

Brilliant Star

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009



Light of Leadership

Brilliant Star

Bahá'í National Center
1233 Central Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201 U.S.
847.853.2354
brilliant@usbnc.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1.800.999.9019
WWW.BRILLIANTSTARMAGAZINE.ORG

©2009 NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'IS OF THE UNITED STATES

Amethel Parel-Sewell EDITOR/CREATIVE DIRECTOR

C. Aaron Kreader DESIGNER/ILLUSTRATOR

Amy Renshaw SENIOR EDITOR

Susan Engle ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Annie Reneau ASSISTANT EDITOR

CONTRIBUTORS

Brandon Bayzaee • Joe Crone • Bayan Ghorbanpour
Lisa A. Kloppenberg • Lim Jing Rong • Doug Marshall
Khalil Moutrie • Hoda Movagh • Lindsey Neeb
Dorothy W. Nelson • Georgianne Nienaber
Nigel Onwere • Michel Ravassard • Lee Ann Ross
Rosie Shahriari • Robert Stockman
Sierra Yavari • Soheil Zebarjadi

Unless noted: Original illustrations by C. Aaron Kreader
Writing by Amy Renshaw, Susan Engle, or Annie Reneau

By Lisa Blecker: Activities on pp. 5 and 20; Art on p. 22
By Donna Price: Activities on pp. 10, 19, and 21

Historical photos courtesy of National Bahá'í Archives unless otherwise noted.

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWALS

To order or renew a subscription, contact Bahá'í Subscriber Service by phone at 1.800.999.9019 or by e-mail at subscription@usbnc.org. Standard U.S. rates: \$18 (One year); \$32 (Two years) International airmail: \$38 (One year); \$68 (Two years) Canada and Mexico: \$28 (One year); \$48 (Two years)

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome submissions and ideas from contributors of all ages. For editorial themes or submission guidelines, mail your request with a self-addressed stamped envelope, or e-mail us (above).

SUBJECT INDEX AND CLASS USE

A subject index of **Brilliant Star** is available at: www.bahai.us/bahai-us-spiritual-education-resources. Teachers may photocopy pages in limited quantities for classroom use. The name of the magazine and issue date must be present on all copies and proper credit given to the copyright owner.

RIGHTS AND PERMISSIONS

All content in this magazine is copyrighted by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S. or by individual contributors. For permission to copy or translate material, contact: *Rights and Permissions, Brilliant Star*, 1233 Central St., Evanston, IL 60201.

INTERNET RESOURCES AND INTERNET SAFETY

We often provide Internet resources to encourage readers to explore a topic, or to share our references. While we make every effort to choose reliable websites, **Brilliant Star** does not endorse or account for all content in referenced websites. Furthermore, we urge caution and parental guidance when using the Internet. For more information about Internet safety, visit: www.wiredkids.org/wiredkids_org.html

WHAT'S INSIDE

REGULAR FEATURES



Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

What did Bahá'u'lláh say to the world's leaders?



Nur's Nook

When it comes to goals, the sky's the limit.



Riley's Rainforest

Try these healthy habits for boosting your energy.



We Are One

Explore and care for the place we all call home.



Radiant Stars

Get to know kids who shine, like you.



Lightning and Luna: Episode 34

Will the Uplifters escape from the Erasers' trap?



Stargazer: Judge Dorothy W. Nelson

A pioneer for justice and conflict resolution



Maya's Mysteries

Try a colorful experiment about the power of unity.



Calendars

What's special about September and October?



Music Café

Celebrate your power to move the world.



Cosmo's Corner

A crossword and more from our favorite chameleon



Shining Lamp: Thornton Chase

Meet the first American Bahá'í.



aMAZEing ADVENTURE

Take a climb up the heights of excellence.

SPECIAL FEATURES



Sailing Your Leader-Ship
Decode a secret message in the flags.



The Knighting of Sir 'Abdu'l-Bahá
How did 'Abdu'l-Bahá help others during a war?



What Type of Leader Are You?
Take a quiz to see how you bring out the best in others.



In the Spotlight
Tips for taming the "beast" of stage fright



Wings of Knowledge
Discover a message in the magical books.



Under Pressure
How would you handle these tough situations?



Building on Consultation
Do you use this tool for making group decisions?



Ride the Road to Success
Test your ability to knock down roadblocks.



Playing in Harmony
How are you like an orchestra conductor?



Capable Creatures
What can dogs, horses, and monkeys have in common?



DEAR FRIENDS,

To be a leader, you don't *have* to be the captain of a team or the president of a club. You can be a leader in anything you do.

A leader is the kid who helps your group find a compromise when there's a conflict. The friend who listens when you're frustrated, and offers encouragement. The kid who includes everyone in the fun, and doesn't gossip or put people down. Being a leader means thinking for yourself, rather than following the crowd. You respect yourself and everyone around you.

In this issue of **Brilliant Star**, explore the art of leadership. Quiz yourself on your skills. Get tips for handling challenges like peer pressure. Learn healthy tips for boosting your energy. Make a cool paper airplane that soars, like your goals. And meet Judge Dorothy W. Nelson, a pioneer in peaceful conflict resolution.

Every day, you have opportunities to be a leader, spreading kindness and unity. You can take the initiative and achieve big dreams — so lead the way!



With love from **Brilliant Star**



Sailing Your Leader-Ship

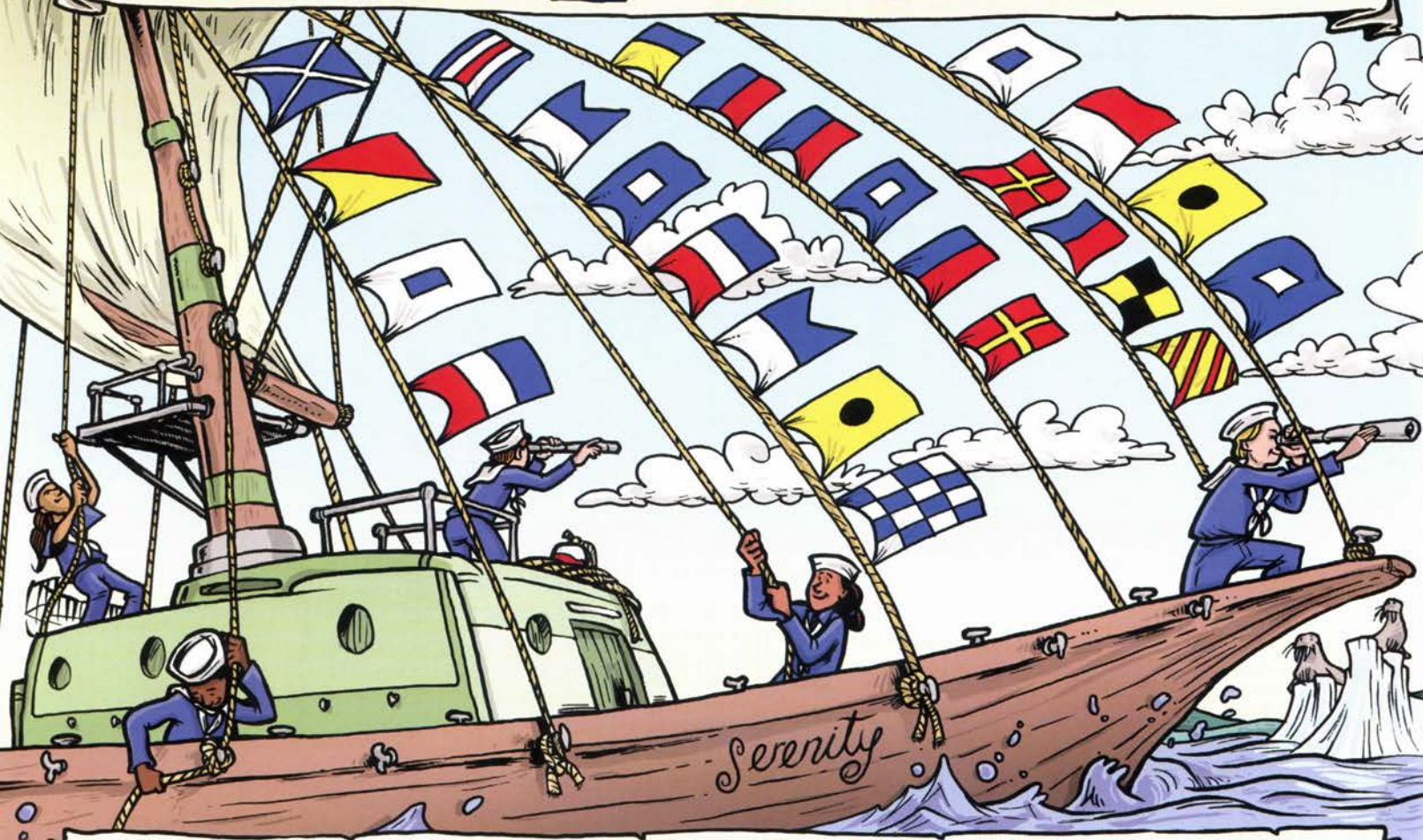
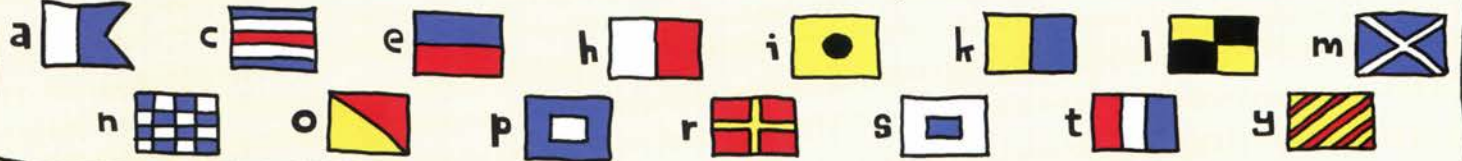


Ahoy, Captain! As the leader of a mighty ship, you chart a course and navigate through calm and stormy waters. You make sure the ship is seaworthy, and keep your crew and cargo safe. Your crew trusts you, because you're focused and diligent. While you use charts and other tools to steer the ship skillfully, you also get guidance from a more powerful source—God.

Like a ship's captain, you navigate your life each day. Challenges such as moving to a new school or standing up to bullies can test your strength and skills. Your choices help make the voyage rough or calm. When you do your best and rely on God for help, you can weather any storm. Keep a steady eye on the horizon. Land ho! What do you see on the shores of your future?



Use the key to decode the signal flags hoisted on each line of rope, starting with the top flags. Then fill in the words below, in the correct order, to complete the quote.



"Build the best _____ and provide the _____ experienced _____;
yet ... _____ upon God and consider God as the one _____." —'Abdu'l-Bahā

A Brief Timeline

The highlighted area below marks the time in which this story takes place in the life of Bahá'u'lláh.

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the Black Pit of Tíhrán

1853–1863

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

1863 April 22

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

1863–1868

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

1868

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

1877

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

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

Letters to World Leaders

Why would a prisoner write to the rulers of the world? To ask for help? Beg for freedom? Though Bahá'u'lláh had committed no crime, He was persecuted and imprisoned for much of His life. Yet when He wrote

to the world's leaders, it wasn't to ask for help—He encouraged them to uphold justice and establish world peace.

The government and religious officials of Persia (now Iran) and Turkey felt threatened by His growing Bahá'í Faith.



Bahá'u'lláh wrote to many world leaders from inside the walls of this prison in 'Akká, Israel.

To stop His influence, they exiled Him far from His home. Yet, over several years, starting in 1867, He wrote to the sháh of Persia, the sultán of Turkey, the queen of England, the emperor of France, the pope, and others.

He wrote, "Be vigilant, that ye may not do injustice to anyone . . ." He advised them to "compose your differences, and reduce your armaments." And He conveyed His vision of world peace, where all nations will work together for the good of all humanity.

Practice "Justice" in Arabic Calligraphy

Bahá'u'lláh revealed His letters to the world rulers in Arabic. Arabic calligraphy is a widely admired art form. Traditionally, the pen (*qalam*) is made from a dried reed. Its flexibility allows graceful, sweeping lines.

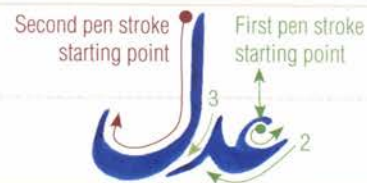
Today, a calligraphy marker with a slanted tip is often used. The 3 mm size is good for beginners. You would usually start learning



An ink spoon (top) and reed pen used by Bahá'u'lláh for calligraphy.

Arabic calligraphy by learning its alphabet, which has 28 letters. The form of a letter can vary, depending on whether it falls in the beginning, middle, or end of a word.

Practice writing the Arabic word "*adl*," or "justice." Arabic is read from right to left, so start at the right side of the page. Hold the pen very gently in your hand, and follow the numbered arrows.



"*Adl*" means "justice."



THE KNIGHTING OF SIR 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

In a hot summer day in 1868, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, age 24, arrived in the prison-city of 'Akká, Israel. He was with His Father, Bahá'u'lláh, who had been exiled to 'Akká because of His Bahá'í teachings of peace. Though Bahá'u'lláh had done nothing wrong, He and His family were forced to live as prisoners in filthy cells in an old army barracks. The citizens of 'Akká, who had been told that the Bahá'ís were criminals, greeted them with hostility.

After two years, the Bahá'ís were moved to a house and a dismal inn. In time, the people of 'Akká grew to respect the Bahá'ís. Bahá'u'lláh spent most of His time revealing His writings and meeting with His followers. On His Father's behalf, 'Abdu'l-Bahá met with the people of 'Akká, who came to Him for help and advice. 'Abdu'l-Bahá showered everyone with kindness and generosity. If He was at dinner and heard that a family had no food, He would take His own meal to them. If someone was sick, He would call a doctor and pay the bill.

In His will, Bahá'u'lláh appointed 'Abdu'l-Bahá to guide the Bahá'ís and interpret Bahá'u'lláh's writings after His passing. So when Bahá'u'lláh left this world in 1892, 'Abdu'l-Bahá led the Bahá'í community.

Then, in 1908, after 40 years in the prison-city, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was finally freed. He kept a house in 'Akká for some of His family, and moved to the nearby city of Haifa. Six years later, World War I began.



With modesty, 'Abdu'l-Bahá rode to His knighting ceremony in a simple wagon, rather than the grand car that was sent for Him by the British government.

The Turkish government, which ruled Israel, fought Great Britain and other countries. The people of Haifa and 'Akká feared for their lives. Would their homes be bombed? Would they be able to get enough food and fresh water? Meanwhile, the Turkish commander, who despised 'Abdu'l-Bahá, threatened to kill Him and His family, and to destroy His Father's tomb.

In spite of the danger, 'Abdu'l-Bahá stayed calm and took steps to be helpful. He owned land in the area, and He had the farmers grow extra corn. The harvest was hidden in ancient Roman storage pits, so the Turkish army would not seize it. It helped feed the people of 'Akká and Haifa when warships prevented food from reaching them.

In late 1918, just before the end of World War I, British troops forced the Turkish army out of Haifa. Food for the British army had not yet arrived, so 'Abdu'l-Bahá fed the troops as well.

The British government was impressed with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's heroic actions, which saved many people from starvation. On April 27, 1920, British leaders gathered in Haifa to honor Him. They sent a magnificent car for 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but He chose to ride in a simple wagon to the home of the British governor. There, at age 76, so near the city whose citizens had once rejected Him, He was named Sir 'Abdu'l-Bahá 'Abbás, a Knight of the British Empire.



The Sky's the Limit

"Man should be a dweller upon the earth, but the power of the human spirit transcends this limitation, and he soars aloft in airplanes." — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

About 100 years ago, being able to travel by airplane seemed impossible. How could we defy gravity and invent a machine to carry people through the air? But inventors like Wilbur and Orville Wright lived that incredible dream. They used their imaginations, studied hard, got help from many others, and learned from their mistakes. After years of intense effort, the Wright brothers flew their first motor-powered airplane in 1903. Parts of their basic plane design are still used today.

Like a pilot, you can discover amazing things with every adventure. In science, sports, music, or any hobby, you can learn more with practice. You can ask for help and work with others. And you can use your talents to help the world. With prayers, focus, and perseverance, the sky's the limit to the goals you can reach.



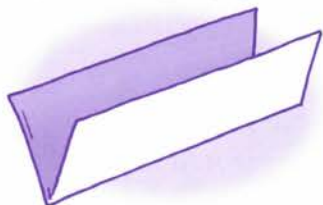
You'll Need

8 1/2" x 11" (216 mm x 279 mm) sheet of paper • ruler • pencil • colorful markers

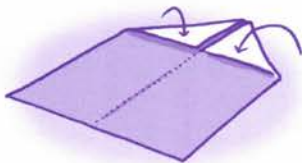
Just Plane Amazing

Follow the steps below to make a paper airplane that represents some goals you'd like to achieve.

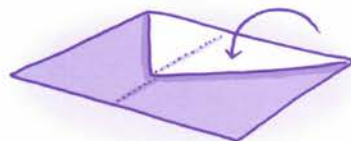
- 1** Fold paper in half so the long edges meet. Open paper.



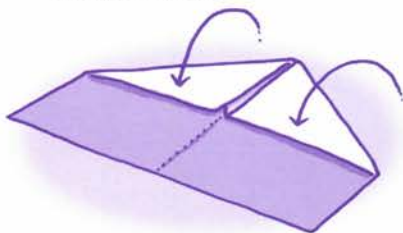
- 2** On one short end of paper, fold in corners to meet center crease.



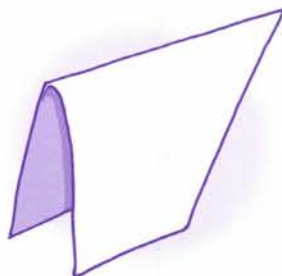
- 3** Fold entire triangle-shaped tip downward.



- 4** Fold in corners again, to meet at center crease.



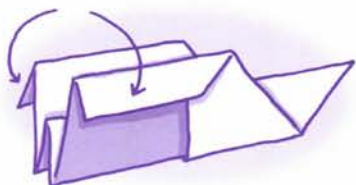
- 5** Fold along center crease, so triangle portion is on the inside.



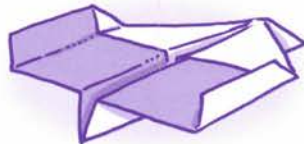
- 6** A) Draw a light line 1 1/4" (3 cm) from center fold. B) Fold wing upward from pencil line. Repeat this step for the other wing.



- 7** Fold top of each wing downward to create 1" (2.5 cm) flaps.



- 8** Flip plane over and gently pull wings open.



- 9** Decorate your plane with words or designs that represent your strengths and goals.



HOLD THE CENTER FOLD JUST BEHIND THE HORIZONTAL FLAPS, AND KEEP THE WINGS EVEN WHILE YOU THROW. HAVE FUN!

What Type of Leader Are You?

When you walk into the school cafeteria, can you spot a leader? Is he the kid who speaks the loudest? The one who talks to the most people? The kid who bosses her friends around?

Leaders in TV shows and movies often take charge and tell people what to do. But in real life, the most effective leaders cooperate and bring out the best in others. That's called servant leadership—



when a leader focuses on serving and empowering others. It's helping people use their skills, express their ideas, and feel good about their efforts.

For example, if you're the soccer team captain, do you decide on every play without talking to the coach and other players? If you're a servant leader, you listen to your team and combine their best abilities and ideas. Your leadership helps your team stand out—and have more fun, too.

Are You a Servant Leader?

Circle your answer under each statement, then add up your points.

1) I believe that having fun together is an important goal for any group.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1



2) I keep an open mind and encourage people to share their opinions.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

3) I consider what's best for the group and its goals, not just what I want for myself.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

4) I enjoy learning new things from other people.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

5) I help people find ways to use their talents and learn new skills.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

6) I realize mistakes will happen, and I try to learn from them.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

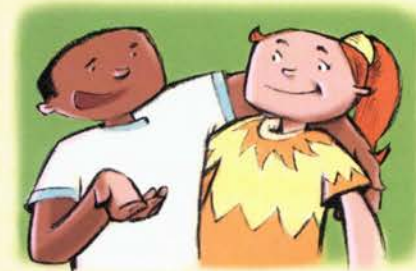
7) I get others involved in making important decisions.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1



8) When there's a problem, I focus on finding a positive solution, rather than complaining or blaming others.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1



9) I encourage others to be good listeners and respect everyone's opinion.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

10) I understand there can be more than one "right answer" to a challenge.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

11) I stay flexible and calm when people disagree with me.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

12) I give others praise for their great work and ideas.

Always = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Never = 1

Scoring

My Total: _____

36–28 points: You're doing a great job as a servant leader! Continue encouraging and helping others.

27–20 points: You have lots of positive leadership skills. Keep up the good work.

19–12 points: With practice, you can grow as a leader. Look at the quiz for ideas to work on.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Opening night is almost here. You have a leading role in *Beauty and the Beast*. Rehearsals have been fun, but now, your heart pounds, your hands are sweaty, and you can't speak. Stage fright has struck. What can you do?

Actors have plenty of tricks for handling nerves. One remedy is practice—lots of it. Know your lines so well you can say them effortlessly. Imagine giving a great performance and hearing the applause. Say a

prayer or listen to peaceful music to feel calm. Take deep, slow breaths. Practice yoga or Tai Chi to relax your body.* Most of all, try to have fun.

Whether you're starring in a play, trying out for a team, or making a new friend, it's natural to get nervous. But if you keep trying, you'll gain the confidence to tame the "beast" of stage fright. Use these tips whenever you're in the spotlight, and let your inner strength and beauty shine through.

The cast and crew are rehearsing for opening night. Some are taking steps to stop stage fright, but some are just too nervous. Find 10 kids making silly mistakes.



*See *Brilliant Star* Jul/Aug 2002, p. 24, or Nov/Dec 2005, p. 21.
SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 26



RILEY'S RAINFOREST

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

Recharge Your Power

Do you use rechargeable batteries? When they get drained, you plug them in until they're ready to go. In a similar way, healthy habits in your daily life recharge you with energy to work, play, and be of service.

Food is your fuel, and it has a big impact on how you feel. A sugary snack gives you a short burst of energy, but it doesn't last long. For ongoing power, choose nutritious snacks like nuts, yogurt, and fresh fruit. Eat regular, balanced meals with moderate portions. A big meal makes you sluggish as your body digests the food. And drink plenty of water throughout the day, to keep nutrients and oxygen flowing to your muscles.

It may seem like exercise should sap your energy, but it actually gives you *more* pep. Exercise strengthens muscles and bones, so you build stamina. And it releases endorphins, natural chemicals that



lift your mood. Shoot for an hour every day of biking, playing ball, or other physical activities.

Of course, sleep is the great recharger. While you sleep, your brain releases hormones that help you grow. Getting plenty of sleep helps you feel calm, stay alert, and concentrate better. Try to get 10 to 11 hours each night.

Your attitude affects your energy, too. Being positive can boost energy, while negativity can drain you. Every day, think back on what you've accomplished.

Good mental and physical habits like these can help keep your batteries charged as you trek through life's adventures.

Explore and Soar Energy Boosters

Looking for an energy lift? Try these healthy ways to perk up your body and mind.

- ☐ Go outside. Fresh air makes you breathe deeper, giving your brain more oxygen.
- ☐ Grab a healthy snack, like fruit, veggies, raisins, or cheese.
- ☐ Laugh. Read a funny book, or joke with a friend to relieve energy-zapping stress.
- ☐ Take a short nap. Just a 10- to 20-minute snooze can restore and refresh you.
- ☐ Be of service. Helping others can be exciting and rewarding, which creates a happy spirit.
- ☐ Call a friend. Positive vibes can be contagious.
- ☐ Turn on some fun tunes and dance, dance, dance.



Fruit for Thought

"It is our duty to put forth our greatest efforts and summon all our energies in order that the bonds of unity and accord may be established among mankind."

—'Abdu'l-Bahá



Curiosity Canopy

True or False? If you're feeling sluggish, a canned "energy" drink is a good way to revive yourself.

Answer: *False.* Energy drinks are often loaded with caffeine—one drink can equal as much as 10 cans of cola! Too much caffeine can cause headaches, anxiety, and sleeplessness. Grab a glass of water or 100% juice instead.

Wings of Knowledge

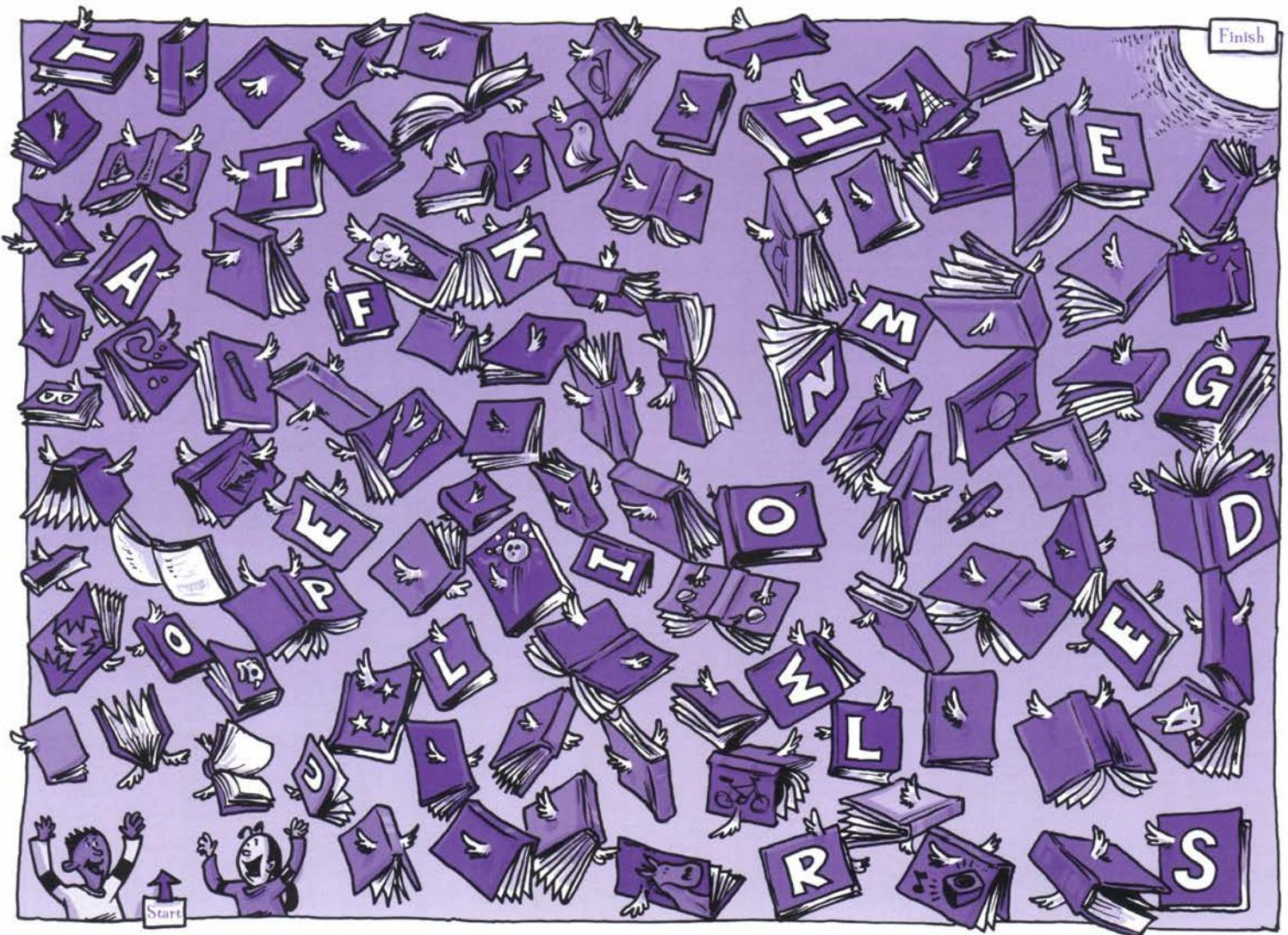
Whether you like to play sports, make art, or plant gardens, it's fun to explore your interests. Your talents and enthusiasm can help you investigate the world and make new discoveries.

Did you know that your brain actually changes when you learn something new? Learning creates new pathways between your brain cells. The more you do something, the stronger those pathways become—that's why practice pays off. And your

brain keeps changing for as long as you live.

But it's not only your brain that changes when you learn. Your ideas, opinions, and goals can evolve, too. You might try other hobbies, think about different dream jobs, or make new friends. Life offers endless opportunities for growing and gaining knowledge. You can learn from others, teach yourself through experience, or catch some good books. So let your curiosity soar—you never know where it might take you!

First, find the correct pathway between these magical books, from start to finish. Then, write each letter you pass, in order, in the blanks below to complete the quote.



“Arts, crafts and sciences _____ the world of being, and are conducive to its exaltation. _____ is as wings...” —Bahá'u'lláh

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

Try to do your homework before dark.

Save energy by using less electricity for lights. Plus, a study found that you learn faster and get better grades when learning in natural light.

WOW, REALLY?

It takes about 100 tons of ancient plant life to produce just one gallon of gasoline.

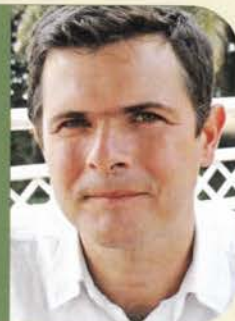
OUR CONNECTIONS



We think of ourselves as individual, solid creatures. But every living thing—including humans, animals, and plants—is made up of tiny cells that can only be seen with a microscope. These cells are "building blocks" for all life. A person has more than 100 trillion of them. Cells come in hundreds of types—like muscle cells, nerve cells, and blood cells. They all work together in harmony to keep us healthy and strong.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Emmanuel de Merode, a Belgian prince, is Chief Warden of Virunga National Park in the Congo, Africa. He's responsible for protecting the park, which is in a war zone. Endangered mountain gorillas and 1000 other animal species live there. Emmanuel says, "It's dangerous, but we must protect our national park at whatever cost."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Neuschwanstein Castle was built in the European Alps by King Ludwig II. Its name, meaning "New Swan Stone," comes from an opera. This magnificent structure inspired the castles at Disneyland. *Unscramble the letters to find the country it's in:*

NYREMAG ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

AMAZING ANIMALS



These creatures can grow up to 16 feet (5 m). They live in tropical waters and are "near threatened." While they avoid humans, their tails have venom for protection. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

SP ○ TT ○ D ○ E ○ G ○ E ○ R ○ YS

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?

Brandon B.

Age: 10

I live in: Illinois, U.S.

Something I like about me: I'm athletic.

Hobbies or sports: Basketball and making paper airplanes

Favorite animal or pet: Eagle

Place I'd love to visit: China

What qualities do you think a good leader should have? A good leader should . . . be honest and smart. Also willing to listen and be kind to others.

How do you handle peer pressure? I just walk away sometimes. I also try to ignore them.



If you ruled the entire world for one day, what would you want to accomplish? I would want to help people get jobs so they can feed their families.

Describe a role model who inspires you to be the best you can be. Michael Jordan is a great role model. He says never give up, and keep on trying.

Lim

Age: 9

I live in: China

I want to be: Choreographer

Best quality or virtue: Kindness

Something I like about me: I am a fast runner.

Favorite animal or pet: [Our] pet cat Bandy

Place I'd love to visit: U.S.A.

I like to help people by: Cheering them up. I play with them, or tell them a joke to make them laugh.

If you ruled the entire world for one day, what would you want to accomplish? I would first unite the blacks and whites so that they would become friends and so there will be unity, justice, and kindness.

Describe a role model who inspires you to be the best you can be. My mom is my role model that inspires me by being a good sport and standing out for me.



Lindsey N.

Age: 7

I live in: Wisconsin, U.S.

I want to be: A teacher

Something I like about me: I show people respect.

Hobbies or sports: Swimming, T-ball, and computer games

Favorite Bahá'í activities: Children's classes, camps

Place I'd love to visit: Paris, because . . . everything look[s] cool. Very cool.

I like to help people by: Helping Mom with babysitting and cooking

What qualities do you think a good leader should have? Respect, responsibility, kindness, love, encouragement. A good leader should help kids when they get stuck on something [and] act nice to everyone.

If you ruled the entire world for one day, what would you want to accomplish? I would want to stop people who smoke, drink, and chop down trees . . . And for fun, I would tell teachers to give less homework.



Rosie S.

Age: 10

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

I want to be:
Doctor

Best quality or virtue:
Forgiveness

Something I like about me:
I'm funny.

Hobbies or sports:
Swimming, football, reading, writing, TV

Favorite animal or pet:
Frog

Place I'd love to visit:
Italy

If you ruled the entire world for one day, what would you want to accomplish?
First I would fix the economy problem in the United States.

Then I would stop the rainforest from being cut down . . . I would also make it easier for the Bahá'is in Iran.*

Describe a role model who inspires you to be the best you can be.
My parents. They care about me and always help me to solve my problems . . . I want to be just like them when I grow up.



Bayan G.

Age: 7

I live in: **Haifa, Israel**

Best quality or virtue:
Truthfulness

Something I like about me:
I am a good reader.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
I help wash dishes in Bahji Visitors' Center.**

Favorite animal or pet:
I love birds.

Place I'd love to visit:
Africa

If you ruled the entire world for one day, what would you want to accomplish?
If I say prayers and ask 'Abdu'l-Bahá for guidance and love, for sure it bring[s] love and unity among my friends.

Describe a role model who inspires you to be the best you can be.
My role model is 'Abdu'l-Bahá . . . He is the best example to us, and I want us to follow Him and teach the words of Bahá'u'lláh one day.



"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

Nigel O.

Age: 7

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

I want to be:
A robot engineer or video game designer

Hobbies or sports:
Soccer, clay sculpting, skateboarding, swimming

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
I really like making crafts in children's class.

Place I'd love to visit:
Egypt, to see the mummies and pyramids

What qualities do you think a good leader should have?
I think a good leader should help others and care about others and not just about themselves. They would be like 'Abdu'l-Bahá.



If you ruled the entire world for one day, what would you want to accomplish?
I would want everyone to have enough money . . . I would also keep the polar bears from becoming extinct.

Describe a role model who inspires you to be the best you can be.
Someone who inspires me is Barack Obama, because he became president and is generous and considerate.

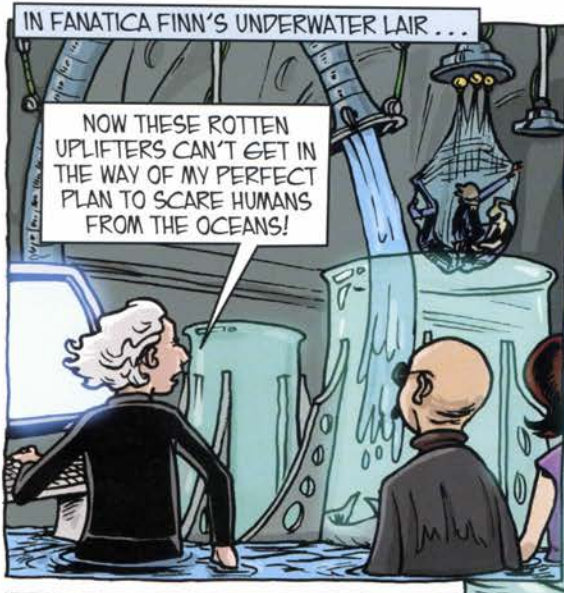
You can be a Radiant Star!

Here's how:

1. If you're age 7–14, write us at brilliant@usbnc.org or Brilliant Star, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Include your name, age, 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).

*Bahá'is in Iran are persecuted for their religion.

**Near the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, north of 'Akká, Israel



IN FANATICA FINN'S UNDERWATER LAIR...

NOW THESE ROTTEN UPLIFTERS CAN'T GET IN THE WAY OF MY PERFECT PLAN TO SCARE HUMANS FROM THE OCEANS!



THE NET IS HELD TOGETHER WITH STRONG ELECTRO-MAGNETS!

ELECTRICITY? WHERE'S LIGHTNING WHEN WE NEED HIM?



BLUEBIRD, ARE YOU OK?

IT'S HOPELESS. THERE'S NO WAY OUT.

THAT'S JUST THE ORB OF GLOOM TALKING - IT'LL WEAR OFF SOON.*



WHEN THE TANK IS FULL, IT'LL BE LUNCHTIME FOR THE SHARKS.

AND YOU'RE THE LUNCH!

REVENGE AT LAST!



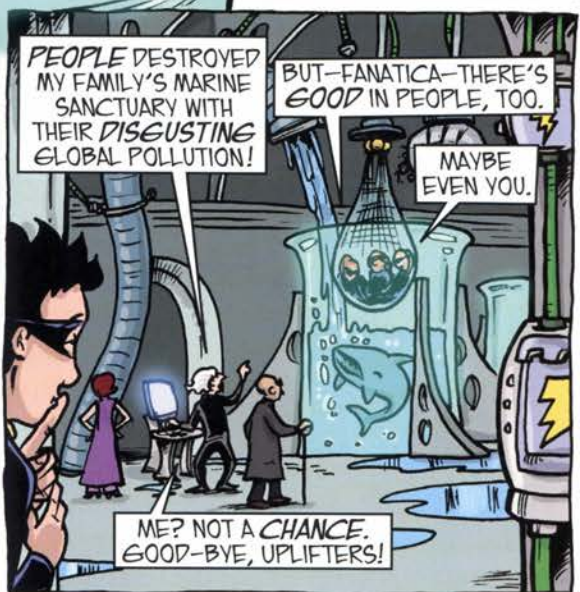
MANY SEAS ARE CLOSED TO SHIPS. MY CREATURES ARE SCARING OFF ALL HUMANS!

CREATURES? THEY'RE JUST ROBOTS!

I WON'T RISK LIVING SEA CREATURES!

BUT YOU'LL DESTROY PEOPLE?

UUUH, MY HEAD.



PEOPLE DESTROYED MY FAMILY'S MARINE SANCTUARY WITH THEIR DISGUSTING GLOBAL POLLUTION!

BUT-FANATICA-THERE'S GOOD IN PEOPLE, TOO.

MAYBE EVEN YOU.

ME? NOT A CHANCE. GOOD-BYE, UPLIFTERS!



LIGHTNING!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?



AHHH... WE'RE GONNA ATTACK YOU-LIKE LIGHTNING! WHEN-WHEN WE ESCAPE!

YEAH, WITH-UH, MORE POWER THAN THAT GENERATOR OVER THERE!



CRASH!
BANG!

OUCH!

HEY!

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THE LIGHTS?



LIGHTNING?
WHERE ARE YOU?

THE ERASERS! WE CAN'T
LET THEM ESCAPE!



MY SANCTUARY!
IT'S RUINED!

MY HAIR!

FANATICA, I KNEW YOUR
PLAN WAS STUPID!



L-L-LIGHTNING!
ARE YOU OK?
PLEASE...

I'M FINE. BUT I NEED TO ZAP THE
COMPUTER NETWORK TO STOP THE
ROBOT ATTACKS IN THE OCEANS.

FANATICA'S POWERFUL SYSTEM KNOCKED
ME OUT BEFORE I COULD FINISH THE
JOB. BUT THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF IT!

LIGHTNING,
YOU SHOWED UP
JUST IN TIME.

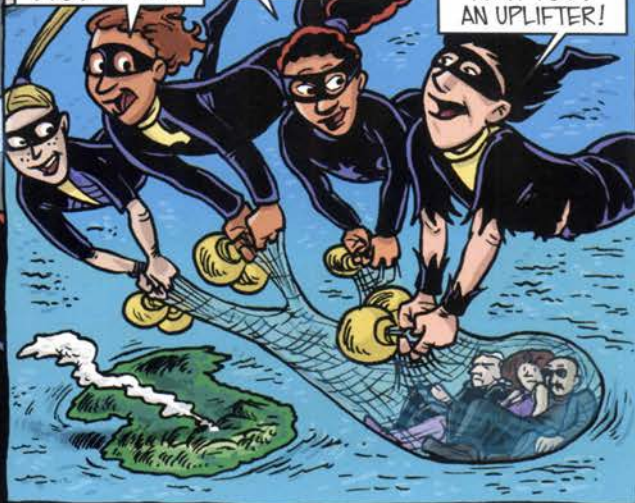
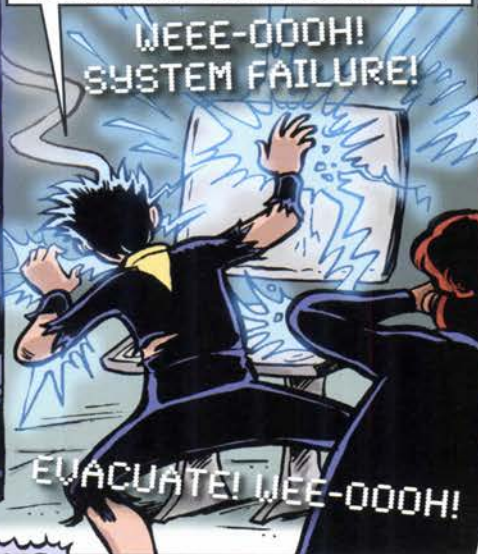
I'M SO HAPPY
YOU'RE BACK!

ME TOO. NOW I
KNOW I REALLY
WANT TO BE
AN UPLIFTER!



WEEE-OOOH!
SYSTEM FAILURE!

EVACUATE! WEE-OOOH!



ARE THE ERASERS GONE FOR GOOD?

JUDGE DOROTHY W. NELSON



All rise for the Honorable Dorothy W. Nelson." When Judge Nelson enters her courtroom in Pasadena, California, everyone stands to show respect. But it was standing up for *others* that inspired her to study law. As a teenager in Los Angeles, she led a club for poor kids and saw the courts affect their lives. She decided, "I'm going to be a lawyer . . . They seem to have the power to make things better."

Dorothy became a Bahá'í after graduating from law school, and went on to a distinguished career of service to the law, and to the Bahá'í Faith. She was the first female law professor at the University of Southern California, *and* the first female dean at any major U.S. law school.

In 1969, she was elected to the National Spiritual Assembly (NSA) of the Bahá'ís of the United States, the body that guides national Bahá'í activities. Since then, she was re-elected annually, until her retirement in early 2009.

Today, Dorothy continues her work as a federal judge, a post to which she was appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. Dorothy has won many awards in law, and she helped found the Western Justice Center, which promotes peaceful conflict resolution. She lives in California with her husband, the Honorable James F. Nelson, who also served as a judge and long-time member of the NSA before he retired.

Q. What's your favorite childhood memory?

Going to the beach house. Actually, during the Depression,* we had to live in it for a year . . . [I have] these wonderful childhood memories with our whole family. We came from people who love the beach. My mother was even a surfer.

Q. What was the most challenging experience you had as a child, and how did you handle it?

When we lived in Los Angeles, and it was during World War II, and they had to remove the Japanese . . . to these detention camps** . . . I couldn't understand why we [the U.S.] would do this to people . . .

We had a Japanese gardener, and we loved his family, and I had Japanese friends in school. And they were taken out of school, and . . . transported to these detention camps . . . Really, I had nightmares . . . I didn't know what a detention camp was, but someone told me it was like jail. And I just thought it was horrible.



At age 9, Dorothy (center) was already full of energy. She and her sisters, Nancy (left), age 7, and Elizabeth (right), age 11, grew up in California with dogs that they loved.

Q. Who are your heroes?

When I was in college, I was the student body vice-president, and the chancellor had us to lunch with Eleanor Roosevelt . . . I wrote a story for some class on Eleanor Roosevelt and her interest in human rights. I always . . . held her out as a role model . . .

Q. What do you like best about being a judge?

Wherever I travel . . . because I'm a United States Federal Judge, I find that people immediately accept what [I'm] saying. That can be good, and that can be bad, but it's giving me a larger world platform from which to work. I also like working on cases where I think I can make a difference. Judges don't make law, but . . . your background does make a great deal of difference—how you feel about discrimination, how you feel about civil rights, how you feel about the oneness of the world of humanity.

Q. You're such a champion of mediation in the legal field. What is it and why is it important?

The Bahá'í concept of consultation is at the heart of [mediation] . . . Consultation involves courtesy, listening to others, coming up with a solution that you all agree upon, where everybody is a winner. You don't have a winner and a loser . . . Mediation is less costly, less destructive, less painful, and much more efficient [than going to court]. And all of it begins with the Bahá'í concept of consultation.

Q. In this issue of *Brilliant Star*, we talk about the use of consultation in good leadership. How should kids approach consultation?

I think [they] should feel free to ask their parents to . . . consult with them, and . . . [to] learn how to become leaders, [children] should ask to be given jobs . . .

When our children were young, they found [Bahá'í] Feast boring, and they said so . . . Our [Local Spiritual] Assembly* decided, all right, every

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

To try to become your true self. Try and become who you really feel you ought to be, despite the fact that some of your friends do things that really are bad, like taking drugs or alcohol or gossiping about other kids, putting them down, making them



Top: In 1980, Judge Dorothy Nelson took the oath of office for the U.S. Court of Appeals. Her husband, Judge James Nelson, administered the oath.

Bottom: Judge Nelson has traveled around the world to give inspiring talks. In 2005, she spoke about consultation at a Bahá'í conference in Florida, U.S. Photo by Eric van Zanten

other Feast [will be] planned by the children . . . When children think that things can be improved, they should . . . say, "I wish we could do things differently." . . . *Then* they should suggest *how* they should be done differently, so that they would be given the responsibility for it.

feel terrible, so that they often end up doing really bad things to themselves. Try to stay true to yourself . . . Be what you think that God would approve of, your parents would approve of . . . In the end, you will be a much happier person as well.

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

*A Local Spiritual Assembly is a group of nine Bahá'ís elected to guide the local community.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Q. What was your most memorable experience on the National Spiritual Assembly after serving for 40 years?

So many memorable experiences. No one can describe how you learn and grow and celebrate . . . when you feel like you're doing God's work . . . and you're trying to do it to the best of your capacity. And I certainly grew over the years, and had the experience of serving with so many outstanding people. One special memory . . . was when we went to the Lakota Indian reservation in South Dakota and smoked the peace pipe and danced with the Lakota Indians.

Q. How have you balanced your demanding career with your family and Bahá'í service?

Everybody goes through difficulties and hard times . . . But for me, having the right partner has been a key to this. Marry the person who shares your beliefs . . . and shares your idea of the purpose in life, to know and love God, and to carry forward an advancing civilization. And at the heart of that is the family . . . There are times when you do feel the strain. When I was first elected to the National Assembly, I went out into the hallway and cried and cried and cried, because my children were still young. And Jim just said, "Look, we'll work this out." . . . Before he was elected—and thank heavens it was a little while before he was—[he] planned special treats and trips

Q. When kids talk about injustice around the world, what advice can you offer to explain why bad things happen if there is a loving God?

I think the first thing is to understand . . . that our souls are immortal, that they last forever. And that we're here on this plane of existence for a very

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

Read *Brilliant Star* every single time it comes in the mail. Talk about it with your friends. When [you] have troubles in life, [you] can always find the answer



Top: Dorothy and James visited the Bahá'í World Center in Haifa, Israel, in 1984. **Bottom:** For 40 years, Dorothy (first row, right) served on the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, pictured here in 2007. Photo by Eric van Zanten

and activities when I was at NSA meetings . . . And I realized that, when you had that kind of partnership, you could do anything.

short period of time. And if you aren't given challenges, you won't grow . . . These challenges are given to us to help *our* souls advance . . .

to . . . troubles through the Bahá'í writings . . . A lot of those answers to what they should do with their lives are found in *Brilliant Star*. I love *Brilliant Star*.

BUILDING ON CONSULTATION

“Take ye counsel together in all matters, inasmuch as consultation is the lamp of guidance which leadeth the way, and is the bestower of understanding.” —Bahá’u’lláh

When you program a robot to pick up a ball or run an obstacle course, that’s exactly what it does. It has no mind of its own, no suggestions to offer.

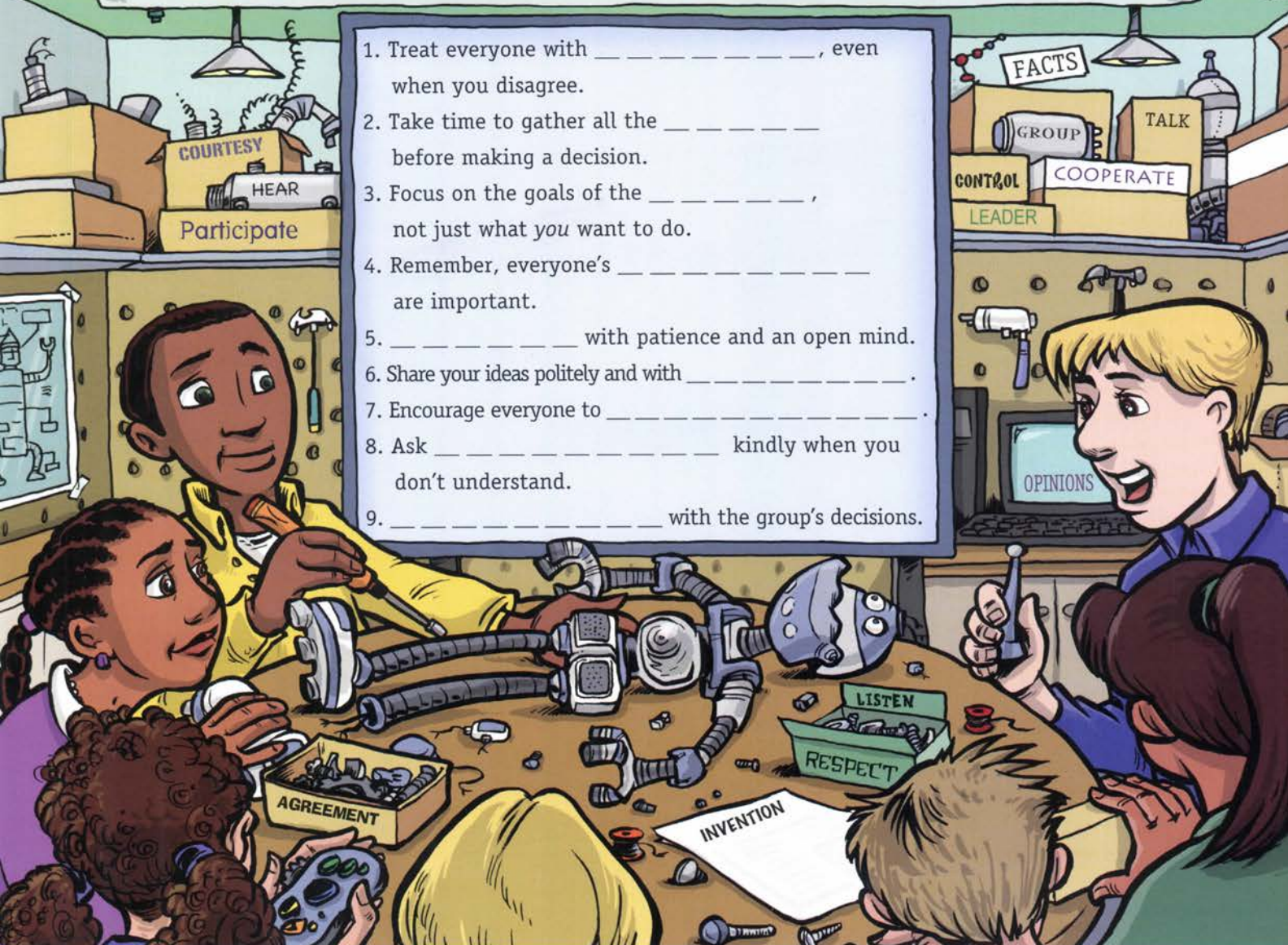
People aren’t like robots. Humans have feelings and opinions. This diversity can make it exciting and creative to work together. But making decisions can be tough when people don’t agree. Sometimes discussions

can lead to arguing, put-downs, and hurt feelings.

The Bahá’í writings give us a powerful tool for group discussions, called **consultation**. People share their ideas in a peaceful, positive way. It’s okay to have conflicting opinions, as long as everyone is respectful. Often, different ideas can be put together to build something unique—just like using different parts in a new way to create a cool robot.

The kids at Robo-Camp are using the consultation tips on the board. Read the tips, then search the lab to find the words that fit in the blanks. Try out the tips for your next group project.

1. Treat everyone with _____, even when you disagree.
2. Take time to gather all the _____ before making a decision.
3. Focus on the goals of the _____, not just what *you* want to do.
4. Remember, everyone’s _____ are important.
5. _____ with patience and an open mind.
6. Share your ideas politely and with _____.
7. Encourage everyone to _____.
8. Ask _____ kindly when you don’t understand.
9. _____ with the group’s decisions.





ART OF UNITY

Being a leader is like painting a brilliant picture. But instead of using colorful paints, you use creativity and friendliness to bring different people together in harmony.

Every day, you have chances to make connections with people. You can invite a new kid to join you in a game, eat lunch with you, or just hang out. Sometimes kids at school might form **cliques**—groups that exclude others.

For example, the drama club may not talk to the computer club. But you can set an example of openness by welcoming kids with diverse interests and backgrounds.

When you bring people together, you help create a more unified world. Check out the experiment below to see how one person can inspire others to blend their diverse ideas and interests into a masterpiece.

COLORFUL CONNECTIONS

You'll need: Dinner plate, milk, three or four liquid food colors, small dish, liquid dish soap, clean paintbrush

As you follow these steps, imagine that each color represents a different circle of friends. The soap on your paintbrush represents your leadership qualities, like enthusiasm and encouragement. Watch what can happen when you add your friendly attitude to this mix.

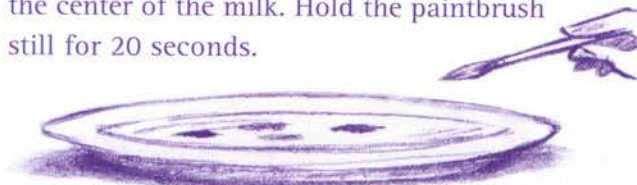
1. Pour just enough milk to cover the surface of the dinner plate. Wait until the milk stops moving.



2. Add one or two drops of each color onto the milk in different spots. Don't mix the colors or milk.



3. Pour 1 tablespoon (15 ml) of dish soap in the small dish. Dip your paintbrush in the soap, then into the center of the milk. Hold the paintbrush still for 20 seconds.



What happens? _____

4. Clean your paintbrush and repeat the last step, placing the brush in a different spot.

What happens? _____

HOW IT WORKS

Milk, which is mostly water, has **surface tension**—its molecules stick close together to make a sort of “skin” on the surface. Liquid food color is also mostly water, and it rests on the milk’s surface. But soap breaks the barriers between the water molecules. The molecules push away from each other, causing the colors to move around.





Ride the Road to Success

When you learned to ride a bike, you probably fell a few times. But you kept trying. Falling was part of learning.

When you try to learn a new skill or do something you've never done before, you might make mistakes. Mistakes can be embarrassing or even a little painful. But if you work *too* hard to avoid them, you might stop trying new things—and then you'd miss out on a lot of fun.

Sometimes people get so scared of mistakes that



they procrastinate, or put things off until the last minute. They have a hard time doing well, because they're always rushed. A better strategy is to work on a project in small steps, accepting that you may not do it perfectly. As you complete each step, you'll grow more confident.

It's good to try new things and make mistakes. You learn ways to improve, and how to be patient and persistent. Whatever road you travel in life, don't let fear of failure become a barrier.

Watch Out for Roadblocks!

Take this quiz to find out how easily *you* knock down roadblocks to success. Circle your answers, then check your score below.

1. I try to stay positive when a project isn't going perfectly. YES • NO
2. When I make a mistake, I think about what I can learn from it. YES • NO
3. I admit if I'm overwhelmed with something, and I ask for help. YES • NO
4. I try new activities, even if I'm afraid I won't be the best at them. YES • NO
5. When I meet a challenge successfully, I celebrate and enjoy it. YES • NO
6. I know that difficulties are part of life, and they can make me stronger. YES • NO

7. If I get stuck on a project, I do things that inspire me, such as read books or consult with others. YES • NO
8. When I have a tough decision to make, I list solutions and the possible results for each one. YES • NO
9. If someone tries to discourage me or bring me down, I stay confident and keep going. YES • NO
10. When faced with a new challenge, I remember things I've accomplished in the past. YES • NO
11. When I make a mistake, I take responsibility for it and come up with solutions. YES • NO
12. When I have a big goal, I make a plan and break it down into smaller steps. YES • NO

Scoring

My "Yes" Total:

If you had **9–12** "YES" answers, congratulations! You have an awesome start on your road to success.

If you had **5–8** "YES" answers, you're doing well. Study the quiz for tips to knock down those roadblocks.

If you had less than **5** "YES" answers, be patient and keep at it. Start by picking one roadblock, and knock it down.



Playing in Harmony

Tap, tap, tap! The conductor's baton brings the orchestra to attention. She raises the baton, gives a signal, and the musicians begin to play. Throughout the concert, her movements show the musicians how fast and how loud to play, and when to finish a note. The conductor coordinates all the different instruments, helping each player bring the music to life.

You can take cues from an orchestra conductor

when you're the one leading a group. It's important to give each person a chance to use their unique talents. Help them express their ideas so all voices are heard. Even with the pressure of the crowd looking on, stay focused on the job before you. As a good leader, you share the spotlight and make sure everybody gets the praise they deserve. You'll be able to keep the rhythm of your group strong and steady, with everyone working in harmony.

These musicians are rehearsing with their conductor. Find 8 letters hidden throughout the scene to complete the quote.



Hidden letters:

“T _ _ iv rsit i _ t _ _ uma _ famil _ s_oul_ be t _ _ caus_ of lov_ a _ _ armo _ _ , as it is i _ music w _ r _ ma _ _ iff r _ t _ _ ot s bl _ _ to _ t _ r i _ t _ _ ma i _ _ of a _ _ rf ct c_or.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

In many cultures, elders are family leaders who are honored for their rich wisdom. They pass on stories, traditions, and teachings. In Korea, a person's 60th and 70th birthdays are big celebrations. In India, people touch their elders' feet to get their blessing. In Canada, there is a Council of Elders that provides guidance about native culture. Respect for elders was also encouraged by Confucius, the ancient Chinese philosopher. Many countries set aside a special holiday for honoring elders. In the U.S. and Canada, Grandparents' Day falls in September. Spend some time with your elders, and find out what they can teach you about leadership.



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.



1
Whole Grains Month (U.S.)
A whole grain's core, the germ, is full of vitamins and minerals.



2
Onam Festival (Kerala, India)
A harvest festival with races of 100-foot snake boats

4 **5**
My Goal for the Month:

6
Did you know? In gorilla families, the lead male directs and protects the group.



Labor Day (U.S.)

8
BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF 'IZZAT (MIGHT)



10 **VANGUARD MEANS ...**
Cosmo's Word Challenge
a) Damage to public property
b) Group that leads the way
c) Automobile security device



13 **14**
Grandparents' Day (U.S. and Canada)
Ask your grandparents about their favorite memories.

15 **16** **17**
National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15–Oct. 15)
Explore leaders like Dr. Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic woman astronaut.

18
Clean Up the World Weekend
Theme: "Communities Uniting to Combat Climate Change"

19
Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)

20
Eid al-Fitr (Islam)
Celebration of the end of the Muslim fast

21
International Day of Peace (UN)



22
Autumnal Equinox
Turnoff Week
Millions take a break from screen time this week.

23 **24**
Shubun no-Hi (Japan)
A national holiday to honor ancestors



27
BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF MASHÍYYAT (WILL)

28 **29**
Yom Kippur (Judaism)
A day of fasting, prayer, and repentance



30
Who do you look up to as a leader? Write a note to tell them so.



WHAT KIND OF BUILDING IS THE TALLEST IN THE WORLD?

A LIBRARY—IT HAS THE MOST STORIES.



As a child in Persia (now Iran) in the 1800s, Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad amazed people with His knowledge. His schoolteacher said He had "mysterious power" and "superhuman wisdom." When He grew up, 'Alí-Muhammad was admired for His integrity, humility, and devotion to God. At age 25, 'Alí-Muhammad declared that He was a Messenger of God called the Báb ("the Gate" in Arabic). He told His followers to prepare for another Messenger who would soon appear—Bahá'u'lláh. On October 20, Bahá'ís celebrate the Birth of the Báb with joy and hospitality.

Sunday

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

Monday

My Goal for the Month:

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1 Women's History Month (Canada)
In 1929, Canadian law legally declared women as "persons," advancing equality.

2 International Day of Nonviolence (UN)
And the birthday of Indian leader for peace, Mahatma Gandhi



3 International Walk to School Month



4

11

5 World Teachers' Day (UN)
18 million more teachers are needed to give education for all.



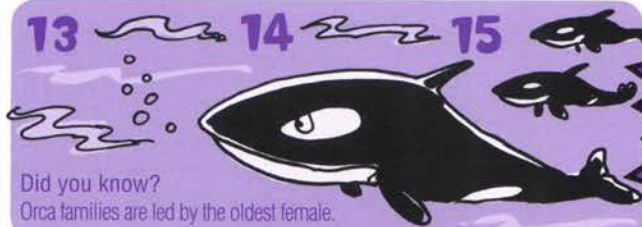
7 CATALYST MEANS ...

Cosmo's Word Challenge
a) Person who starts an event or change
b) List of popular pets
c) Index of all books in a library



10 World Mental Health Day (UN)

12 Columbus Day (U.S.)
Thanksgiving Day (Canada)



13 Did you know?
Orca families are led by the oldest female.

16 BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF 'ILM (KNOWLEDGE)

17 Diwali (Hinduism)
Festival of lights celebrates victory of good over evil.

18 Character Counts Week
What's your favorite way to be of service?



19 International School Library Day
Soar into adventure at your library!

20 BIRTH OF THE BÁB
In Shíráz, Persia, in 1819



27 Did you know?
Giraffes "talk" to each other in voices humans can't hear!

22 WHAT'S A WIZARD'S FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL?

23 SPELLING!



24 United Nations Day (UN)
Promoting human rights since 1945

31 Halloween
Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.*



MUSIC CAFÉ

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

DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU CAN DO *ANYTHING*? I DO, WHEN I'M WITH FRIENDS WHO WANT TO MAKE EARTH A BETTER PLACE.

WE SING THIS SONG AT THE MUSIC CAFÉ SO WE THAT WE CAN REMEMBER...

WE CAN MOVE THE WORLD

By Joe Crone

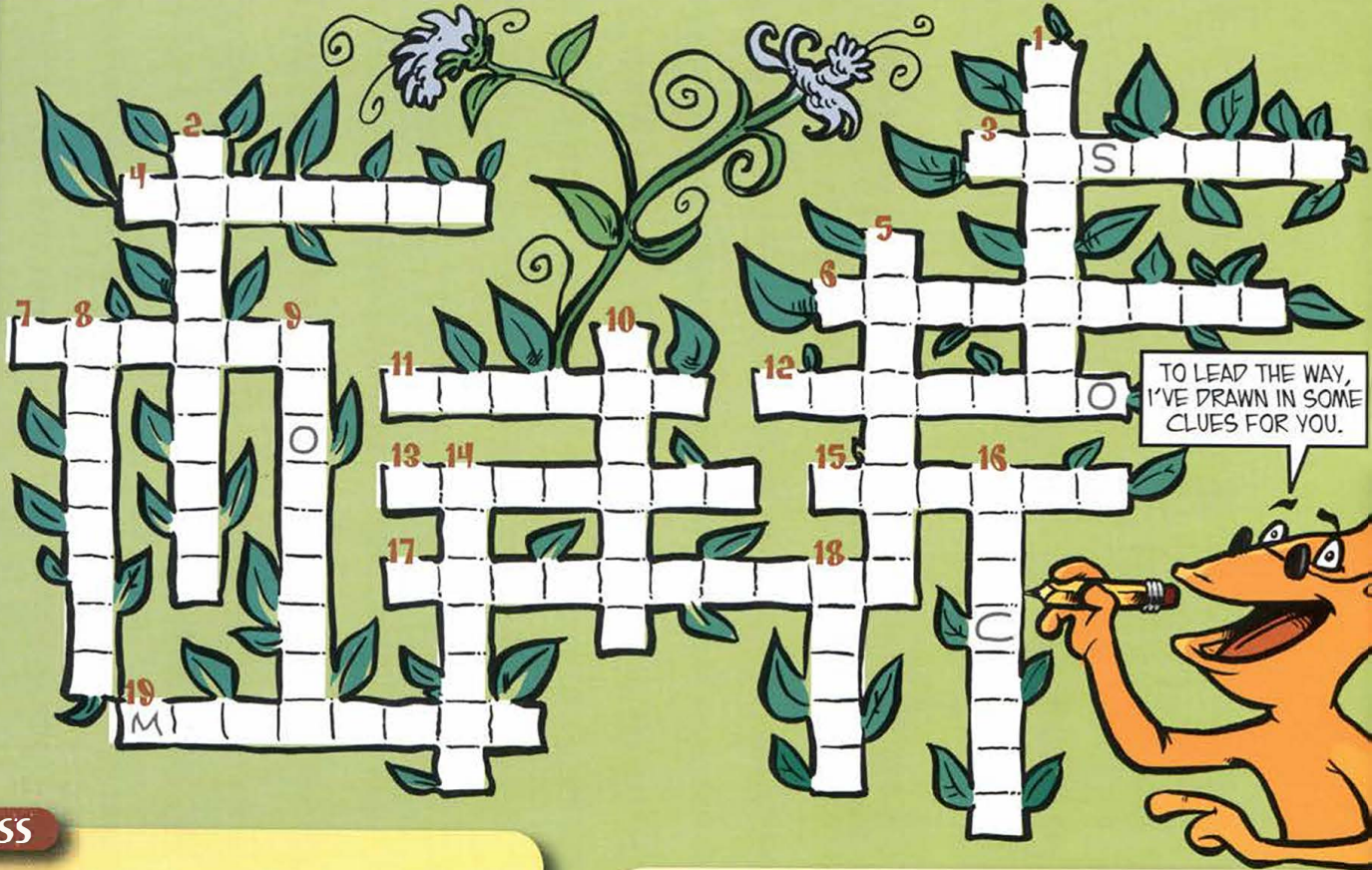
Chorus



2. I am a mine rich in gems, and
Education is my key.
I will grow, and I will discover
The wonderful jewels inside of me.

3. Our shoes have wings, watch us run.
We will strive to reach our goals.
Shining like diamonds in the noonday sun,
Surrounded by the friends we've come to know.

Look for clues throughout the magazine.



ACROSS

3. Treat everyone with _____, even when you disagree. (p. 19)
4. A _____ leader focuses on serving and empowering others. (p. 6)
6. When facing peer pressure, be assertive and _____. (p. 10)
7. Family leaders honored for their rich wisdom. (p. 23)
11. These brothers invented the motor-powered airplane. (p. 5)
12. Thornton Chase was in this city when he became the first American Bahá'í. (p. 27)
13. "Adl" is Arabic for _____. (p. 3)
15. Brandon says a good leader should be willing to _____ and be kind to others. (p. 12)
17. Judge Dorothy W. Nelson likes working on cases where she thinks she can make a _____. (p. 17)
19. It's good to try new things and make _____. (p. 21)

DOWN

1. Jing Rong likes to help people by _____ them up. (p. 12)
2. _____ isn't just being in charge—it's also bringing out the best in everyone around you. (p. 29)
5. Being _____ can boost energy. (p. 8)
8. _____ creates new pathways between your brain cells. (p. 9)
9. As a good leader, you share the _____ and make sure everybody gets the praise they deserve. (p. 22)
10. When navigating life's challenges, your _____ help make the voyage rough or calm. (p. 2)
14. When you bring people together, you help create a more _____ world. (p. 20)
16. October 5 celebrates World _____ Day. (p. 24)
18. These are the "building blocks" for all living creatures, from people to animals and plants. (p. 11)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



I like the Brilliant Star magazine because I can learn about [the] Bahá'í Faith, and I like the stories and games, too. I always play the games with my mom and my brother. And now I like to thank you, all of you, for everything you are doing for us. I love the Brilliant Star and thank you very much . . .
—Sierra Y., Age 10, Arizona, U.S.

ANSWERS

PAGE 2: Words in quote: ship, most, captain, rely, Keeper.

PAGE 7: Kid painting another kid at top right; girl applying glue instead of lipstick at center right; girl combing hair with fork at center right; boy setting brush on table at bottom right; girl sewing with thread from another dress at bottom center; kid in cow suit with horse head at bottom center; violin player with feather duster at bottom left; kid in horse costume with baker's hat at center left; kid in beast costume with lady's

shoe at center left; kid with bakery sign upside down at center.

PAGE 11: Germany, Spotted Eagle Rays

PAGE 22: P in bush at right. N on blue shirt, H on cello, D on stone at bottom left, E on scarf, K behind conductor, Y in leaves at center left, G on blue pants. "The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord."

PAGE 9



Words to find: uplift, knowledge

THORNTON CHASE: First American Bahá'í

It takes courage to stand out and be the first in your entire country to do something new. The first Bahá'í in the United States was Thornton Chase.

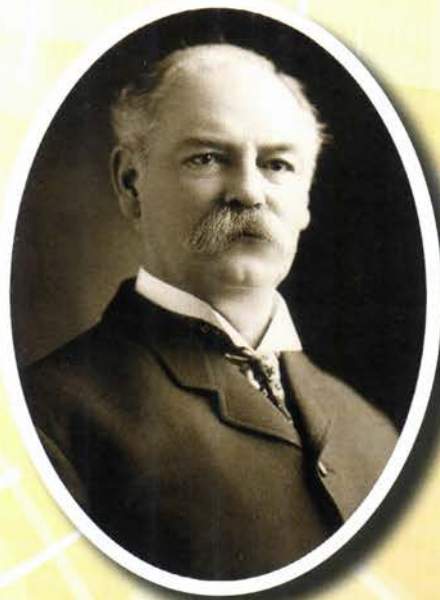
Thornton was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1847. Tragically, his mother died just 17 days after he was born. His father remarried, but Thornton was never close to his stepmother. He described his childhood as "loveless and lonely."

Thornton was raised as a Baptist, and from his teen years, he constantly asked questions about religion and tried to deepen his understanding of God.

At age 16, Thornton joined the Union Army in the Civil War. Responsible and self-disciplined, he was quickly promoted. By 18, he was captain of a 100-man company of soldiers. After the war, he started a lumber business in Massachusetts. Unfortunately, the business failed, and jobs were scarce. In 1873, he left home and traveled the country, seeking work.

The First Bahá'í

Thornton lived in many states, including Wisconsin, Kansas, and Colorado. He worked as an actor, singer, journalist, and silver miner, among other jobs. Thornton struggled to support his wife and two daughters. His first marriage ended in divorce, but he remarried a few



Thornton Chase was the first American Bahá'í. He felt that the Bahá'í Faith inspired "a great desire to be of use in every possible waking moment to . . . God's creatures."

years later and had a son.

Throughout his many challenges, Thornton continued his spiritual search. He studied world religions and often wrote poetry about God and faith.

In 1888, Thornton finally found success in his career working for an insurance company. He settled in Chicago. Then, in 1894, he heard about the Bahá'í Faith from a Lebanese Bahá'í living in the U.S. Thornton's life changed forever. The following year, at age 48, he became the first American Bahá'í. He eagerly shared his new faith with others. Within two years, there were more than 60 Bahá'ís in Chicago.

Bahá'í Leadership

Thornton Chase became a leader in the Bahá'í community. In 1900, he was elected to serve on the first Bahá'í governing body in Chicago. He traveled widely and gave talks about the Faith. He also helped start the Bahá'í Publishing Society, edited translations of Bahá'í writings into English, and wrote two books about the Faith.

In 1907, Thornton went to 'Akká, in what is now Israel, to meet 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the leader of the Faith at that time. 'Abdu'l-Bahá encouraged Thornton, and gave him the title *Thábit*, which means "steadfast." Thornton wrote about his visit, which strengthened his faith: "It was as if, after long journeyings, weariness, trials and searchings, we had at last reached home."

Thornton was living in California when 'Abdu'l-Bahá visited the U.S. in 1912. He eagerly awaited the chance to see Him again. Sadly, Thornton grew sick and passed away on September 30, 1912, the day before 'Abdu'l-Bahá reached California.

'Abdu'l-Bahá prayed at Thornton's grave and asked the Bahá'ís to visit there every year. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "This revered personage was the first Bahá'í in America. He served the Cause faithfully and his services will ever be remembered throughout future ages and cycles."

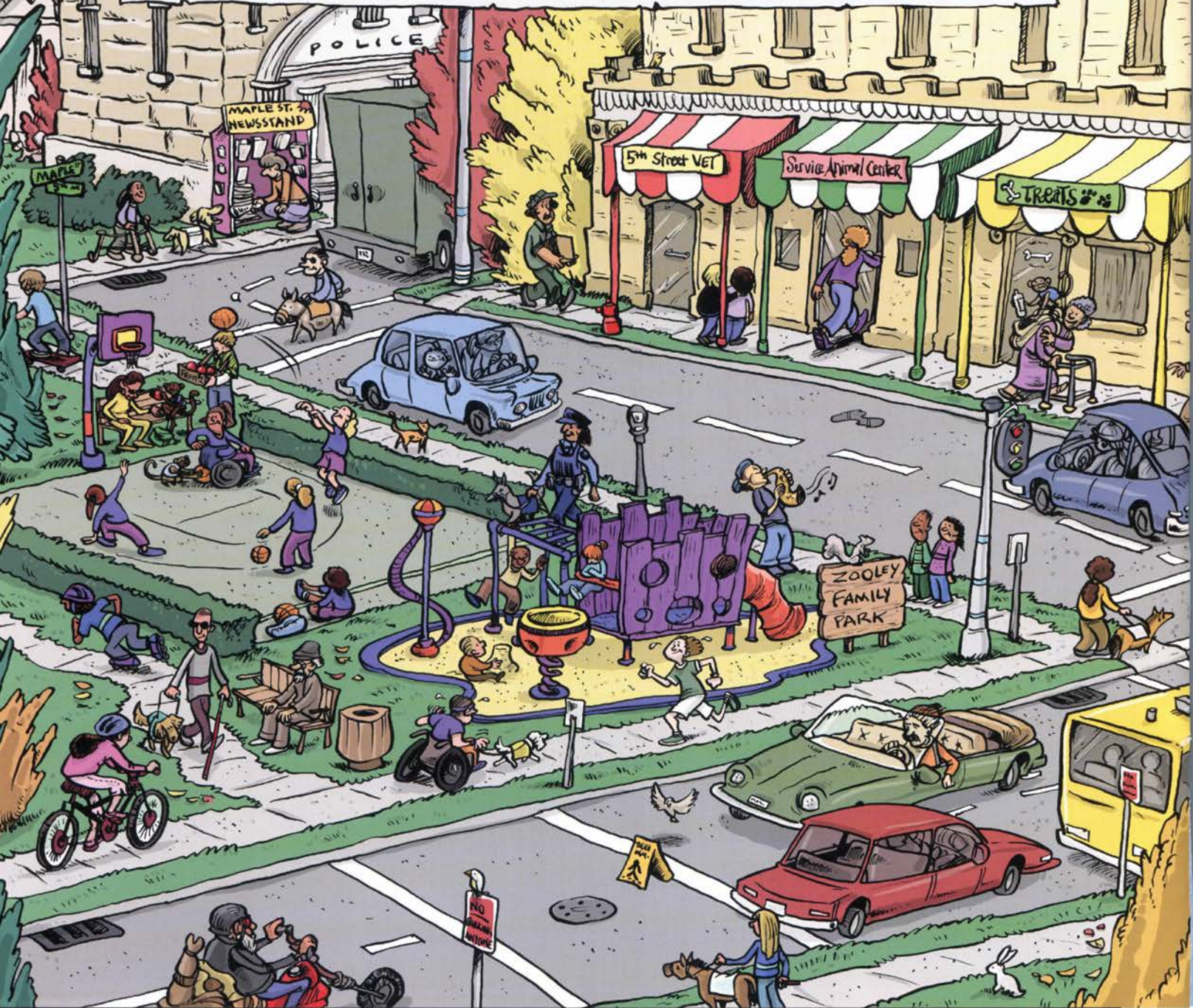
Capable Creatures

Dogs are called “man’s best friend” for their loyalty and affection. They can be life-saving helpers, too. With special training, some become service dogs. You’ve probably seen guide dogs that help the blind. Dogs can also learn to alert deaf people to sounds, such as a doorbell or smoke alarm. Some open doors, carry things, or use their amazing sense of smell to help police or rescue workers.

Other animals are trained for service, too. Miniature horses can guide the blind. Monkeys retrieve things and do other vital tasks. Also, service animals can often go into public places where pets aren’t allowed.

These helpful creatures lead and protect people. They show us a vital quality in any leader—service. True leaders—on two legs or four—help others feel safe, confident, and happy.

In this scene, find 10 service animals on duty—including dogs, horses, and monkeys.



Leading the Climb

"Rejecting the low sights of mediocrity, let them scale the ascending heights of excellence in all they aspire to do. May they resolve to elevate the very atmosphere in which they move..." —Bahá'í Writings

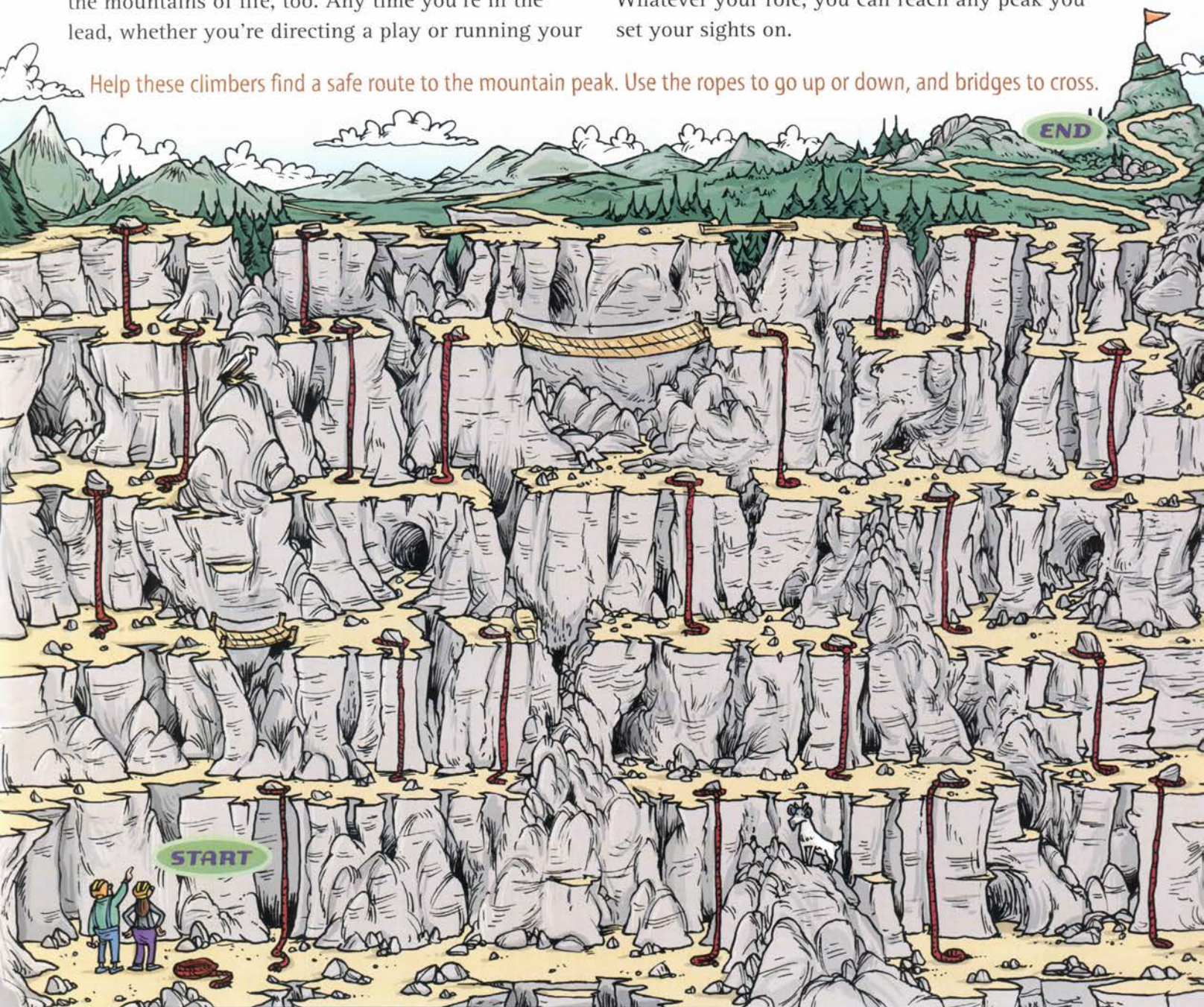
When you're climbing a mountain, teamwork is essential. If you're the leader, it's your job to plan the route, guide other climbers, and solve problems that arise. You build trust and communication among the team, so everyone works together for a safe climb.

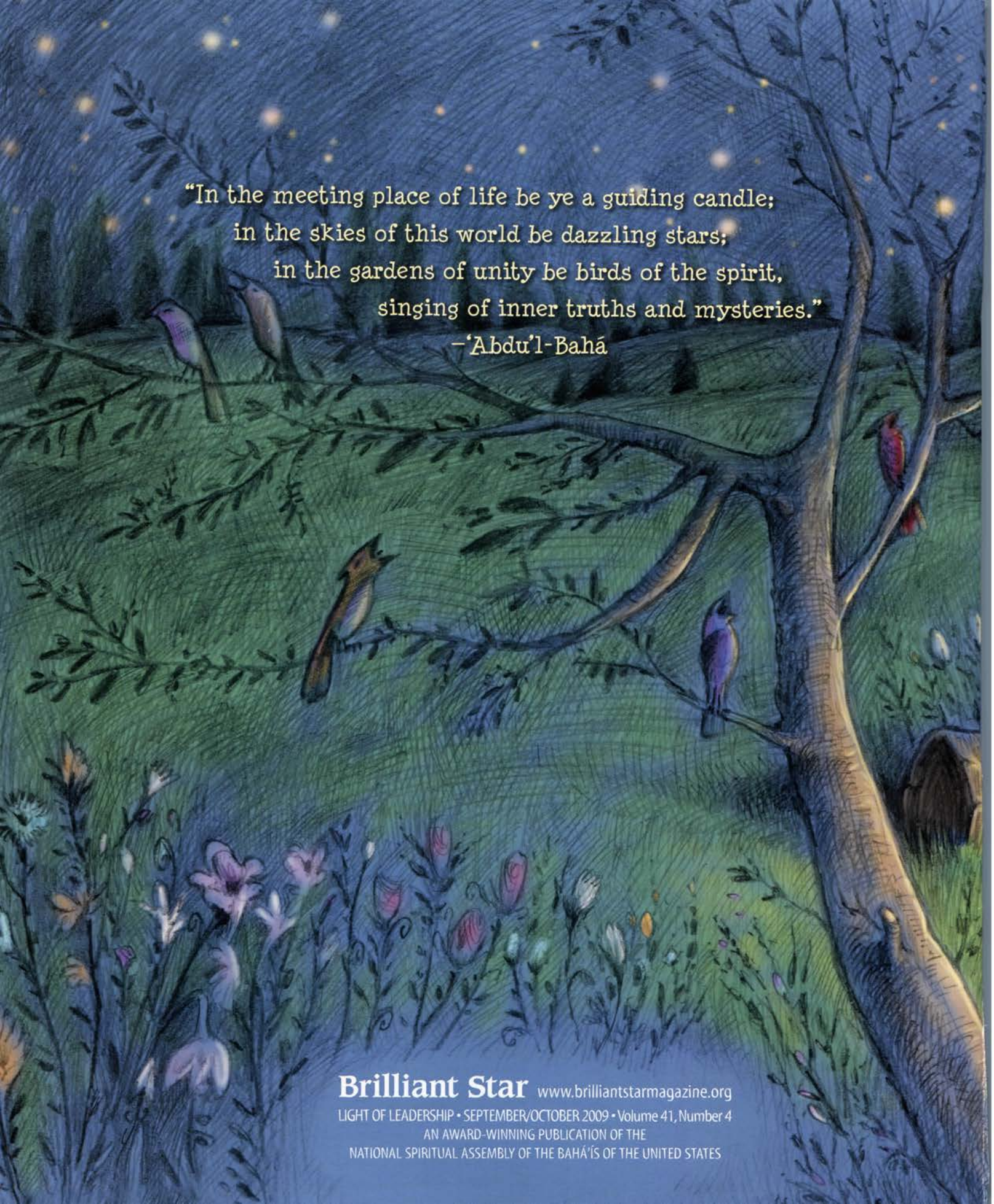
These skills are important when you're scaling the mountains of life, too. Any time you're in the lead, whether you're directing a play or running your

team to victory, you have important responsibilities. It's up to you to encourage and motivate your team, and keep them focused and united.

Leadership isn't just being in charge—it's also bringing out the best in everyone around you. You can even use your leadership skills as a team player. Whatever your role, you can reach any peak you set your sights on.

Help these climbers find a safe route to the mountain peak. Use the ropes to go up or down, and bridges to cross.



A painting of a night garden scene. A large, gnarled tree with dark branches dominates the right side of the frame. Several birds are perched on the branches: a purple bird on the left, a brown bird in the center, and a red bird on the right. The sky is dark blue with numerous small, glowing stars. In the foreground, there are various flowers, including purple and white blossoms. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

“In the meeting place of life be ye a guiding candle;
in the skies of this world be dazzling stars;
in the gardens of unity be birds of the spirit,
singing of inner truths and mysteries.”

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Brilliant Star www.brilliantstarmagazine.org

LIGHT OF LEADERSHIP • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009 • Volume 41, Number 4

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