

# Highlights®

FUN with a Purpose®



**LEAP  
IN!!**

**3 GOOFY  
ROBOTS**

Page 18

**ARCTIC  
ADVENTURE**

Page 36

# Fun This Month

## Storm Code

Use the code to solve the riddle.



- |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
| A= | G= | N= | S= |
| B= | H= | O= | T= |
| D= | I= | R= | U= |
| E= | L= |    |    |

Why are thunderstorms good at gym class?

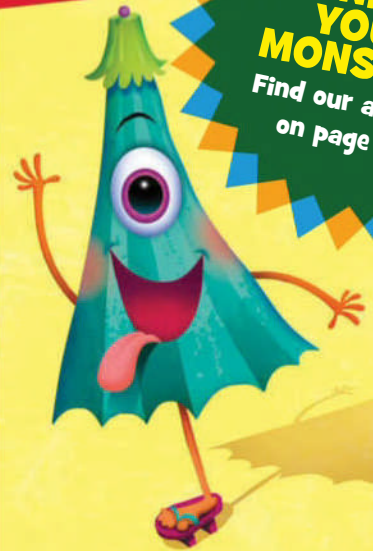
Because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer on page 38.

**SEND US YOUR MONSTER!**  
Find our address on page 35.



## Mythical Monsters

*Kasa-obake* is a fantastical Japanese creature. The name means “umbrella ghost.” It is a discarded umbrella that comes to life after 100 years. What object-turned-creature can you come up with?

## Window View

Look outside your window. What do you see? Stars? Skyscrapers? A basketball hoop? Capture your view with a poem, drawing, or photograph. Repeat at least once a month, and see what changes throughout the year.



## Find the Pictures

Can you find each of these 11 pictures at another place in this magazine?



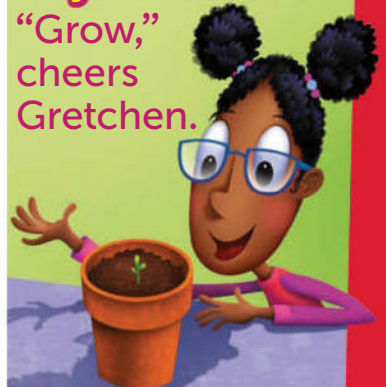
## Mystery Photo



Answer on page 38

## Tongue Twister

“Grow,” cheers Gretchen.



Founded in 1946 by Garry C. Myers, Ph.D.,  
and Caroline Clark Myers

**Editor in Chief:** Christine French Cully  
**Vice President, Magazine Group Editorial:** Jamie Bryant  
**Creative Director:** Marie O'Neill  
**Editor:** Judy Burke  
**Art Director:** Patrick Greenish, Jr.  
**Senior Editor:** Joëlle Dujardin  
**Associate Editor:** Linda K. Rose  
**Assistant Editor:** Allison Kane  
**Copy Editor:** Joan Prevete Hyman  
**Editorial Assistant:** Channing Kaiser  
**Senior Production Artist:** Dave Justice  
**Contributing Science Editor:** Andrew Boyles

**Editorial Offices:** 803 Church Street, Honesdale, PA 18431-1895.  
E-mail: eds@highlights.com.

To submit manuscripts, go to [Highlights.submittable.com](http://Highlights.submittable.com).  
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**CEO:** Kent S. Johnson  
**Vice President, International:** Andy Shafran  
**Senior Editor, International:** Julie Stoehr  
**Business Offices:** 1800 Watermark Drive,  
P.O. Box 269, Columbus, OH 43216-0269.

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## Dear Reader

By Christine French Cully  
Editor in Chief



# Dream Up a Story

When I was about your age, I loved  
to write and illustrate my own stories.

I had notebooks filled with my original  
work, which I liked to read aloud to my  
parents. One of my favorite stories was about a talking dog  
who made his own dog biscuits.

Reading the original stories that kids send to us reminds me  
of how much fun I had writing stories as a child. Kids are great  
at dreaming up unusual characters  
and surprising story lines! Check out  
“Your Own Stories” (page 27)  
to see what I mean.



**Nina and Myla  
love to dance.**

We include kids' stories in  
*Highlights* every now and then. We  
hope you enjoy reading them, and we hope  
they inspire you to write your own stories.

If you have trouble thinking of an idea at first, try looking  
out your window. What do you see? Choose three things (for  
example, a snowman, a car, and a bird), then write a story that  
includes them all. Let yourself go, and have fun!

I'm very curious to see what you can do, so I hope you'll  
share your stories with me.

Your friend,

*Christine*

**Write to me!**  
[Christine@Highlights.com](mailto:Christine@Highlights.com)

**This magazine of wholesome fun**  
is dedicated to helping children grow in basic **skills** and **knowledge**,  
in **creativity**, in ability to **think** and **reason**,  
in **sensitivity** to others, in high **ideals** and worthy ways of living—  
**for children are the world's most important people®.**



# January

VOLUME 73 • NUMBER 1 • ISSUE NO. 795

## Dear Highlights,

I Love to read, but My friend keeps saying, "Oh, you're reading again!" what shall I Do?  
—Lawrence, New York

We know what that's like, Lawrence! Try these ideas.

- 1 You can say "I just love to read!" Then suggest a book that your friend might enjoy.
- 2 Make time for your friend. He or she might want to spend time with you.
- 3 Reading is wonderful. But having a balance of activities is important, too!



**Get Jazzed!**  
New Orleans celebrates its 300th birthday in 2018.



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What can you pick up with your feet?

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Taking care of special things.

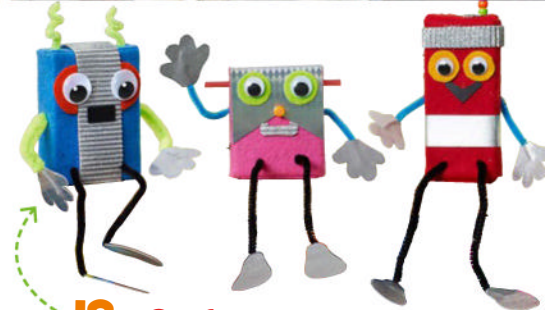
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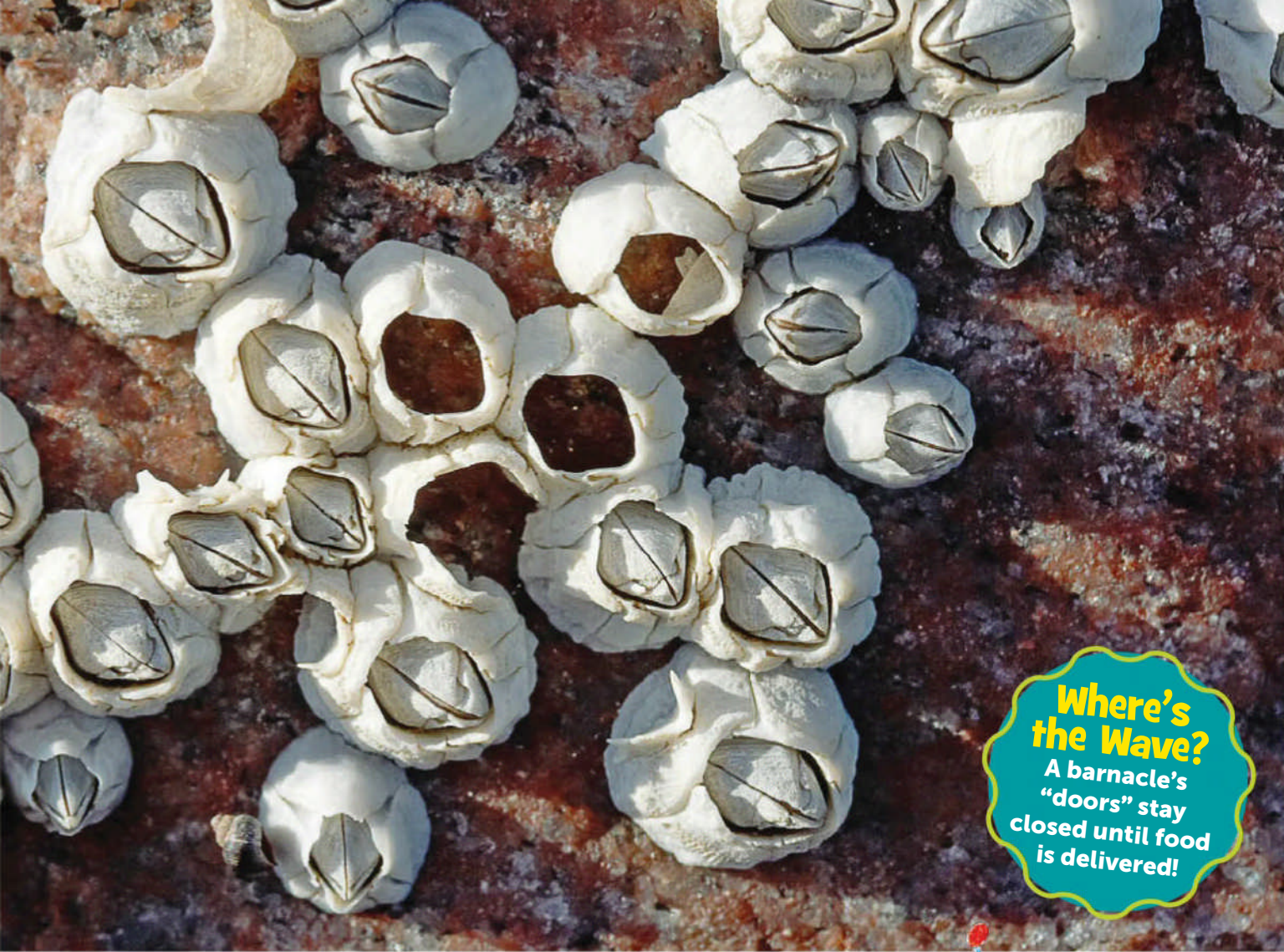
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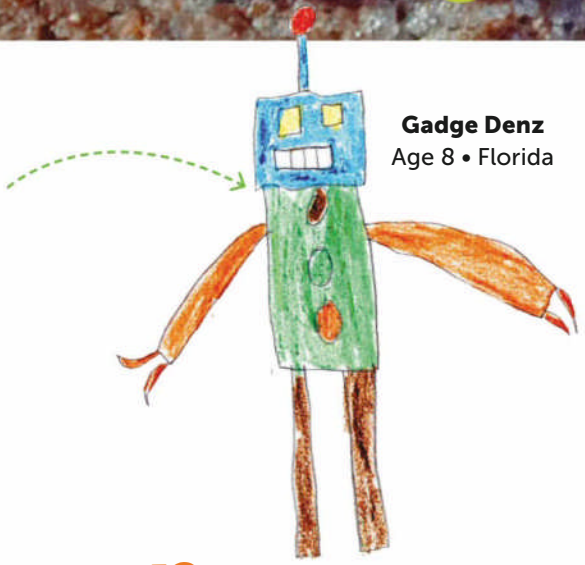
A muddy puppy named Rascal lives up to his name.

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Shayna wants to stop being grouchy.

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A puzzle for science fans.



**Gadge Denz**  
Age 8 • Florida

# Brain Play

**START**

Take your brain on a hike!

Name some things that grow throughout the year.



What's the most important thing to have at a party?



If you were a dog, what would you think if you saw someone sledding?



WHAT COLOR WOULD YOU SAY YOUR PERSONALITY IS? WHY?



Which foods can be piled up?

What can you pick up with your FEET?



To-do list  
 Name one thing you really want to accomplish today.

Which sounds around you



go HIGH and LOW?



What could you make or do with a stack of paper plates?

What does it mean to "look for the best in people"?



What do you wish you could do faster?

# Please Pass the . . .

By Sheri Doyle

Art by Keith Frawley



tongue-tingling,  
tonsil-jingling,  
cheek-burning,  
thirst-yearning,  
ear-stinging,  
tear-bringing,  
eye-popping,  
jaw-dropping,  
sweat-breaking,  
breathtaking

## SALSA!

# How Six Sons Saved Anansi

*A West African Tale*

Retold by Gale Sypher Jacob

Art by Mona Meslier Menuau

**The brothers traveled up and down, over and under, until they reached the river.**

**L**ong ago, a spider called Anansi had six lively sons. They were named See All, Roadbuilder, Riverdrinker, Fishcutter, Spellcaster, and Cushion. As you can guess by their names, each son had a special talent.

One morning, Anansi told his sons to be good, waved good-bye, and left for town to buy a new cooking pot.

Anansi's sons climbed trees and ran races, but they never grew tired.

**"Father was swallowed by a big fish. We need to rescue him!"**

Hours later, See All cried, "Listen to me! Father fell into the river and was swallowed by a big fish. We need to go rescue him!"

"Watch me!" called Roadbuilder. He spun a strong spider-silk road.

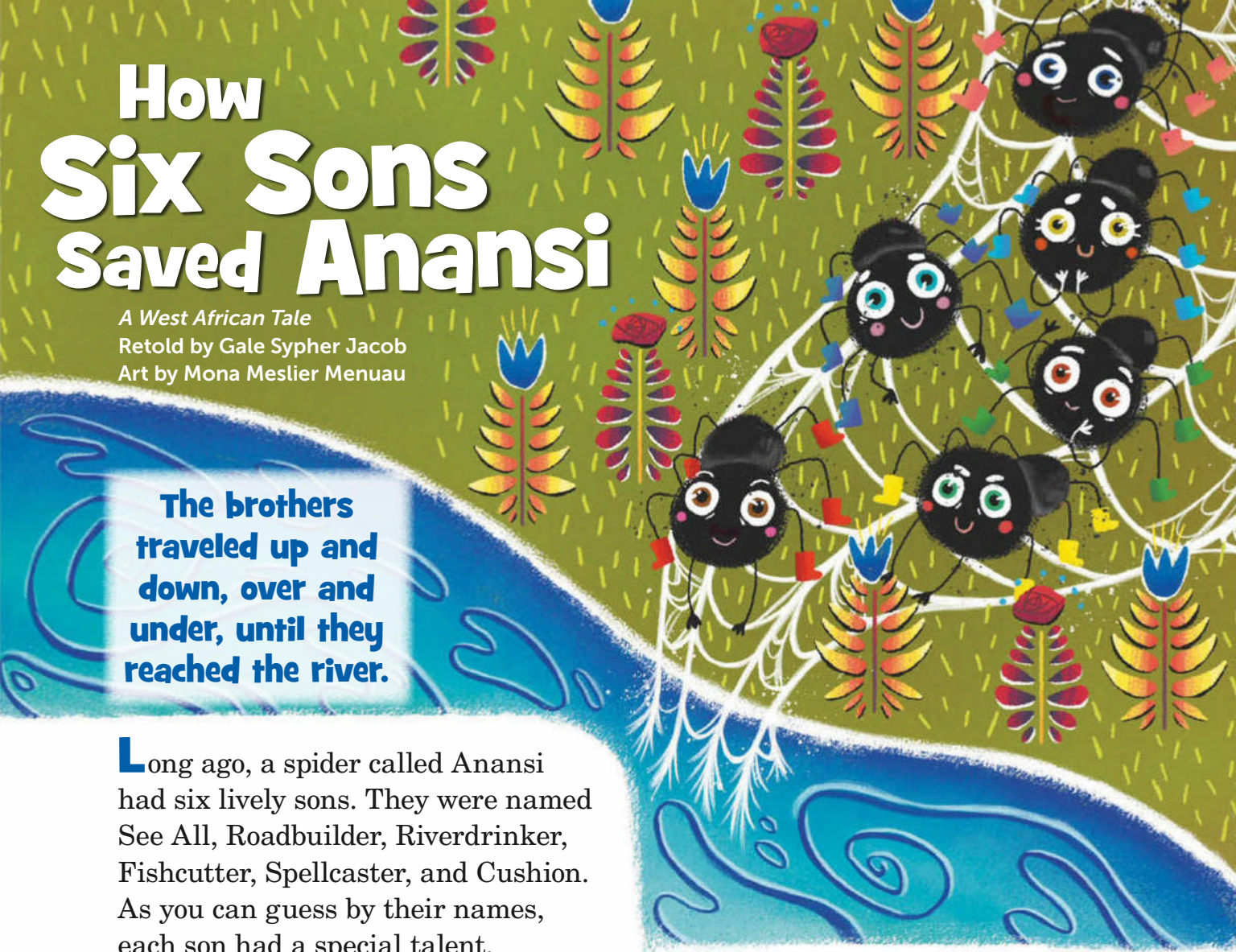
Then he and his brothers traveled on it, up and down, over and under, until they reached the river.

But where was the big fish?

"Watch me!" cried Riverdrinker. He leaned over the river, opened his mouth, and swallowed all of the river's water. The big fish lay on the dry river bottom.

Fishcutter cried, "Watch me!" And he opened the big fish.

Anansi scrambled out. As he reached out to hug his sons, Crow zoomed down, snatched Anansi in her beak, and disappeared into the sky.





Oh no! Their father was gone again!  
“Watch me!” cried Spellcaster. He turned around, rubbed his eight legs together, and jumped into the air. *Poof!* He cast a sleeping spell over Crow.

Crow opened her beak to yawn, and Anansi fell down, down . . .

“Watch me!” cried Cushion. He raced to where his father would hit the ground. Anansi landed on Cushion.

“My wonderful sons!” said Anansi. “You saved my life, not once but twice. You all deserve a reward.”

On the long walk home, the sons chattered happily about how they had saved their father.

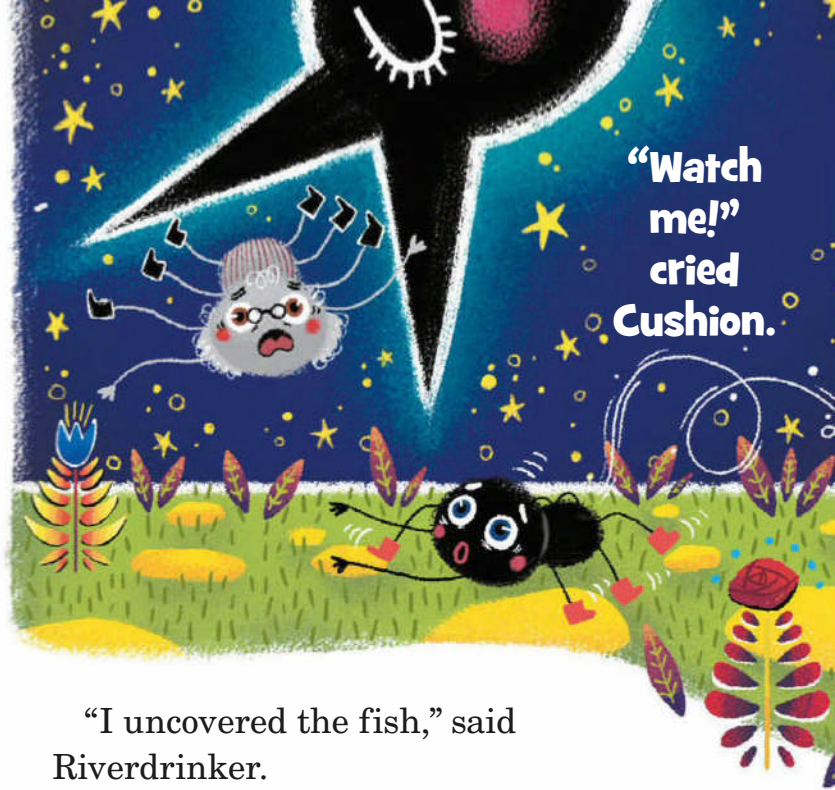
That evening, Anansi cooked dinner in his old pot. Then he walked around the yard, wondering what reward he could give each of his sons. Behind the top of an ebony tree, he spied a glowing white ball. It would make a beautiful reward, but there was only one.

When his sons admired the glowing white ball, Anansi said, “I wish there were six of them. Tell me again how each of you used your special talent to save my life.”

“I saw your trouble,” said See All.

“I led us to the river,” said Roadbuilder.

**It would make a beautiful reward, but there was only one.**



“I uncovered the fish,” said Riverdrinker.

“I opened the fish,” said Fishcutter.

“I made Crow yawn,” said Spellcaster.

“I softened your landing,” said Cushion.

Anansi looked up at the Sky God. “Can my sons share this glowing white ball as their reward?” he called.

*Whoosh!* They all watched in wonder as the Sky God scooped up the glowing white ball. He reached out and—*rap-tap-tap*—hung it high in the sky.

The Sky God had answered Anansi’s question. Yes, that glowing white ball could be shared. The beauty of the moon is *everyone’s* reward. 4



# Goofus and Gallant®

There's some of Goofus and Gallant in us all.  
When the Gallant shines through, we show our best self.



"Oh no! Where did I put Grandpa's watch?" says Goofus.



"This was my great-uncle's. To keep it safe, I leave it here," says Gallant.



"That's a silly idea. Here's what you *should* do," says Goofus.



"Would you like my opinion?" asks Gallant.

## YOUR Goofus and Gallant Moments

### "I felt like Goofus

when I left the ice cream out and it melted."

Maddie, Age 7, Pennsylvania

### "I felt like Gallant

when I helped my mom make dinner when she was in a hurry."

Emerson, Age 11, Virginia

Tell us when *you've* felt like Goofus or Gallant! Visit [HighlightsKids.com](http://HighlightsKids.com) or write to

**Highlights**

Goofus and Gallant Moments  
803 Church Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431

# MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## PEACE IS LIKE WATER

Peace is like water.  
It flows through everyone and keeps us calm.  
Peace is the light that shines in the darkness.  
Peace is love that will never stop loving you.  
Peace is hope for a better world.

Arie Shyngle, Grade 5  
Self-Realization Fellowship Sunday School  
Pacific Palisades, California, USA  
2017 - 2018

## WHAT I LEARNED FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Always do what is right  
Always be very brave  
Always work for peace  
For everybody,  
No matter how they look

Kenneth Dickerson, Kindergarten  
Suder Elementary,  
Jonesboro, Georgia, USA  
2017 - 2018

Children's  
messages  
of peace  
"grow" in  
this garden.

## GALLANT CHALLENGE!

# Peace Seeds

Inspirational messages of peace, written by children, are "planted" among the roses in the Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" World Peace Rose Garden. The garden, in Dr. King's hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, honors this minister who gave his life working for peace, justice, and civil rights through nonviolence.

As a symbol of how Dr. King's work continues to teach and inspire people, an annual contest invites children around the world to share their own poems and messages of peace. The contest's winning entries are engraved on plaques and displayed in the garden for a year. Two poems from the 2017 contest are shown above. 🌱

## Inspire Peace

What message would you share to encourage peace? We'd love to hear it! Send your message, including your name, age, and address, to

*Highlights*

Peace Messages  
803 Church Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431

In a future issue, we'll publish a few of the messages we receive.

## Glued to Home

Life in the area between high and low tide has its challenges. Tides come and go, making temperatures change and food supplies rise and fall. As wind and waves pound the shore, creatures need to hang on tight. For the acorn barnacle, that means gluing itself in place.

A young barnacle larva settles on a hard surface, like a rock or even a whale, then cements itself in place—for life! It builds a shell “house” and waits for ocean waves to deliver food.

As tides come in, feathery “legs” or cirri (SEAR-eye) sweep plankton from the water to the mouth.

A barnacle can sense light and shadow and will pull in its cirri if a predator’s shadow passes.

When tides go out, the barnacle pulls in its cirri and closes “doors” on its shell to hold in moisture.

The barnacle creates hard protective plates that make up its cone-like shell.

## Sun Block

Lightly press stickers onto a sheet of dark construction paper. Set the paper in a sunny place for several hours, then gently remove the stickers.

Why is the paper that was under the stickers darker than the paper around them? Think of your best answer, then read our explanation on page 38.



## Why is air invisible?

Faith Connor  
Age 7 • Texas

Air looks invisible because it sends very little color to our eyes.

Most objects seem to have color because they absorb some light wavelengths, or colors, and reflect others back to us. Objects appear to be the color they reflect to our eyes.

Air is a mixture of gases, mainly nitrogen and oxygen, with small molecules that are far apart. Wavelengths of light may pass by these molecules without hitting them.

When they do bump a molecule, it absorbs some color and scatters some, spreading it out in all directions. Too little reaches our eyes for us to notice unless there is a lot of it. For example, so much scattered blue light in the atmosphere makes the sky look blue.

After a barnacle dies, its shell is left behind.

# Europelta

By Dougal Dixon • Art by Robert Squier

YOOR-oh-PELT-ah  
"Europe's shield"

*Europelta* was the earliest nodosaur found in Europe. Nodosaur was armored dinosaur that used back armor and shoulder spikes,

rather than a tail club, as a defense against the big meat-eating dinosaurs that existed at the time.



### WHERE:

Spain



### HOW LONG:

18 feet



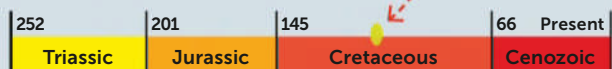
### WHAT IT ATE:

Low-growing plants



### WHEN:

110 million years ago



Want a challenge?  
Fold back page 15  
to hide the  
picture clues.

## Fishy Fun on the Flume

By Gary LaCoste



In this big picture, find the snake, traffic light, envelope, teacup, lollipop, glove, musical note, golf club, mushroom, bowl, heart, ruler, slice of pizza, toothbrush, carrot, sailboat, hockey stick, ice-cream cone, leaf, wedge of orange, and bell.

# Picture Clues



snake



traffic light



envelope



teacup



glove



lollipop



musical note



mushroom



golf club



bowl



ruler



heart



slice of pizza



carrot



toothbrush



sailboat



ice-cream cone



hockey stick



leaf



bell



wedge of orange

## BONUS

Can you also find the flashlight, crescent moon, pencil, and banana?

Answers on HighlightsKids.com.

# JOKES

“Knock, knock.”

“Who’s there?”

“Isabelle.”

“Isabelle who?”

“Isabelle necessary on a bicycle?”

Hayden, Ontario, Canada

**Bob:** Want to hear a joke about time travel?

**Joe:** Sure.

**Bob:** Actually, never mind. You didn’t like it.

Jonathan Wolinski  
Massachusetts

A book never written:  
*How to Write Fantasy Stories*  
by Emma Gination.

Katherine Picklesimer, Kentucky

What’s up, bud?

Bella Rickman  
Texas



**Neil:** Did you hear that the clock was banned from the library?

**Adrian:** No, why?

**Neil:** Because it tocked too much.

Samiel Azmaien, Georgia

*A sock walks up to a shoe that seems to be searching for something.*

**Sock:** What are you doing?

**Shoe:** I’m looking for my sole mate.

Maple Taylor, Colorado

## Make us laugh!

Send a joke or riddle, along with your name, age, and address, to

### Highlights

803 Church Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431

## Surprise Guest

Rain drops in uninvited.

It might stay for days.

But at least it’s quiet, plays outside, and washes up after itself.

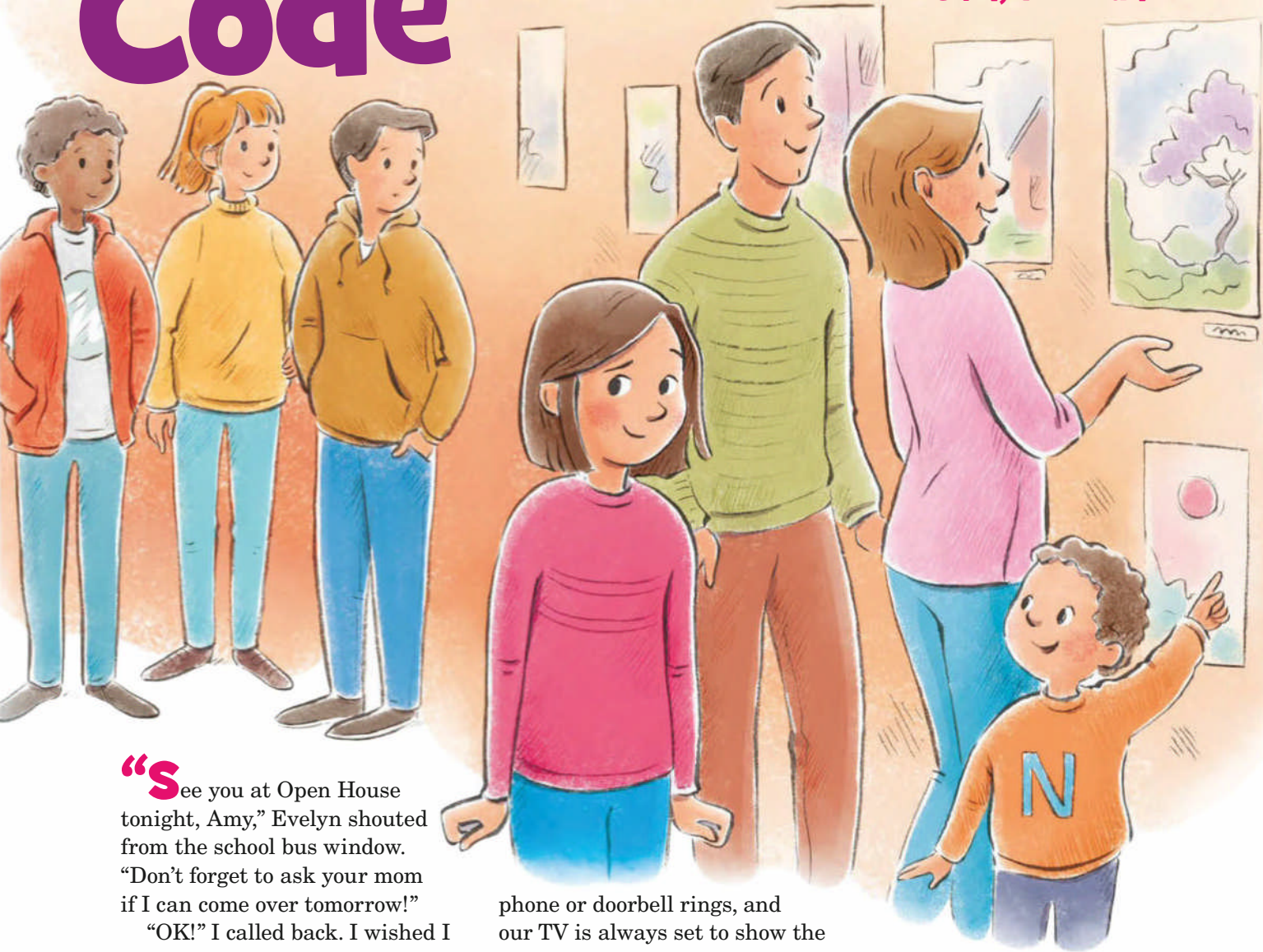
—Christopher Jones



# A Secret Code

By Christine Henderson  
Art by Valentina Jaskina

**“Look at Amy’s picture!” Mom said, too loud.**



**“S**ee you at Open House tonight, Amy,” Evelyn shouted from the school bus window. “Don’t forget to ask your mom if I can come over tomorrow!”

“OK!” I called back. I wished I could feel excited about my first Open House at my new school, but I was worried. What would other kids say when they found out my parents can’t hear?

And I wanted Evelyn to visit, but then she’d see how different my house was. My parents use a video phone so they can use sign language to communicate with callers. We also have a light on the wall that flashes when the

phone or doorbell rings, and our TV is always set to show the captions. Would Evelyn think my house was weird?

That night, I helped my mom get my younger brother, Noah, ready to go to Open House. Noah is five and loves to talk with both his voice and his hands.

“Where are we going?” he asked, squirming as Mom brushed his hair.

“To my school, for Open House,” I answered while I

looked for his shoes.

“Why do they call it Open House when we’re going to the school?” Noah asked.

“I don’t know,” I said.

**What would other kids say when they found out my parents can’t hear?**



“They should call it Open School,” he signed.

Mom smiled. “Good point,” she said out loud. Then she said in sign language, “We have to get going.”

Dad drove us to the brightly lit school, which looked different at night. It *felt* different, too, as we walked down the hallway to my classroom.

We stopped in front of the bulletin board in the hall.

“Look at Amy’s picture!” Mom said, too loud. She does that when she’s excited, because she can’t hear herself. Some older kids turned to stare at us and I wanted to hide.

I led my family into my classroom and looked around. Other kids and parents were there, but I didn’t see Evelyn.

Ms. Jennings walked over to us. I introduced my teacher to my family and explained that my parents are deaf.

“Oh,” she said. “Well, how do you say ‘Welcome!’ in sign language?”

“Like this.” I swept my open right hand in toward my body, palm up.

She repeated the motion.

“Thank you,” Mom said, smiling. “It’s nice to meet you.”

Ms. Jennings looked surprised. “You speak very well,” she said.

In sign language, I repeated what Ms. Jennings had said in case my parents hadn’t read her lips.

Mom nodded. “I lost my hearing as a child, after I’d learned to talk. Amy’s father was born deaf. He can talk, too, but he’s shy about his voice.”

Dad smiled in agreement.

## I’d been so worried about my family that I hadn’t thought about Evelyn’s family.

“Was it difficult teaching Amy and Noah to talk?” Ms. Jennings asked.

“Not really,” Dad said in sign language, and I translated so Ms. Jennings understood. “They went to daycare with other hearing kids. And Noah always had his big sister to talk to.”

Some of my classmates were watching us and whispering. Then I noticed Evelyn and her mom standing by the door.

“I sit over there,” I told my family and quickly walked toward my desk.

“Hi, Amy,” Evelyn said suddenly.

I turned around. “Hi.”

“I didn’t know your parents are deaf,” she said.

“Yeah.” I couldn’t think of anything else to say.

“And you can talk to them with your hands? That’s so cool.”

“You think so?” I asked. I exhaled with relief.

## “I’d like you to meet my friend.”

Evelyn nodded. “It’s like a secret code. Would you teach me some words sometime?”

I smiled. “Of course.”

“A woman in my dad’s apartment building uses sign,” she said. “Maybe I can surprise her with a greeting next time I visit my dad.”

“Your dad doesn’t live with you?” I said.

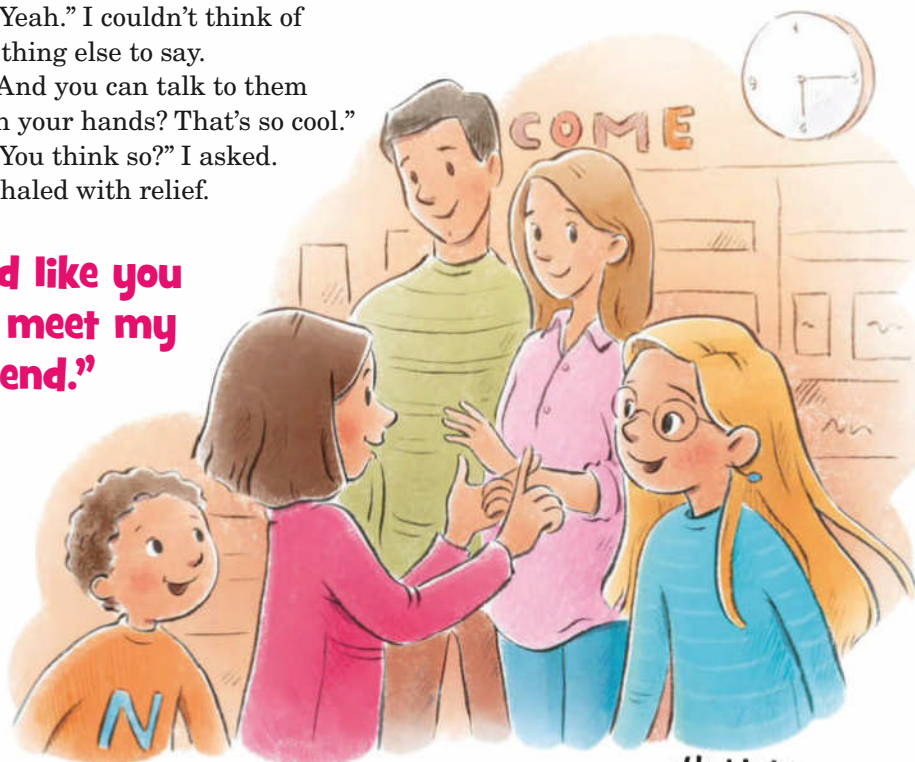
She shook her head. “My parents are divorced.”

“Oh, I . . .” I’d been so worried about my family being like everyone else’s that I hadn’t thought about Evelyn’s family. “Hey, if you come over tomorrow, we can practice some sign language then.”

“I’ll help teach you,” Noah said. “I’m really good at it.”

Evelyn laughed. “I’m sure you are.”

I got my parents’ attention. “Mom, Dad,” I said, signing, “I’d like you to meet my friend Evelyn and her mom.” **4**



# Crafts

## Goofy Desk Robots

By Edna Harrington

1. Glue a small **rock** inside a small **cardboard box** to weigh it down. Cover the box with **felt**.
2. Poke two holes for the arms and two holes for the legs. Slide a **chenille stick** into each hole.
3. Decorate the robot with **scrapbook paper**, **beads**, felt, **wiggle eyes**, and **straws**.



## Spaceship Bookmarks

By April Theis

1. Draw the outline of a rocket ship with flames or a spaceship with a light beam on **thin cardboard**. Cut it out.
2. Cover the ship with **foil**. Decorate the flame or light beam with **cardstock**.
3. Add details with cardstock, **markers**, and **wiggle eyes**. Write a message on the cardstock.

# Travel Tic-Tac-Toe

A Game for 2 Players

By Catherine Carmody

1. Use **double-sided tape** to attach a **ribbon hanger** to an empty **floss box**. Cover the box with **felt**. Make the felt piece covering the back long enough to include the flap over the top. Add **Velcro** to the flap.
2. For the game board, glue thin pieces of ribbon on the back. Add felt decorations to the front.
3. For game pieces, cut five squares and five circles from felt. Store them inside the box.

Carry the game with you, and play on the go!

# Unicorn Barrette Holder

By Susan Fulcher

1. Cut out a unicorn head from **thin cardboard**. Cover it with **cardstock**. Decorate it with **markers** and **glitter glue**.
2. Add a **ribbon hanger**. Glue on a wide ribbon for barrettes.

## CRAFT CHALLENGE!

Make a creature out of paint, craft sticks, and a paper cup.



# Hula Dancing 101

By MaryLouise Alu Curto  
Art by Robert L. Prince

**H**ula is a Native Hawaiian dance that is hundreds of years old. The dance has a variety of purposes. It can be a form of entertainment or worship or a way to pass down stories. Explore the different parts of hula dancing!

## Musical Instruments

For generations, Hawaiians have been sharing stories about their history, people, and natural world through music. They sing lyrical, chanted poems as they dance the hula and play musical instruments to tell these stories. Using shells, seeds, trees, and plants, native Hawaiian people created all their own musical instruments. Many Hawaiians still make these instruments by hand today.

## Hula Basics

1. Find a flat, smooth surface. Take off your socks and shoes.
2. Stand with your feet about four inches apart. Bend your knees. Place your hands on your hips.
3. Beginning with your right foot, step to the right and bring your left foot alongside. Step to the right again. Tap your left foot alongside. Repeat to the left.
4. Once you can do step 3, add arm motions. When you step right, bend your left arm and raise it to your chest with your elbow straight out. Extend your right arm straight out to the side. Do the opposite when you step left.

## Hand Gestures

The hand gestures used in hula dancing help tell a story.



**RAIN** Lift both arms up over your head. Slowly bring them down in front of you while wiggling your fingers.

**FLOWER** Place your palms up with fingertips pinched together.



**SWIRLING WIND** Put your left hand forward and circle your right hand over your head twice.



**RISING SUN OR MOON** Start with your hands together at waist level. Move each arm outward and upward over your head. Form the sun or moon with your fingertips.



With a parent's permission, watch videos from the Merrie Monarch Hula Competition.





See what the real instruments look like on page 5.

## ‘Ulī‘ulī Rattles

‘Ulī‘ulī rattles are made from small gourds filled with shells, seeds, or pebbles. One end of each gourd has a wooden handle, and the other end is decorated with feathers. During the dance, the rattles are shaken or hit against the palm, thigh, or ground. ‘Ulī‘ulī rattles can be used in one hand while the other hand is used for gesturing. Or they can be held in both hands and shaken in rhythmic patterns.

1. Put some **dried beans** into two clean **water bottles**.
2. For feathers, cut out two red circles and two smaller yellow circles from **cardstock**.
3. Trace around a **bottle cap** to make a circle in the center of each cardstock circle. Cut out the center circles. Make cuts for fringe, as shown.
4. Place the feathers over the bottle openings. Screw on the caps.



## Pū‘ili Sticks

Pū‘ili sticks are dried pieces of bamboo that are split into strips at one end. Hula dancers hold the uncut sides and bang the sticks together or against their bodies to make a rattling sound. The sticks can also be tapped on the ground or against a partner’s pū‘ili sticks.

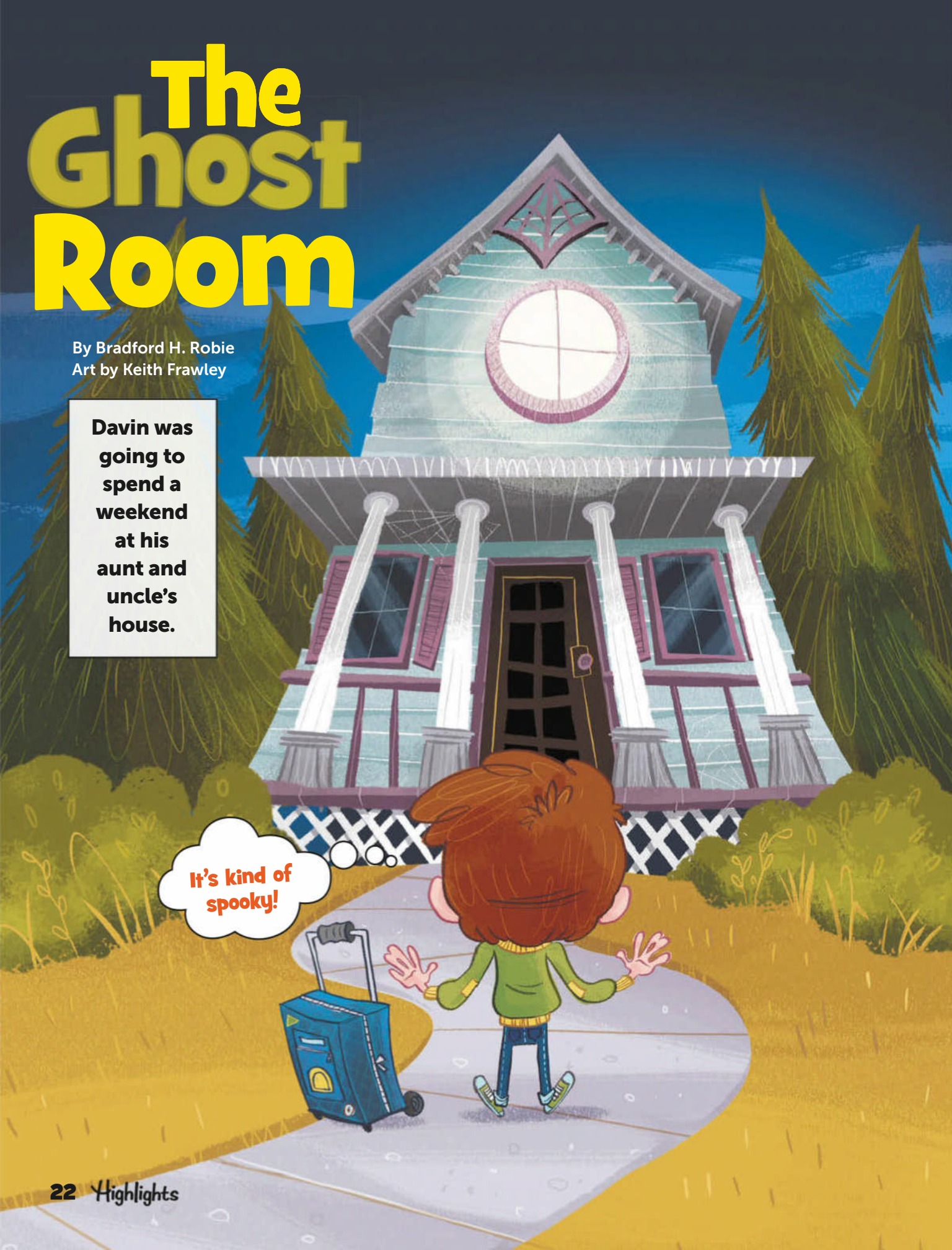
1. On two **long cardboard tubes**, cut slits at one end. For a handle, wrap **decorative tape** around the uncut end.
2. Use the pū‘ili sticks to create different rhythm patterns.

# The Ghost Room

By Bradford H. Robie  
Art by Keith Frawley

Davin was going to spend a weekend at his aunt and uncle's house.

It's kind of spooky!



Uncle Ted told ghost stories after dinner.



You can stay in the guest room, Davin. Let us know if you need anything.

Thanks, Aunt Emma.



You OK, buddy? It's probably just the radiator.

Or a mouse.

Old houses always made weird noises... but this sound was different. *Click... click... click.*

What's that sound?!



It's not coming from here.

Davin tried going back to sleep, but he kept hearing the scary noise.



*Click... click... click.*

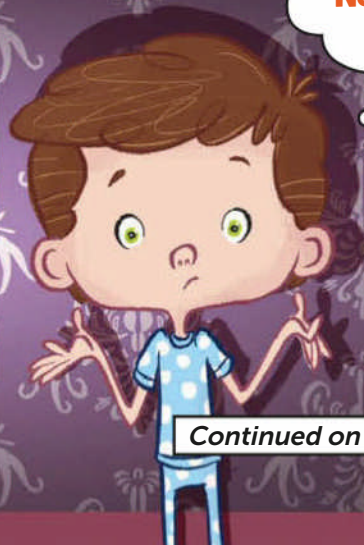
I guess it could be a mouse. But I've never heard a mouse sound like that.



Davin looked everywhere.



Nothing!



Continued on next page

**Click... click... click.**

This isn't a guest room—it's a **ghost room!**



I don't believe in ghosts. It's just a noise.



I need to put that extra pillow over my head so I can't hear it.



**WHAT????**



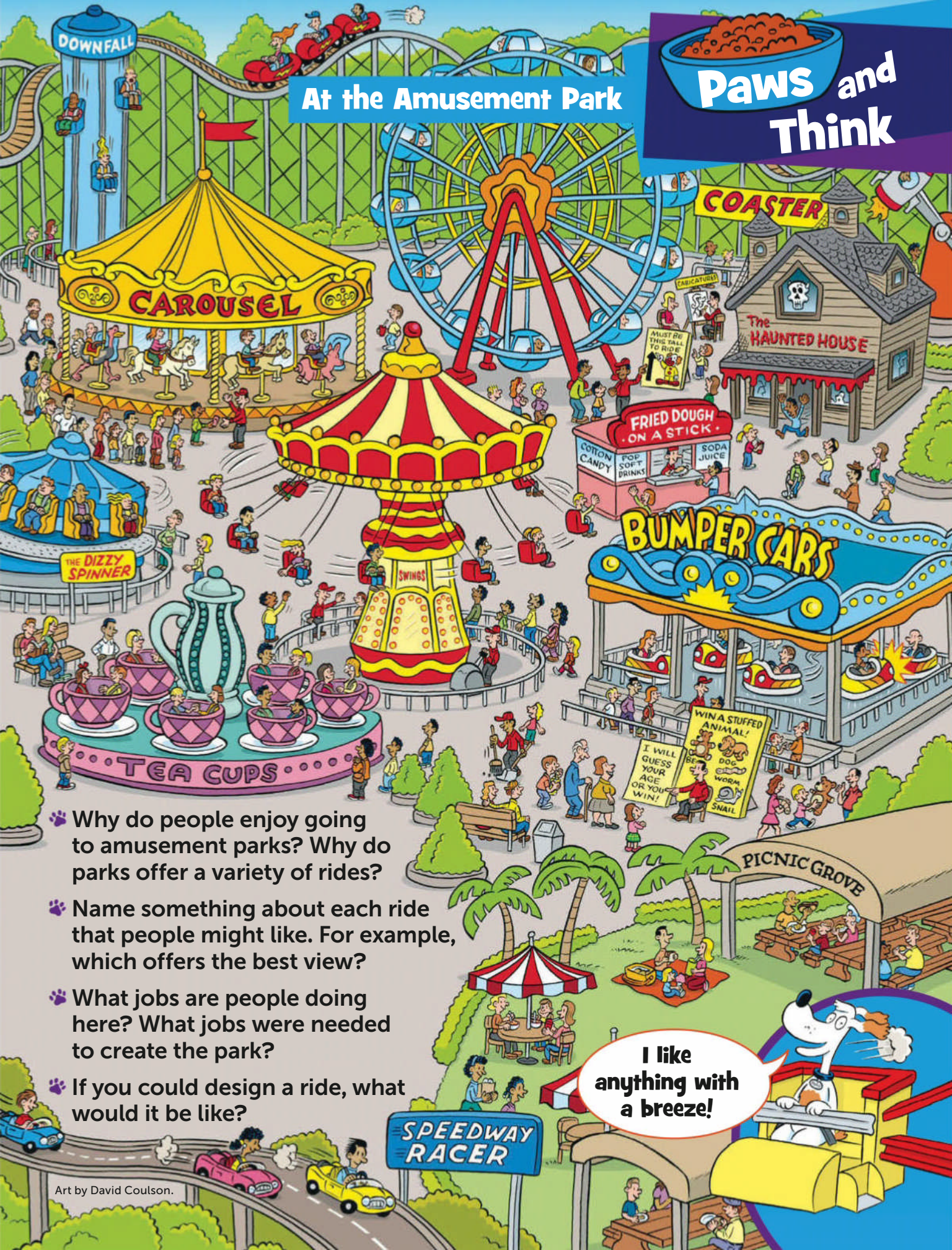
Are you OK in here?

Oh, that old alarm clock! My sister was here last week. She must've stuck it under the pillow to muffle the sound.

Maybe we can take out the battery?







## At the Amusement Park

# Paws and Think

- 🐾 Why do people enjoy going to amusement parks? Why do parks offer a variety of rides?
- 🐾 Name something about each ride that people might like. For example, which offers the best view?
- 🐾 What jobs are people doing here? What jobs were needed to create the park?
- 🐾 If you could design a ride, what would it be like?

I like anything with a breeze!

# Wally's Wordy Signs

By Régine Frank

Wally loves his new job painting signs. But he thinks he may have used too many words in his first drafts. Help him shorten the messages by finding one hidden word that could replace the whole sentence on each sign.

**EXAMPLE:**  
TO LEAVE  
THIS BUILDING  
COMPLEX, IT'S BEST  
TO USE THIS DOOR.

1  
REMEMBER  
ALWAYS TO PAUSE  
AND LOOK BOTH  
WAYS.

2  
WE  
HOPE NOW  
YOU WILL  
COME  
IN AND  
JOIN US.

3  
PLEASE  
DRIVE  
USING YOUR  
CAR'S LOWEST  
SPEED.



Answers on  
page 38.



## Clever Calculations

By Noreen Brophy

Amaze a friend with this number trick.

1. Ask a friend to pick any number without telling you what it is. (Example: 23)
2. Tell her to double the number. ( $23 \times 2 = 46$ )
3. Have her add 10. ( $46 + 10 = 56$ )
4. Tell her to divide the new number in half. ( $56 \div 2 = 28$ )
5. Have her tell you the new number.
6. Tell her to think of her original number again. Pretend to concentrate really hard.
7. In your head, subtract 5 from the number your friend gave you in step 5. This will give you her original starting number! ( $28 - 5 = 23$ )



# Your Own Stories

## Ice-Cream Sundae: Gone!



It was a hot, sunny day. I put my ice cream down, and it disappeared. The sun ate it!

**Rosabella Miller**  
Age 8 • Pennsylvania

## A Balloon That Lived in a House All Alone



Once upon a time, there was a house that was red, yellow, and green, and the chimney was brown. There was a balloon that lived in the house, and he was sad. He had no friends. He had one clock, one shoe rack, one water bottle, and he even had one cake. He had one of everything. But once, when he was sleeping, something woke him up. There was a knock on the door. It was another balloon. He noticed it was a girl balloon. They got married, and they lived happily ever after.

**Thomas Baldwin**  
Age 6 • Virginia

## The Weird Gum



One day, a kid named Jimmy went into a store to buy some gum. Every day he'd buy fruit gum. He hated mint gum. When Jimmy entered the store, he saw something new—rainbow gum. It was \$1.75. "That sounds tasty," said

Jimmy. So he bought the gum.

When Jimmy got home, he was about to chew a piece when he saw a note. It said: "When you chew too much in one sitting, a colorful thingy-ma-bobber will be put on you."

"OK, I'll listen," said Jimmy. So he ate one stick of gum. *Mmm, that was good!* thought Jimmy. So he ate another, then another. He ate the whole pack in one sitting.

That afternoon, he felt really dizzy and weird. The next morning, he looked at himself in the mirror. "AAAGH! Look what I've done! I look tie-dyed!" cried Jimmy.

**Reagan Boyd**  
Age 10 • Saskatchewan, Canada

## Nina and Myla Love to Dance

Once upon a time, in an ocean, there was a mermaid named Myla, and she wanted to learn how to dance. All the other mermaids knew how, and they bragged because Myla didn't know how.

One day, a new mermaid named Nina moved into Myla's neighborhood. When Myla went to school, Nina was in her class. Nina knew how to dance and didn't brag at all. Myla asked Nina to teach her. Nina said yes. So Myla and Nina were best friends, and they loved to dance.

**Gwendolyn Wolf**  
Age 7 • Illinois



## Send us your stories!

We'd love to read them. All stories must have fewer than 200 words and include your name, age, and address. Send them to

Highlights

Your Own Stories  
803 Church Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431

# The Awesome Opossum


By LeeAnn Blankenship

The opossum stays awake at night and sleeps throughout the day. She wears a soft and furry coat that's different shades of gray. Her pointed snout and face are white, with rather shortish hair. And if she's looking for food to eat, her nose will sniff the air.



## Australian Relatives

An opossum may look like a rodent, but it's really a marsupial. Other marsupials include kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, and wombats.



Her ratlike tail can grasp at things,  
just like another hand.  
It helps a lot when climbing trees  
and balancing on land.  
She even carries grass with it  
to line a den she's found,  
a secret nest where she can sleep,  
protected underground.

She has her young in such a nest  
when springtime comes to call,  
then holds her babies in her pouch  
because they're born so small.  
The size of bees, they have no fur.  
They cannot see at first.  
Within her pouch, they grow each  
day—protected, safe, and nursed.

When danger strikes, she doesn't  
run, but falls as if she's dead.  
She drools and opens up her  
mouth. Her eyeballs stare ahead.  
She even makes a rotten stink that  
drives her foes away  
and doesn't move a muscle till she's  
sure that she's OK.

She's gentle, shy, and slow. Yet, still,  
if scared, she'll scare you back.  
She'll bare her teeth. She'll hiss and  
snarl as though she might attack.  
Don't worry, though—it's just a  
bluff. She's hoping you will flee.  
So turn around and walk away and  
simply let her be. 🦦



GoQBot goes on a roll. As the robot snaps into a Q shape, one end pulls at the ground and starts it rolling.

Sticky pads anchor one end to the ground.

Shape-memory wires make it curl.

GoQBot rolls away.

## Soft Robots Squirm and Roll

They move like caterpillars.

By Andy Boyles, Contributing Science Editor

**W**ill we ever have a caterpillar-like toy that climbs up stairs instead of going down, like a reverse Slinky? Maybe someday!

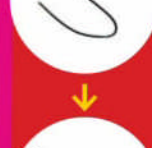
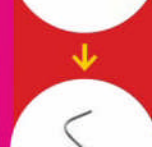
But first, we'll need similar bots to do important jobs. After an earthquake, they could wriggle through rubble to find survivors. In a spaceship, they could squirm into nooks and crannies to make repairs.

Inventors Barry Trimmer, Ph.D., and his co-workers at Tufts University study how caterpillars move, then build robots that crawl like a tomato hornworm or inch along like a spanworm. GoQBot, shown above, imitates the slow and fast moves of a leaf-roller caterpillar. It can crawl along, then snap into a Q shape and roll away.

"GoQBot has been developed into a family of 'softworm' robots that come in all shapes and sizes," Dr. Trimmer says. They can climb, burrow, and roll where other robots can't go. **H**

### Metal with a Memory

To spring into action, GoQBot uses . . . a spring! Inside the robot are metal wires that can switch back and forth between straight and curved. When short segments of the wires bend and stretch, the bot bends, wiggles, and crawls. When the entire lengths of the wires snap into coils, they curl the bot into a Q shape.



The wires are made of a shape-memory metal, which "remembers" its original bends after it

has been straightened. Then it bends when it's heated and straightens when it cools. In these robots, the wire-bending heat comes from electrical currents. When a researcher flips a switch, the robot flips, too.

**BONUS!**

Find the tennis racket, soccer ball, football, and hockey stick hidden in the scene.

# Sporty Stumper

By Teresa A. DiNicola

Franco, Teesha, Pete, and Charlotte love to play sports together. They each have a different favorite sport. Use the clues to figure out which of the following sports is each kid's favorite: tennis, soccer, football, and hockey.

**CLUES:**

- One kid's name starts with the same letter as his or her favorite sport.
- The kid who likes tennis is Charlotte's brother.
- Teesha does not like hockey.



Answers on page 38.

## Check... and Double Check

Compare these two pictures. Can you find at least 18 differences?



# Quizopolis

Hop aboard for the city tour! Cruise from **START** to **FINISH** by answering each question correctly.



## Big-City Words

An important city area may be described as this—from the Greek words for “mother” and “city.”

Momdom

Metropolitan

## Going Up Up Up

A tall building with many stories is known as a

“stairway to the stars.”

“high-rise.”

## Commonly Called

A commuter is

someone who travels into and out of a city often.

a community-owned scooter.

## Ride On

Most streetcars, trams, and trolleys run on what kind of power?

Electricity! A pole on the roof draws it from an overhead wire to the motor.

Pedal power! Each seat has a stationary bike that helps run the car.



## That's Sup-"urb"

An urban area is a densely developed region, often with many people. *Urban* comes from the Latin word for "herb garden." "city."

## Puppy Place

A dog park is

where dogs go to take catnaps.

where people take their dogs to play off-leash.

## Stars on the Street

Another name for a musician or other entertainer who works for donations is

an avenue actor.

a busker.

## Exit to Exhibits

Where would you be more likely to see gemstones, ancient tools, and dinosaur fossils?

See 'em in a museum of natural history.

Find 'em at a football field.

## Tuck It Away

A pocket park is

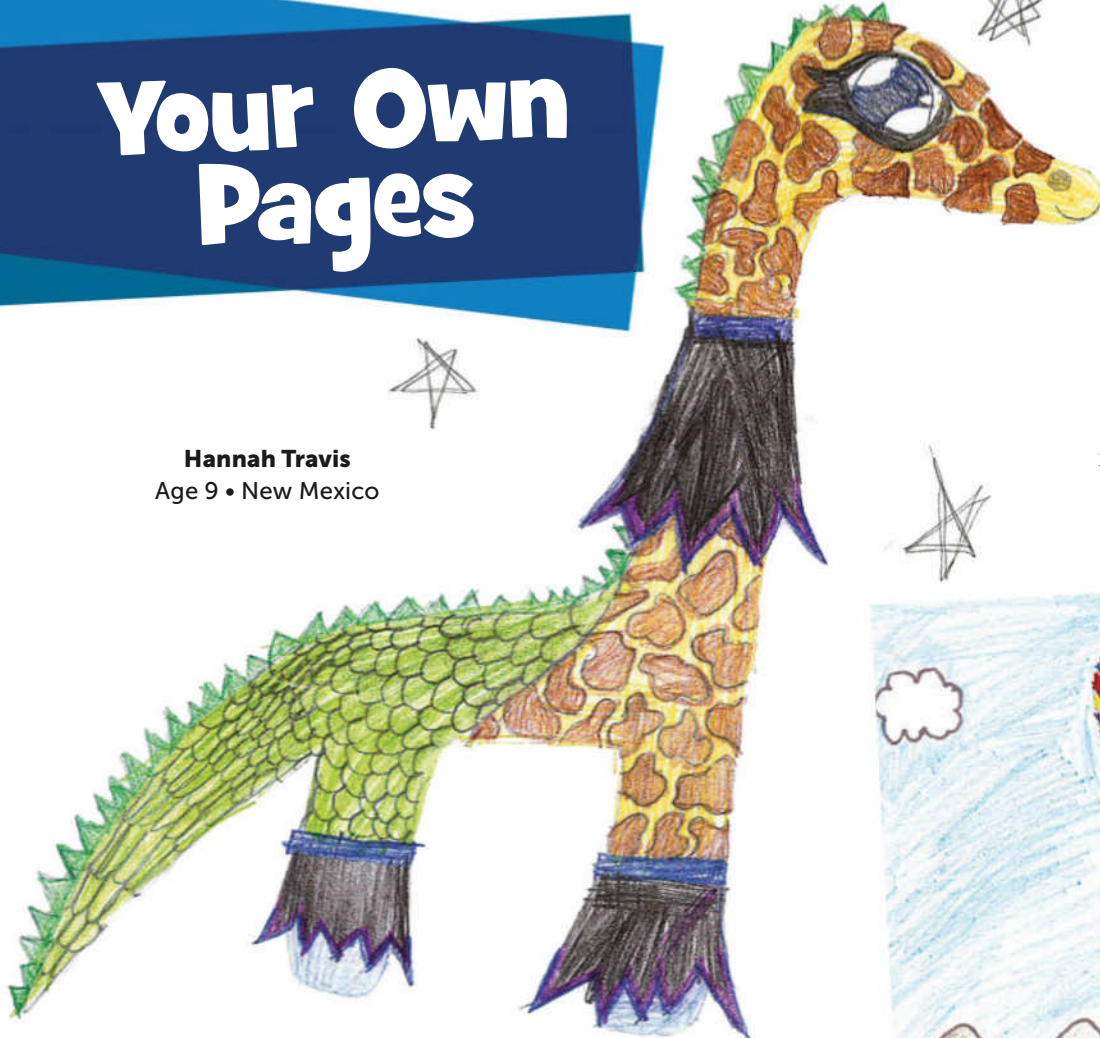
a terrarium-to-go, made by sticking moss in your pocket.

a small public outdoor space, often between buildings in a city.

**FINISH**

# Your Own Pages

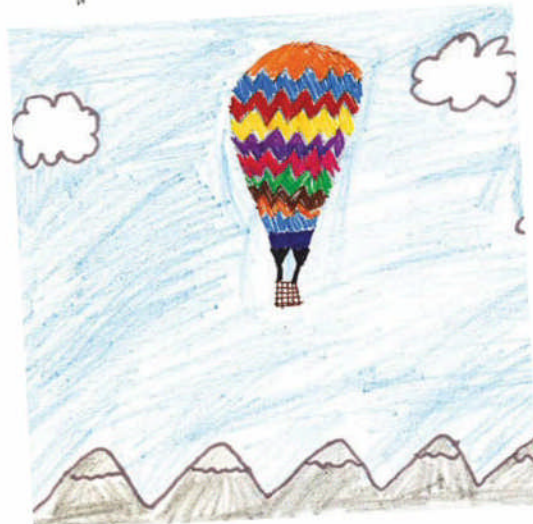
**Hannah Travis**  
Age 9 • New Mexico



## Flying

The bird took flight,  
getting smaller and  
smaller in the high sky,  
going far above the ground  
until it was a speck  
in the clouds, forever flying.

**Julia Sikorski Roehsner**  
Age 11 • Minnesota



**Ariella York**  
Age 8 • Maine

## Oranges

Round and juicy oranges.  
Sweet, picked from trees.  
They're good to eat.

**Sophia Ochoa**  
Age 6 • Florida



**Katie Larmore**  
Age 10 • Washington

## The Sun

The sun is a star.  
The sun is so hot.  
The sun is so big.  
The sun lets us live.

**Reza Nagree**  
Age 7 • Texas



## Rainbow Sun

**Peyton Williams**  
Age 8 • Oklahoma

## My Mom

My mom is  
a doctor,  
my savior.  
She helps  
me, you,  
everyone.  
That's my mom!  
Physically  
she may be small,  
but in my heart,  
she's very tall!

**Jenya Narang**  
Age 9 • New Jersey



# Best Friends

Best friends have a magic,  
not the kind you see.  
If you want to see it,  
love is the key.

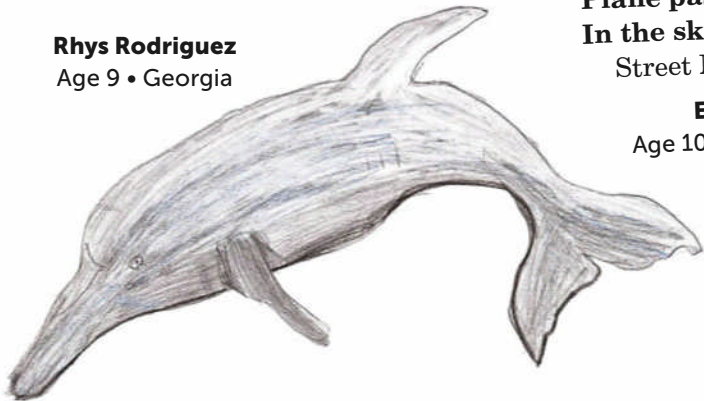
Mia Hendrickson  
Age 9 • Wisconsin

## Many Things

Many things are complicated.  
Many things are generated.  
If you turn off the TV,  
You will see things many cannot see.  
Unicorns and dragons,  
here and there.  
Imagination everywhere.  
Many things are on your mind.  
These things will make you helpful  
and kind.

Scarlett Dempsey  
Age 9 • Oregon

Rhys Rodriguez  
Age 9 • Georgia



Sydney Ryan  
Age 10 • Colorado

## My Street Music

Inspired by "Street Music" by Arnold Adoff

Street Music

**My street:**

Crickets chirping  
Geese squawking  
Overhead

**Usually**

**Quiet**

**Sometimes**

**A car**

**Passes**

**My house**

**With a million**

**Miles to go**

**Without**

**Stopping**

**Or resting**

Chirping of

Blue jays

The soft crunch

Of deer walking

Through

The

Forest

**Sometimes**

**A helicopter or**

**Plane passes above**

**In the sky.**

Street Music

Erik Lu

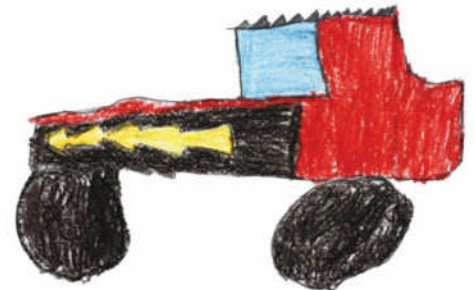
Age 10 • New York



Me and My Hamster, Penny

Grace Buechler

Age 9 • Washington



Ronan Carboni  
Age 7 • Connecticut

## What Is Loud?

Loud is racing motorcycles,  
Drivers rev their engines.

Loud is a ringing smoke alarm,  
People scream and rush out the door!

Loud is an erupting volcano,  
Lava and rock shooting out the top.

Loud is exploding fireworks,  
They fly into the air making many colors!

Jonathan Wheeler  
Age 10 • Pennsylvania

## Share Your Creative Work

We'd love to see it!  
Art must be on unlined paper.  
Poems must have fewer than  
75 words. All submissions  
must be created by you.

Include your name, age,  
and address. Mail to

Highlights

Your Own Pages  
803 Church Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431

We cannot  
return your  
work, so you  
might want to  
keep a copy.

# Dash <sup>for</sup> the North Pole

Below: Loading supplies from Commander Peary's Arctic expedition ship, the *Roosevelt*.

Arctic explorers pushed their limits on this historic adventure.

By Jan Fields



On April 6, 1909, six men claimed their place as the first explorers to reach the North Pole. Their leader was Navy commander Robert E. Peary. He photographed the other men as they held up flags. One of them was Matthew Henson, the only African American explorer of the Arctic at the time. He held a patched American flag. The other four were Inuit hunters named Ootah, Ooqueah, Seegloo, and Egingwah.

Later, Henson wrote about that moment. He turned to Ootah and said, “We have found what we hunt.”

Ootah saw only ice. “There is nothing here,” he said.

The journey did not make sense to the Inuit. Arctic ice always shifts and cracks as it floats on the ocean. The hunters knew the ice could be deadly.

Many explorers had tried to reach the pole. Peary surpassed the others through clever planning. He also gave credit to Henson, who had joined him on three other Arctic expeditions.

## Henson's Talents

Peary had always planned for Henson to join him because of Henson's many talents. The team needed the skills and knowledge of the Inuit, and Henson was fluent in their language. Also, Arctic travel meant walking and running with dogs pulling heavily loaded sledges. “He has shared all the physical hardships of my Arctic

**“Freezing of . . . the whole front part of the face is an ordinary occurrence.”**

work,” Peary said. “He . . . is probably a better dog-driver than any other man living except some of the best of the [Inuit] hunters themselves.”

Travel was hard. Biting winds blew, and temperatures dropped to minus 60 degrees Fahrenheit. “Freezing of . . . the whole front part of the face is an ordinary occurrence,” Henson wrote. “The skin keeps peeling off and freezing again until . . . the face is like raw beef.”

The men knew they could lose fingers or toes to frostbite. In fact, Peary walked with a “slide-like stride” because he had lost nine toes on an earlier trip. If anyone's foot began to freeze, another man held the bare foot against his stomach to thaw it out. “It was like putting a piece of ice there,” Henson wrote. “But there was no other way to save the foot.”

Three times a day, the group melted snow to make hot tea.



**Robert E. Peary,**  
ready for an  
Arctic adventure.



**Matthew  
Henson,**  
at about  
the time  
of the 1909  
expedition.



## **DID THEY REACH THE POLE?**

**Since Peary's famous 1909 trip, experts have disagreed on whether the team really reached the North Pole. Some say the final dash was impossible to do in such a short time. Others disagree.**

**In any case, no one can deny that the team was made up of brave explorers who took on a grueling and dangerous adventure.**

They also ate biscuits and pemmican, a mix of dried meat and animal fat with a dash of sugar and raisins. The dense, high-calorie food kept them alive but often left them hungry.


### **Never Giving Up**

Peary had already made four expeditions into the Arctic. Each time, he learned how to plan better for the next trip. He had other teams go ahead to break trails and leave supplies along the way. On April 2, from the end of the last trail, the team dashed for the North Pole.

The explorers drove 18 to 20 hours a day. "Forced marches all the time," Henson said later. "But it was the only way to make it." Peary, Henson, and the four hunters had only 50 to 55 days to complete the last leg of the journey before spring would arrive and begin to melt the ice. They had to go 133 nautical miles (more than 150 land miles) to the pole, make observations to show they had reached their goal, and then

travel 413 nautical miles (about 475 land miles) back to another camp and more supplies.

The explorers were lucky. They came across no open water to hold them up. They spent only 30 hours at the pole before they began the return run. They couldn't stay longer. Spring was coming. Exhausted, Peary rode a sledge instead of driving one. Henson set such a fast pace that Peary warned him not to work the men and dogs to death. "I know, Commander," Henson replied. "But we got to make it."

They did make it. They reached safety in 16 days and secured their place in history. 

**Robert Peary's photograph of Matthew Henson (center) and the four Inuit hunters who were on his North Pole expedition.**



# Sea Sillies



"I just bought a sea saw!"

## Answers

### page 2

#### Fun This Month

*Storm Code*

Because LIGHTNING BOLTS AND THUNDER ROLLS.

*Mystery Photo*—Ear of corn.

### page 12

#### My Sci

*Sun Block*—The stickers blocked sunlight from getting through to the paper. Where there were no stickers, rays from the Sun were able to shine on the paper. Some of those rays—ultraviolet (UV) rays—broke down some of the dye in the paper, causing it to fade. UV rays can also cause damage to the cells in our skin. Wearing a good sunscreen or protective clothing can reduce the amount of UV rays reaching our skin cells.

### page 26

#### Wally's Wordy Signs

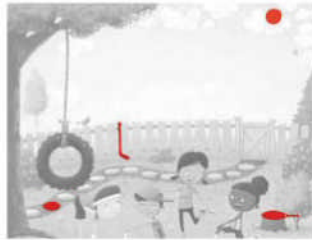
1. STOP.
2. OPEN.
3. SLOW.

### page 31

#### Sporty Stumper

Franco likes football, Teesha likes soccer, Pete likes tennis, and Charlotte likes hockey.

#### Bonus!



### page 43

#### Picture Puzzler



Covers: *Leap In!* by Neil Numberman; *What's Wrong?!* by David Arumi

*Illustration credits:* Page 2: Kevin Zimmer; 6: Erin Mauterer, except paint splashes by iStock/enjoynz; 13: (invisible air) by Keith Frawley; 15: "Surprise Guest" by Russ Cox; 26: Wally's Wordy Signs by Christina Larkins, Clever Calculations by Jess Golden; 31: Sporty Stumper by Marcus Cutler, Check . . . and Double Check by Pat Lewis. *Photo credits:* Page 2: iStock/atoss; 3: Gina Lenz; 4: iStock/walterbilotta; 4–5: iStock/yxowert; 5: ('ulī'ulī rattles) hrk422/Shutterstock, (pū'ili sticks) Design Pics Inc/Alamy Stock Photo; 6: (scissors) iStock/matty2x4, (hair) iStock/Lolkaphoto, (unicorn cake) iStock/RuthBlack, (rose nose on cake) iStock/Floortje, (sock) iStock/arsenic, (recorder) iStock/STILLFX, (to-do list) iStock/Barcin, (apples) iStock/aluxum, (paper plates) iStock/futureimage, (boy) iStock/woraput; 12–13: iStock/NNehring; 27: iStock/hanibaram.

# RIDDLES

1

What kind of shoes are a musician's favorite?

Larkin Bock, Texas

2

How do trees get in to their computers?

Chloe, Indiana

3

What does a dog use to go hunting?

Logan Brown, Washington

4

How do camels hide from predators?

Coraline Rogers, Tennessee

5

Why did the truck go to the doctor?

Sarah Van Zante, Iowa

6

What type of pasta do turtles eat?

Claire, Colorado

7

Why do fish live in salt water?

Bailey, Arkansas

8

What is a boomerang that doesn't come back?

Boaz, Georgia

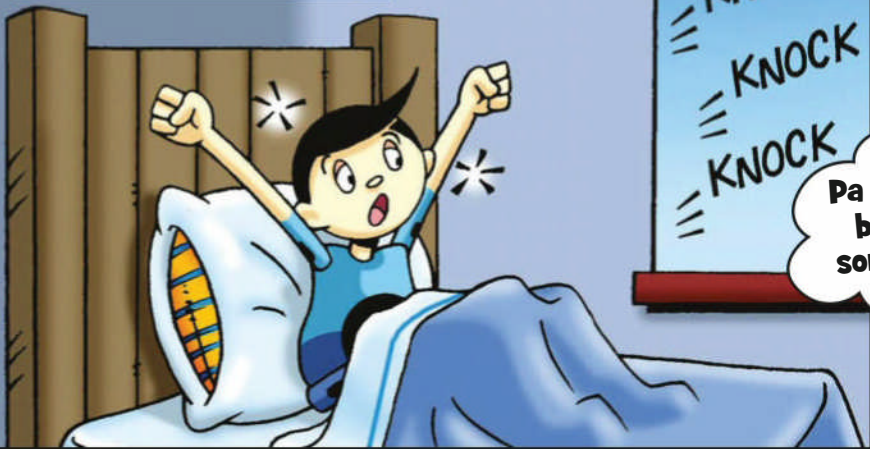
9

What did the dirty plate say to the clean plate?

River Humphreys, Hawaii

Answers: 1. Flats. 2. They log in. 3. A bone and arrow. 4. They use camouflage. 5. It had the pickups. 6. Turtle-ini. 7. Because pepper water would make them sneeze. 8. A stick. 9. "Lunch is on me!"

A sound woke Tommy.



# The Timbertoes®

By Rich Wallace • Art by Ron Zalme

Pa must be building something!

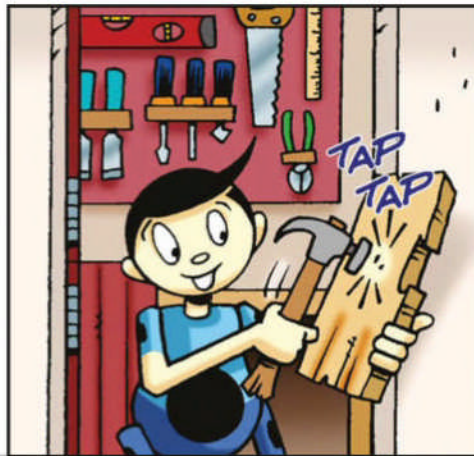
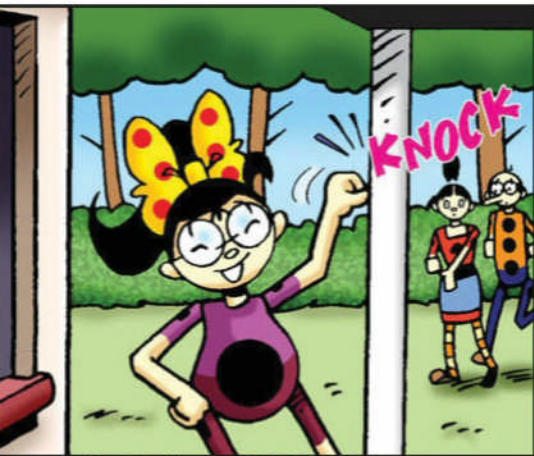


But Pa wasn't in his workshop.

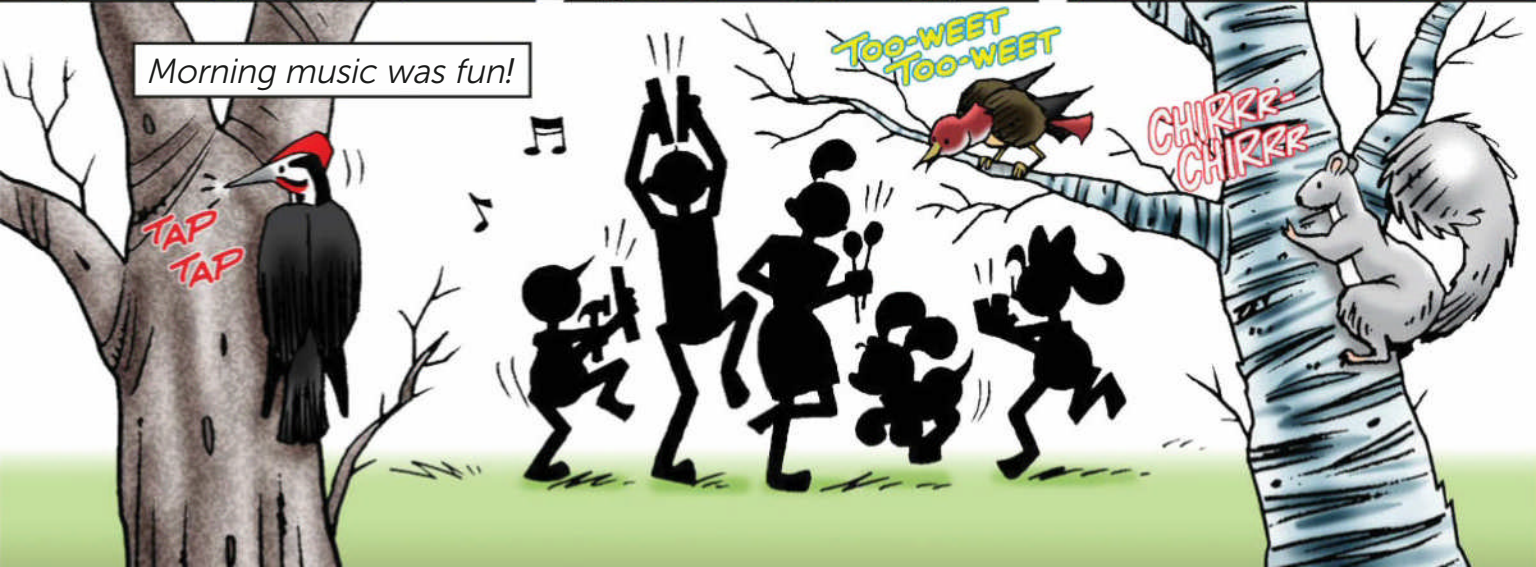


Who's making all the noise?

It's that woodpecker.



Morning music was fun!





## Ask Arizona®

My aunt asked me to feed her cat while she's away. I'd love to, but I'm worried I won't know everything I'm supposed to. Should I say yes or no?

—Unsure on the North Shore



# “No, Rascal!”

By Lissa Rovetch • Art by Amanda Morley

## Dear Unsure,

I think you should say yes to helping take care of your aunt's cat, as long as you do the one thing I *didn't* do when I helped out with my neighbor's dog!

Mrs. Gonzales and her adorable dog, Rascal, live at the end of my street. My friend Ollie and I have played with Rascal since he was a puppy, so when Mrs. Gonzales asked if we'd like to take him to the park once in a while, we said, “When can we start?”

“How about this weekend?” she suggested. “This beast still needs lots of exercise, and now that I'm getting older, he doesn't get to run around nearly as much as he'd like. How about Saturday at 3:00?”

When Saturday rolled around, Ollie and I were there to pick up Rascal at 3:00 on the dot.

## “Rascal will be so happy to play in the park with you!”

“Rascal will be so happy to play in the park with you!” Mrs. Gonzales said. “If I'm still out grocery shopping when you return, just let yourselves in with this spare key. I'll be home a little while later.”

Not long after we arrived at the park, Rascal found a giant puddle and decided to leap into it and roll around until every square inch of his furry body

was dripping with mud.

“Ugh! Silly puppy,” I said. “You're the muddiest dog in the universe!”

“I guess we should take him back home so he can get washed up,” said Ollie.

But when we got to Mrs. Gonzales's house, she didn't answer the doorbell.

“She must still be out grocery shopping,” I said.

“How about we use the garden hose to clean him?” Ollie suggested.

“Good idea!” I said, putting Mrs. Gonzales's key into the lock. “I'll go inside and get a towel to dry him off.”

But the second I opened the door, Rascal raced inside and started zooming all over the living room!

“Stop!” I commanded. “Rascal! Stop.”

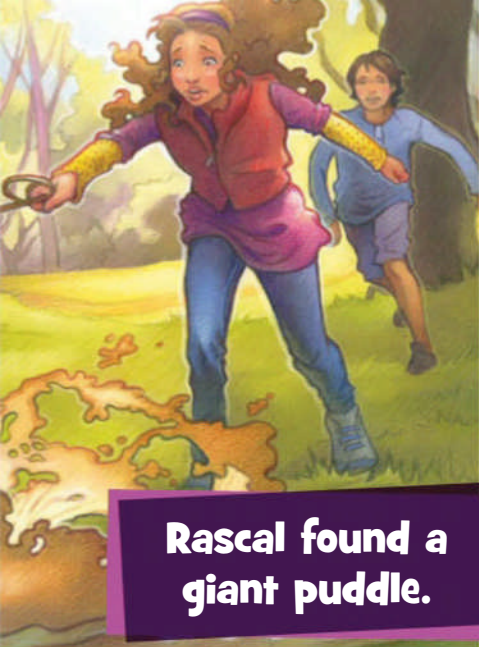
But instead of stopping, he jumped up on the couch.

“No, Rascal!” Ollie shouted. “Sit!”

But Rascal didn't sit. He flopped down and rolled all over the couch.

“This dog is not very good at following commands,” said Ollie.





**Rascal found a giant puddle.**

“Either that,” I said, “or we’re not very good at giving commands.”

It turned out that both of those things were right. Luckily for us, when Mrs. Gonzales came in with her groceries and saw her muddy puppy and muddy carpet and muddy couch, she started to laugh.

“We’re so sorry!” Ollie and I said.

“He jumped in the puddle, and he raced inside, and he

rolled all over the couch, and he wouldn’t pay any attention to our commands,” I explained.

“Oh, my goodness!” Mrs. Gonzales said. “Why do you think I named him *Rascal*? If there’s trouble, this guy is guaranteed to find it. Please don’t feel bad. I should have made sure you knew which commands he responds to before leaving you alone with him.”

It turned out we should have told Rascal to “stay” before we opened the door. And instead of telling him to “sit” when he jumped on the couch, we should have said “off!”

It took a while, but we all worked together to get the mud off everyone and everything. And now when we take Rascal for walks, Ollie and I use all the right commands and stay very, very far away from puddles.

So, dear Unsure, when I said I thought you should take care of your aunt’s cat as long as you do the one thing I didn’t do, here’s what I meant:

**When you pet-sit, remember to do the one thing I *didn’t* do.**

Make sure to ask your aunt lots of questions (great big questions and teensy little ones), so you know as much as you possibly can about that particular pet. Also, make sure you have your aunt’s phone number so you can call her if you need to. Also, if something comes up and you can’t reach your aunt, ask for help from your parents or another adult you trust. I realize that’s a lot of “alsos,” but when it comes to taking care of animals, you need to be extra careful and safe.

Oh, and just two more alsos—please give that kitty a kiss on the nose for me, and stay as far away from puddles as you can!

**Ciao for now,  
Arizona**

**“We’re so sorry!”**



# Dear Highlights



I look up to my sisters. They're both intelligent. I feel that I'll never be as good as them.

A Highlights Reader (by e-mail)

It's wonderful that you admire your sisters, but try not to compare yourself to them. Instead of striving to be like your sisters, just strive to be the best *you* possible. You will find that you will be much happier when you try to be true to yourself, rather than when you try to be like someone else.

Keep in mind that you and your sisters each have your own strengths and weaknesses, and you are all smart in different ways. You are just as special as they are. Focus on developing your own interests, and don't be afraid to try new things. You might also let your parents know how you feel. They may have some reassuring words for you.



Some of my friends are in a fight. I like them all equally, but they say I have to choose sides. Help!

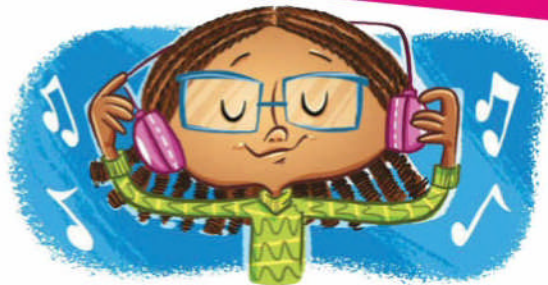
Alisa, Tennessee

If you haven't already, you might calmly explain to your friends that you like all of them, and you are not going to choose a side. You can play with each person or group separately, and you can reassure them that you will make equal time for all of them. If they don't like this arrangement, then you may want to focus on other friendships until these friends work things out.

Another idea is to offer to help your friends resolve their fight, without taking sides. Sometimes when friends fight, they wish they could make up and get past it, but it's hard to be the first one to apologize. You might say that you miss times when all of you played together, and you would like to help them be friends again.

## How can I stop being grouchy when I feel frustrated?

Shayna (by e-mail)



Sometimes, simply walking away from a frustrating situation can help you feel less grouchy. Getting some fresh air and exercise, listening to music, reading a book, or playing a game can help you improve your mood and put things in perspective. If you can't walk away, close your eyes and take slow, deep breaths. You may think more clearly and react with less grouchiness after taking a break.

It may also be helpful to remind yourself that some things aren't worth getting upset about. Will this frustrating situation matter tomorrow? If not, then perhaps you can decide not to get upset. If you can't help feeling frustrated and grouchy, ask your parents for their suggestions. They may be able to help out with the things that are frustrating you.

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Please include your name, age, and full address. Mail to

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Or e-mail us at [Letters@Highlights.com](mailto:Letters@Highlights.com).

# Picture Puzzler

Art by Chris Piascik

Find 7 calculators, 6 magnets, 5 planets, 4 microscopes, 3 pairs of lab goggles, 2 books, and 1 telescope.



**BONUS!**

Find two matching robots.



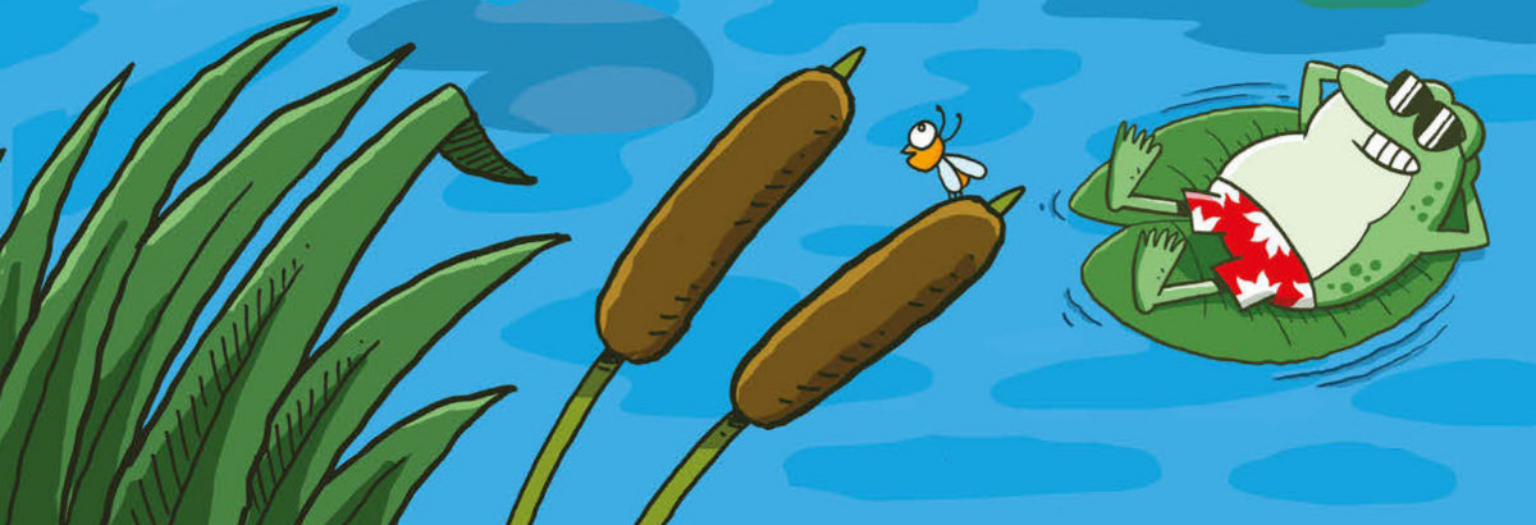
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FUN with a Purpose®



JANUARY 2018

# BONUS



# Get Down

Art by Steve Skelton

Start



Jack is about to tackle the toughest trail on the slopes. Can you help him find his way safely to the bottom of the mountain? Just one trail will take him there.

When you're done, write the letters you found along the route in order in the spaces below to see the answer to the riddle.





Why don't mountains get cold in the winter?

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# I Forgot My KROOMHEW

Mr. Clampett has heard plenty of excuses from kids who forgot to turn in their homework. He made a list of his favorite ones. Some of the words are scrambled. Unscramble them and see which excuse you think is the silliest.



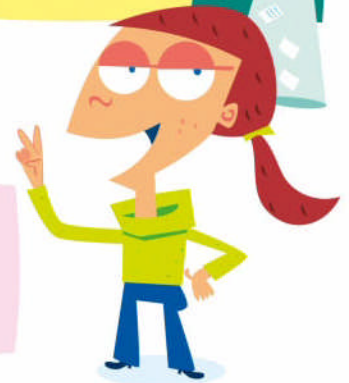
A strange **ILENA** creature took it on his spaceship.



My baby **TERSIS** tore it up.



My **LIPNEC** broke.



The **HOLOCS** bus splashed mud on it.



A giant **DOONRAT** blew it away.



Here it is. I wrote it in **VINELBISI** ink.



A starving **TAC** ate it.

My mom was so proud, she mailed it to my **NERMADGROTH**.



**KROOMHEW?** You didn't tell us we had KROOMHEW.





# Picture Puzzler

Art by Eric Sturdevant

There are at least 12 differences in these two pictures. How many can you find?



# All in Good Time!

Family, friends, school, activities—you fit a lot into your days! Take this quiz to see if you balance “me time” with time for others.



**1. You're tired after a trip, so you head to bed early. A friend calls to say, "Come watch a movie!" You:**

- a. Want to sleep but don't want your friend to feel bad. You drag yourself there and hope the movie is short.
- b. Say, "Thanks, but I'm exhausted," then make plans for the next day.
- c. Grumble, "You should've known I'd be tired," and hang up.

**2. Your town is recruiting volunteers to collect toys for needy kids. You:**

- a. Sign up to help every day. You'll just have to miss the class trip and turn in a report late.
- b. Sign up to help on the weekend, when you have time, and encourage friends to sign up, too.
- c. Would sign up if you could keep a few toys, but otherwise, no thanks.

**3. Your coach wants you to be team captain, but you're already overbooked. You:**

- a. Worry that the coach will be mad if you say no, so (gulp!) you agree. Bye-bye, free time!
- b. Say you'll need to talk it over with your parents. Maybe you can take it on if you drop another activity.
- c. Consider quitting the team. You wanted fun, not responsibility.

**4. Your best friend bugs you to join the swim team. You:**

- a. Do not want to join, but you can't disappoint your friend. So you give up and dive in.
- b. Talk about other ways you can spend time together, and join only if you want to.
- c. Start avoiding your friend. Who needs the pressure?

**5. You've just finished your chores when your older brother says, "I'm going biking. Do my chores, will you?" You:**

- a. Mumble, "OK." You have a hard time saying no to people.
- b. Smile and say, "How about if I help you with them when you get home?"
- c. Scoff, "Not a chance!" Sure, he's done lots of favors for you, but big brothers are supposed to!

## Results

**If you answered mostly a:** You do things for others, but sometimes you forget to take care of yourself. That can make you feel exhausted and even resentful. Try to balance things so that you have time for yourself and others.

**If you answered mostly b:** You do things for other people, and you also make time to take care of your own needs and interests. That's a healthy balance!

**If you answered mostly c:** You always do your own thing. Try taking some time to think about and help others. You might discover how rewarding it can be.



## Festive Fruit Salad

Makes about 6 servings.

1. Drain the juice from a can of **pineapple chunks** and a can of **mandarin-orange slices**. Empty the fruit into a large bowl.
2. Peel and slice four **kiwis** and two **bananas** into ½-inch-thick circles. Add them to the bowl.
3. Using two large spoons, gently combine the fruits. Cover the bowl and refrigerate.
4. To serve, place a clean **lettuce leaf** on each salad plate. Spoon the fruit mixture onto each leaf. Sprinkle **shredded coconut** on top.

## CHEF'S TIPS

1. Wash hands before starting. Wash them again after handling meat.
2. Ask an adult to help with appliances and anything sharp or hot.
3. Clean up.
4. Enjoy!



# Be a Party Chef

For New Year's Eve or anytime,  
bring something to the table.

By Candyce A. Petersen  
Art by David Galchutt

## Holiday Meatballs

Makes about 50 meatballs.

1. Preheat the oven to 325°F.
2. In a large bowl, combine 2 pounds of **ground beef or ground turkey**, 1 packet of **onion-soup mix**, 1 cup of **bread crumbs**, ½ cup of **evaporated milk**, ½ teaspoon of **ground black pepper**, 1 **egg**, and ½ teaspoon of **Worcestershire sauce**. Mix well using clean hands. Shape into 1-inch balls.
3. Place the meatballs on a cookie sheet. Bake them for 30 minutes.
4. Empty a 12-ounce jar of **grape jelly** and a 12-ounce bottle of **chili sauce** into a medium-sized saucepan. Heat on low, stirring often, until the jelly melts.
5. Add the baked meatballs, stir, and heat for five minutes. Serve the meatballs in a shallow bowl or on toothpicks.



## HINT

Bake the meatballs ahead of time, then freeze them. To serve, prepare the jelly-and-chili-sauce mixture, add the frozen meatballs, and heat them thoroughly.

## Lemonade Glacier Punch

Makes about a gallon of punch.

1. In a punch bowl, combine a thawed 12-ounce can of **frozen pink-lemonade concentrate**, a chilled 2-liter bottle of **cherry-flavored seltzer water or ginger ale**, and 4 cups of **cold water**. Stir gently.
2. Float scoops of **cherry frozen yogurt** in the punch.
3. Add a large spoonful of frozen yogurt to each serving.

# Bringing Up Baby Foxes

Raising a family is tricky  
in the Arctic!

By L.E. Carmichael, Ph.D.



**Most Arctic foxes have a brown coat in the summer and a thick, white coat in the winter.**

**A**rctic fox puppies have it pretty rough. In spring, when they're born, more than seven inches of snow can still cover the ground. Food is often in short supply. Hungry fox pups have to hide from hungry wolverines.

For the parents in many fox families, finding food is the biggest challenge. Foxes eat lemmings, but these rodents can be rare.

"Sometimes parents don't manage to find enough food for the puppies, which become weak and die," says Dr. Dominique Berteaux, who studies the foxes. He is a scientist at the University of Quebec at Rimouski.

When lemmings are scarce, fox parents defend their territory so other foxes can't steal their food. But the foxes on Bylot Island in Nunavut, Canada, can also find geese and eggs to eat, as well as lemmings.

## Any Other Tricks?

Foxes defend their hunting grounds and search for new kinds of food. Dr. Berteaux wondered if foxes had other ways to help their babies survive.

When he and his students studied Bylot Island foxes, they sometimes saw more than two adult foxes using the same den.

But the researchers couldn't tell if the extra adults were parents, almost-grown pups from last summer, or some other foxes.

One way to tell if animals are related is to study their DNA. Inside most cells of every living thing is a set of stringy molecules called DNA. These molecules carry the instructions for how an animal or a plant grows and how each cell does its job in the body.

The scientists used cage traps that do not hurt the foxes to catch members of eight Arctic fox families. "Some pups are nervous and never go in the traps," says Dr. Berteaux. "But some enter our

An adult fox pounces on its prey, probably a lemming.



traps repeatedly, like it's a game to them.”

He and his students plucked a few hairs from the foxes, then let the animals go. “Puppy fur is a bit like cat fur,” Dr. Berteaux says.

But unlike cats, fox pups try to bite people who pick them up. “Cats like to be on your knees whereas fox puppies hate it,”

Dr. Berteaux says. “After all, fox puppies don’t know whether you want to eat them or just study and release them.”

The researchers sent the hairs to the University of Alberta to have the DNA analyzed. At the ends of the hairs are tiny bits of skin that come out when the hairs are plucked. These bits are made up of cells that contain DNA.

DNA shows family groups. Since every animal has DNA that’s slightly different from every other animal’s DNA, researchers can use it like a name tag to identify each animal. Also, each fox gets half of its DNA from

its mother and half from its father. So DNA shows which foxes are related to one another.

### Two Families in One

In six dens, each fox family had one mom, one dad, and their cubs. But den seven had more than two adults. In this den, two moms, two dads, and two litters of fox puppies all lived together.

Dr. Berteaux thinks this combined family was taking advantage of having four adults to catch prey and protect the cubs from predators. That way, both fox pairs increased their babies’ chances for survival.

## Do foxes have secret ways to help their babies survive?

In the eighth den, one mom’s litter contained puppies with two separate fathers. Instead of having different mates in different years, like most female Arctic foxes, this mom had babies from two mates in the same summer. Female black bears, meadow voles, and guppies

also mate with more than one male. But until now, no one had seen this practice in Arctic foxes.

The mom in den eight had given her pups more than one survival edge. As in den seven, extra adults (two fathers instead of one) cared for these pups. In addition, because their fathers had different DNA, the babies did, too.

Since DNA affects a fox’s personality and physical traits, it also affects the fox’s survival. This mother’s pups had a greater variety of traits. One or two pups might be better able to survive a drought. Others might be better at hunting some new kind of food. And some might be better at defending their territory. As the surroundings change, the chances are higher that at least some of the pups will survive.

Thanks to Dr. Berteaux and his team, we now know that Arctic fox parents have lots of ways to help their babies survive and grow up. 🦊

**NOTE:** The author of this article is the DNA scientist who worked with Dr. Berteaux’s team on this research.

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**Editorial Offices:** 803 Church Street, Honesdale, PA 18431-1895.  
E-mail: eds@highlights.com.

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**CEO:** Kent S. Johnson  
**Vice President, International:** Andy Shafran  
**Business Offices:** 1800 Watermark Drive,  
P.O. Box 269, Columbus, OH 43216-0269.

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