His brothers laughed, but his father smiled. The boy took a single candle out of the box and lit it. Suddenly, the whole house was filled with a warm light. The youngest son earned the cabin, along with his brothers’ respect.

Un granjero trabajador tenía tres hijos. Los dos niños mayores siempre se jactaban ante el menor de lo fuertes y listos que eran. Pasó el tiempo, y cuando los muchachos crecieron, el papá construyó una nueva cabaña con sus propias manos. Les dijo a sus hijos, “El que pueda llenar esta casa será el dueño.” El hijo mayor estaba seguro que el ganaría. Metió un caballo, una vaca, dos cerdos, y una docena de gallinas. Pero solo llenaron una esquina de la cabaña. El segundo hijo hizo una risa burlona y empezó a meter un fardo de paja tras otro. Pero solo llenaban la mitad de la casa. Era el turno del hijo menor. Trajo una caja pequeña. Sus hermanos empezaron a reír, pero el papá sonrió. El muchacho sacó una vela de la caja y la encendió. De repente, la casa entera se llenó de una cálida luz. El hijo menor se ganó la casa, al igual que el respeto de sus hermanos.

# Wishes for the World

Imagine that you're hiking one day, when a glittering object on the ground catches your eye. It's a beautiful, ancient oil lamp! You study it, wondering if the folktales are true—is there a genie inside? Your heart races as you rub the lamp, and then . . . a genie *does* appear! This powerful genie offers to grant you three wishes, just like in the stories—except these wishes must be used to help our world.

“Wow! Thanks, that’s awesome!” you shout. But what will you choose? Our planet faces so

many challenges—war, hunger, poverty, pollution, and more.

It's helpful to think about what you'd like to change in the world—even if you don't discover a genie in real life. Having a vision of a better future is an important step toward building peace. When you have a goal in mind, you can pray, make a plan for helping others, and find ways to take action. With perseverance and patience, your dreams for the future really *can* come true.

You've been granted three wishes to help the world! Draw or write one wish in each cloud.





## GARDEN OF VIRTUES

Solving a problem or working on a goal is like tending a garden. You envision what you want, make a plan, and dig in. Plants sprout and grow. And naturally, challenges pop up, like pesky weeds.

To get rid of a weed, you have to pull it out by the roots. In the same way, you have to get to the root of a problem to solve it. One way to do that is to think about the virtues involved. Having trouble with school work? Practice perseverance and study

more. Or try humility and ask for help.

Virtues are spiritual tools that help us solve issues. We can find spiritual solutions to the world's problems, too. Justice and unity help us address problems such as poverty, war, and racism.

Like weeding a garden, you'll face challenges again and again. But they can help you grow. Try these steps to get to the root of a problem you'd like to solve.

## PROBLEM-SOLVING WITH SPIRIT

1) **What is the problem? State it clearly.**

Example: My best friend and I are fighting a lot.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) **What are the spiritual principles involved in the situation?** Examples: Patience, unity

\_\_\_\_\_

3) **What are some solutions to deal with the problem?** For each idea, write the good or bad things that might result. For example:

**Idea:** Get together and talk about it.

**Good:** We can share our feelings.

**Bad:** My friend may not want to talk.



**Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Good:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bad:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Good:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bad:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Good:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bad:** \_\_\_\_\_

4) **Which solution should I try first?**



\_\_\_\_\_

5) **What is my plan of action? What steps will I take?** Example: Tell my friend she's important to me, and I want to work things out. Ask about a time we can talk in peace.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6) **How will I know if the solution works?**

Example: My friend and I will know how to express our feelings, and work out our differences before they turn into arguments.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## DR. ALAIN LEROY LOCKE: Champion of Race Unity

**T**hroughout his life, Alain Locke turned challenges into victories. As a child, a heart problem kept him from doing much physical activity. But Alain poured his energy into books, the piano, and the violin—and he became an excellent musician. Alain was also a brilliant student. Unlike many African Americans who, because of racism, had limited opportunities for schooling, his mother, father, and grandfather had all been teachers. Though his father had died when Alain was six, his mother gave him a good education.

After high school, Alain entered Harvard University to study philosophy. He was one of few African American students, and it upset him that black and white students stayed in separate groups. Still, he graduated with highest honors in 1907, and was the first African American to win a Rhodes Scholarship—a famous award for study at Oxford University in England.

### Facing Intense Racism

Alain faced aggressive prejudice from other students at Oxford. Some even tried to have Alain's scholarship taken away from him. They didn't succeed, but their ongoing hostility was very difficult for Alain. He said, "I am a human being," and he felt color should



Alain Locke earned a doctorate from Harvard University in 1918, the year he became a Bahá'í. Today at Harvard, an Alain Locke Prize is given to the student with the highest grades in African American studies.

not make any difference. He wrote to his mother, "I am not a race problem. I am Alain LeRoy Locke."

In 1911, Alain returned to the U.S. and traveled in the South. He learned about the daily struggles of African Americans with racism, including segregated schools, unjust laws, and even physical violence. At times, he feared for his own life. These experiences drove him to change the negative attitudes many white people had about blacks. He went on a mission to promote the beauty of African and African American art and culture. He felt that change started with "a revolution within the soul."

### A New Spirit

Alain later taught philosophy, English, and education at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He published *The New Negro: An Interpretation*—a collection of outstanding art, poetry, drama, fiction, and essays by himself and others. It shed light on the contributions of African Americans to society, and their growing pride and confidence.

Alain wrote, "the new spirit is awake in the masses" of black Americans. This spirit spread, inspiring appreciation for African American culture in the U.S., Europe, and Africa. Alain often traveled to Europe and Africa, building an extensive collection of African art.

In 1918, while Alain was writing about the beauty of diverse cultures, he became a Bahá'í. He wrote and spoke about his new faith. Shoghi Effendi, the head of the Bahá'í Faith at the time, wrote to him, "I have always greatly admired your exceptional abilities and capacity to render distinguished services to the Faith . . . I often remember you in my prayers . . ."

Until Alain passed away in 1954, he actively participated in the Bahá'í community's efforts to build unity among all people. He was, indeed, a leader of one race—the human race.

In 1844, a young man in Shiráz, Iran, announced that He was a new Messenger of God called the Báb (“the Gate” in Arabic). He urged people to prepare for another Messenger who would soon appear — Bahá'u'lláh. The Báb's teachings spread quickly, and soon caused “a commotion that rocked the entire country.” Many became His followers. However, the new Bábí Faith angered civil and Muslim leaders. Thousands of Bábís were killed, and the Báb was imprisoned — but His religion continued to grow. Even when the Báb was tragically executed on July 9, 1850, His followers remained strong. Soon the Báb's promise was fulfilled, and Bahá'u'lláh shared His message of peace.



**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

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

**My Goal for the Month:**

**1**

Canada Day  
Happy Birthday, Canada!

**2**

The U.S. Civil Rights Act outlawed racial segregation on this day in 1964.

**3**



**4**



Independence Day (U.S.)

**5**

Enter Brilliant Star's "Unity in Diversity: A Photo Contest."\*\*



**6**

**7**



Park and Recreation Month (U.S.)  
Enjoy nature!

**8**

**9**

**MARTYRDOM OF THE BÁB**  
Bahá'ís honor the life and teachings of the Báb.

**10**



**11**

World Population Day (UN)  
6.7 billion people live on Earth.

**12**



At the first U.S. Women's Rights Convention on July 19–20, 1848, women stood up for equality.

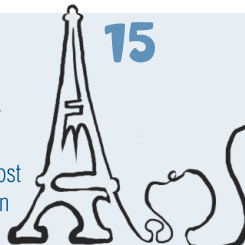
**13**

**BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF KALIMÁT (WORDS)**

**14**

Bastille Day  
National holiday celebrated in France — the most visited country in the world

**15**



**16**

Did you know?  
An average pencil can draw a line almost 35 miles long!

**17**



**18**

True or False?  
The little blue penguin is the world's smallest penguin.

**19**



**20**

**21**

**Cosmo's Word Challenge**  
a) Sharing information with others  
b) A dramatic change  
c) The act of building trains

**22**

**TRANSFORMATION MEANS . . .**

**23**



**24**



Amelia Earhart Day (U.S.)  
First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, 1932

**25**

**26**

Parents' Day (U.S.)  
Tell your parents what you love about them.

**27**

Deadline for Brilliant Star's "Unity in Diversity: A Photo Contest"

**28**

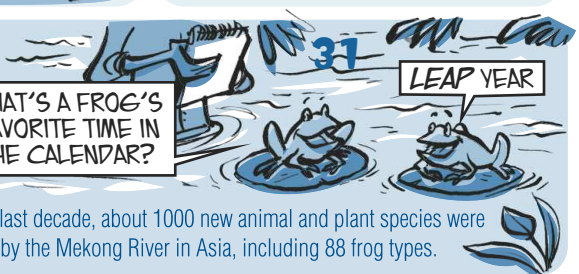


Maori Language Week (New Zealand)  
*Kei te pehea koe?\**

**29**

**30**

**WHAT'S A FROG'S FAVORITE TIME IN THE CALENDAR?**



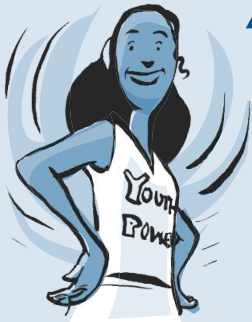
**31**

**LEAP YEAR**

In the last decade, about 1000 new animal and plant species were found by the Mekong River in Asia, including 88 frog types.

\*5 — For details, see May/June 2009 or www.brilliantstarmagazine.org; 28 — How are you?

Answers: 18 — True. They weigh just about 2 pounds (1 kg); 21 — b



**T**he youth of today . . . will become the ones who will guide humanity tomorrow.” This statement and many others in the Bahá'í Faith encourage kids to use their talents to make the world a better place. With spirit, devotion, optimism, and creativity, kids and youth have a remarkable ability to move people's hearts. You might start a service project in your community, use the arts to share your beliefs, volunteer to help people in need, or help kids at school solve conflicts peacefully. Every day, you can make positive changes. As the Bahá'í writings say, “Youth can move the world.”

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

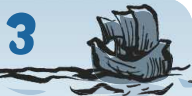
Every 19 days, Bahá'í Feast is held on or near the first day of the Bahá'í month.

**My Goal for the Month:**

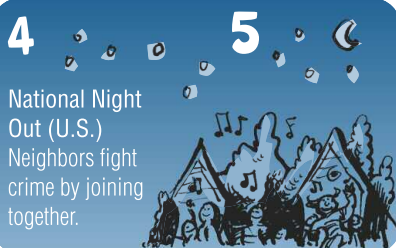


Did you know? August was named for Emperor Caesar Augustus, who restored peace to Rome after 100 years of civil war.

**1**  
**BAHÁ'Í**  
**MONTH OF**  
**KAMÁL**  
(PERFECTION)



**3**  
Columbus left Spain on this day in 1492, hoping to reach Asia.\*



**4**  
**5**  
National Night Out (U.S.)  
Neighbors fight crime by joining together.

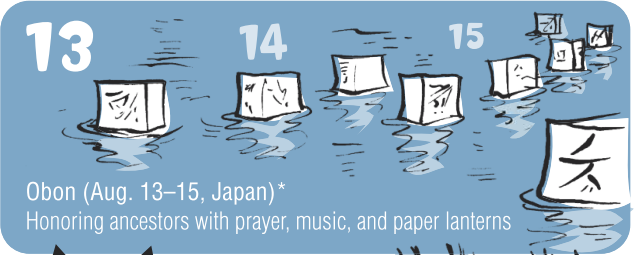
**6**  
**7**  
**INITIATIVE MEANS . . .**  
**8**  
Cosmo's Word Challenge  
a) The power to take action  
b) Not being active  
c) Using your initials as a nickname



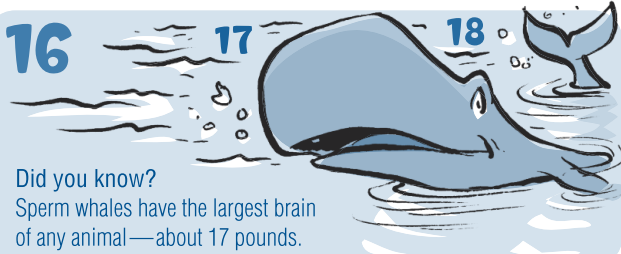
**9**  
International Day of the World's Indigenous People (UN)



**10**  
**12**  
International Youth Day (UN)  
How will you help protect Earth's future?

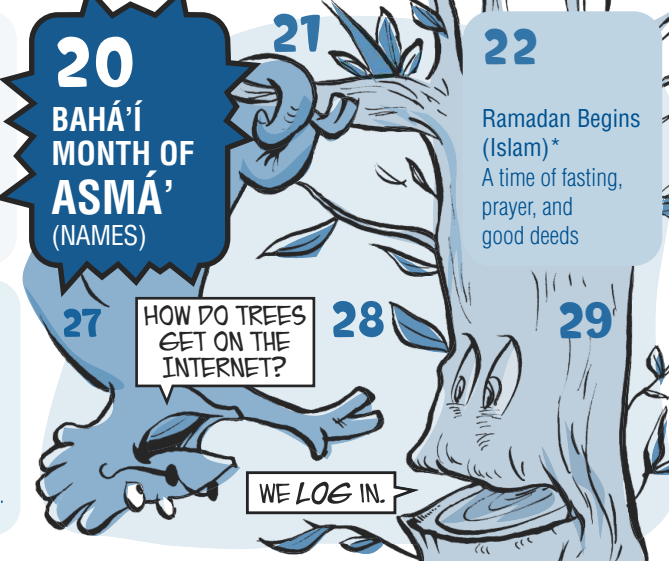


**13**  
**14**  
**15**  
Obon (Aug. 13–15, Japan)\*  
Honoring ancestors with prayer, music, and paper lanterns



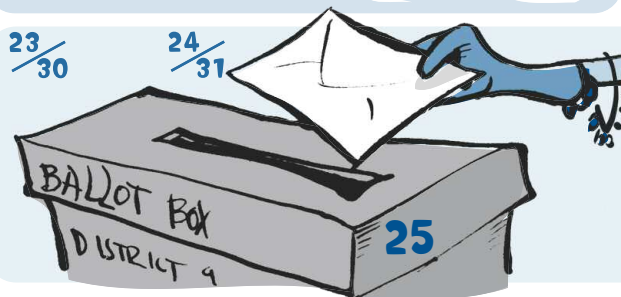
**16**  
**17**  
**18**  
Did you know?  
Sperm whales have the largest brain of any animal—about 17 pounds.

**19**  
National Aviation Day (U.S.)  
Also the birthday of airplane inventor Orville Wright



**20**  
**BAHÁ'Í**  
**MONTH OF**  
**ASMÁ'**  
(NAMES)

**22**  
Ramadan Begins (Islam)\*  
A time of fasting, prayer, and good deeds



**23**  
**24**  
**25**  
**26**  
Women's Equality Day (U.S.)  
Women gained the right to vote in 1920.

**27**  
**28**  
**29**  
HOW DO TREES GET ON THE INTERNET?

WE LOG IN.

\*3—He actually landed in what is now the Bahamas. 13—In some parts of Japan, Obon is celebrated in mid-July. 22—Ramadan begins on August 21 in some places.



# MUSIC CAFÉ

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

ONE THING I’VE FOUND OUT AT MY MUSIC CAFÉ IS THIS—MUSIC IS **POWERFUL!** IT CAN LIFT MY SPIRITS WHEN I’M PLAYING, SINGING, OR LISTENING.

AND WHEN I WANT TO SHOW A FRIEND I CARE, OR CHEER UP SOMEONE WHO’S DOWN, I LOVE TO SING...

## I THINK YOU’RE WONDERFUL

By Kathy and Red Grammer

D A7 D A7 D A7

I think you’re won - der - ful. When some - bo - dy says that to me, I feel

6 A7 D A7 D A7

won - der - ful, - as won - der - ful can be. It makes me wan - na say\_ the

11 D G D

same thing to some - bo - dy new, and by the way\_ I’ve been mean - ing to say\_

15 3rd Time to Coda ⊕ D A7 D A7

I think you’re won - der - ful, too. 1When we prac - tice this phrase in the most ho - nest way, and

19 D

2When\_ each one of us feels im - por - tant in - side, -

22 G ⊕ Coda D

heart at a time. It all starts by say - ing this one sim - ple line:\_\_\_ too.

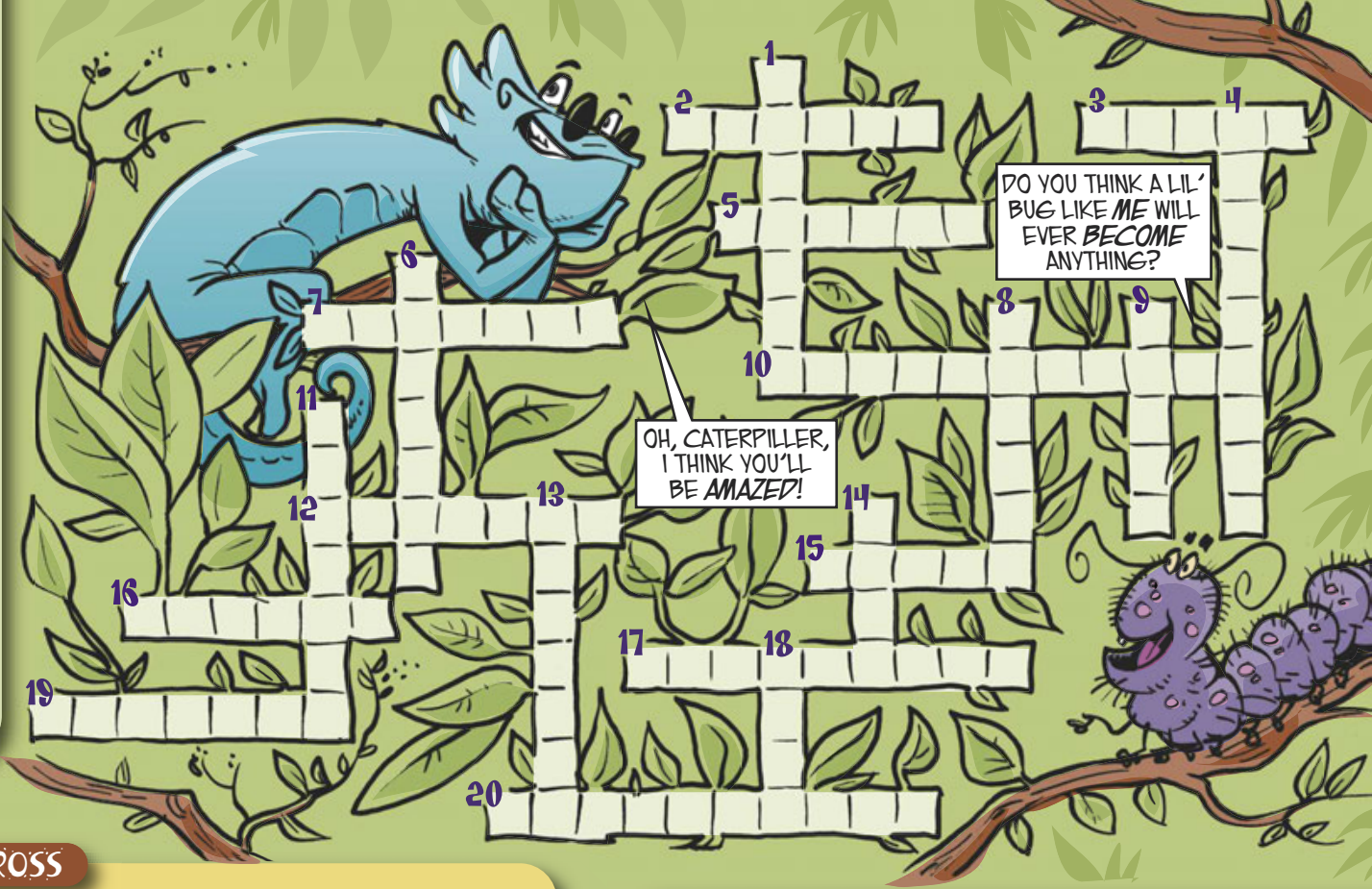
27 G D A7 D

make in each day, - all be - cause some - one de - cid - ed to say\_\_\_

And by the way - I’ve been mean - ing to say, I think you’re won - der - ful, too.

Brilliant Star celebrates the service of Kathy Grammer, who co-wrote many inspiring children’s songs with her husband, Red. Kathy passed away in January 2009, due to illness. Kathy, we think you’re wonderful!

Look for clues throughout the magazine.



## ACROSS

2. Adjusting to this can take time, effort, and prayer. (p. 8)
3. Emma says it's important not to waste this. (p. 13)
5. All people are part of one human \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 3)
7. Arezou says if we were \_\_\_\_\_, all of our problems would be solved. (p. 12)
10. Hallie and Joanna share a passion for this. (p. 7)
12. Adib and Mateen make this virtue a habit. (p. 7)
15. When helping others, you need the right \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 10)
16. Sperm \_\_\_\_\_ have the largest brain of any animal. (p. 24)
17. To be healthy, we all need a balance of these. (p. 4)
19. In 1932, Amelia \_\_\_\_\_ was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. (p. 23)
20. Alain said that change starts with "a \_\_\_\_\_ within the soul." (p. 22)

## DOWN

1. To soar through our lives, we have to keep our "wings" in \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 2)
4. Everyone deserves a good \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 5)
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ Falls are the second largest falls in the world. (p. 11)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ use a series of pictures, with or without words, to tell a story or convey an idea. (p. 9)
9. Having a vision of a better future is an important step toward building \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 20)
11. Joy wants everyone to know that every human being has the right to be treated with \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 16)
13. It takes this and confidence to be true to yourself. (p. 27)
14. In Wendell's potion, one ingredient is a spoonful of belief that good things can happen, called \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 18)
18. You have to get to the \_\_\_\_\_ of a problem to solve it. (p. 21)

## FROM OUR MAILBOX



I like reading [Brilliant Star's] Radiant Stars section and seeing kids from other parts of the world. I also like reading about the Shining Lamps and Stargazers . . . It helps me understand what others have gone through . . . I'd like there to be a section where we kids can . . . communicate with each other online . . . I think there might be other kids like me out there.  
—Noelani del R., Age 11, California, U.S.

## ANSWERS

**PAGE 2:** Adhesive at bottom left by toolbox; clamps at center left; drill at bottom center by boy; goggles at top left; hammer at bottom left in boy's belt; plans at center right; pliers at bottom left under plane; wrench at bottom right by boy; screwdriver at center by girl

**PAGE 3:** peace, equal, unity, family, educated, wealth, truth, Prejudice, religions

**PAGE 5:** Math: 11, Arts: 8, Health: 9, Geography: 10, Science: 8, Writing: 7

**PAGE 8:** 1) progress, 2) develop, 3) explore, 4) search, 5) overcome,

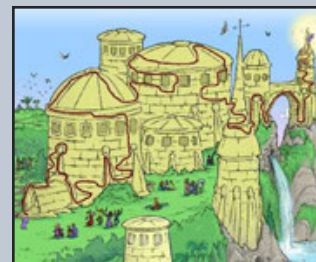
6) learn, 7) improve, 8) thrive, 9) seek, 10) grow, 11) wonder, 12) transform

**PAGE 11:** Niagara Falls; red-eyed tree frog

**PAGE 18:** unity, justice, empathy, respect, cooperation, forgiveness, trustworthiness, wisdom, hope, moderation

**PAGE 27:** Blending chameleons at top left by Cosmo; center on grass; top right by snake; center right on grass; bottom right; bottom center playing ball; bottom left; center left by tree; center in water

## PAGE 29





# There's No Place Like Home

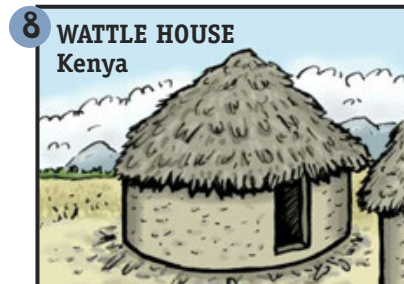
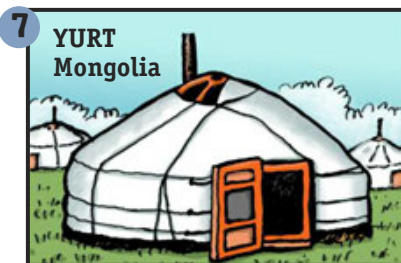
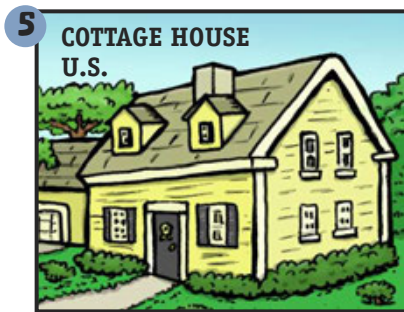
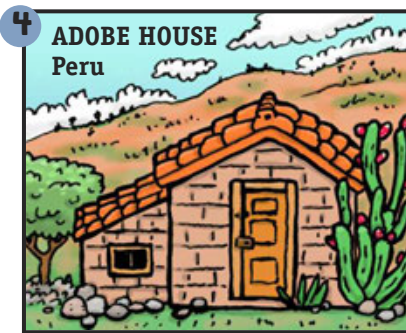
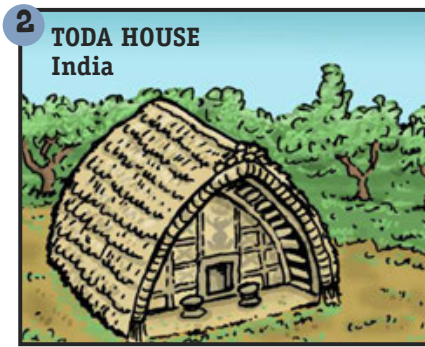
"Blessed is the . . . house . . . where mention of God hath been made, and His praise glorified." —Bahá'í'láh

**A**round the world, there are thousands of types of houses. They match different ways of life and many climates — from blazing heat to snow to heavy rain. Their materials and designs reflect the land and culture. In developing countries, houses are often built with simple, earth-friendly methods used for centuries.

Everyone needs a safe place to sleep, eat, and be with their families. Tragically, over a billion people in the

world do not have proper housing. Some stay in community shelters, but some live in shanties, in cars, or on the streets. Millions of others are refugees, forced to flee due to war, floods, and other disasters. Wherever you live, there are ways to help — through prayer, or by donating food and clothes. Any place can be more than just a space to live in. When it's filled with a family, laughter, and love, a house becomes a home.

CAN YOU HELP WITH MY SCHOOL PROJECT ON TRADITIONAL HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD? WRITE THE NUMBER OF THE CORRECT HOUSE NEXT TO EACH DESCRIPTION.



**A** Near the Andes Mountains, mud brick homes absorb heat during the day and release it at night.

**B** In North America, most homes are divided into rooms, and have modern conveniences, such as electricity, plumbing, and air conditioning.

**C** Along the Mekong River in Asia, houses are raised up to protect them from floods and animals.

**D** In this crowded European country, tall, narrow houses make the most of tight space.

**E** In this Middle Eastern country, some homes are made of mud, with a high roof that lets hot air rise to keep the home cool.

**F** In the Nilgiri Hills, bamboo and stone huts have small doors that keep out wild animals.

**G** The Maasai of Africa move often, so homes are built from woven sticks plastered with mud.

**H** In grasslands of Asia, nomad families live in tent-like homes that are easy to move.

# Palace of Delights

“Be ye as if all men were your close kin and honored friends. Walk ye in such wise that this fleeting world will change into a splendor and this dismal heap of dust become a palace of delights.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

If you had a magic mirror that could show you the earth’s future, what would you see? The Bahá’í teachings promise a world filled with peace and justice. Can you imagine the end of war and extreme poverty? How about everyone having health care and education? A global environment that will sustain life on Earth for generations to come? What an awesome future! Just as it takes many people with different skills

to erect a great building, it takes teamwork to create a better world. Piece by piece, we are building a future where all people are seen as noble and virtuous, and can live together as a united human family.

Everyone has a part to play. You can make friends with someone new, start a unity club, or speak out for justice. Whatever you choose, your thoughts, prayers, and actions make a difference. Together, we will build a brilliant future.

Find the path along the walls and towers of this palace. You can go through any space not blocked by a solid line.



“If you thus keep yourselves in readiness,  
you will become to the world of humanity a burning flame,  
a star of guidance, and a fruitful tree,  
changing all its darkness and woe into light and joy...”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá



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