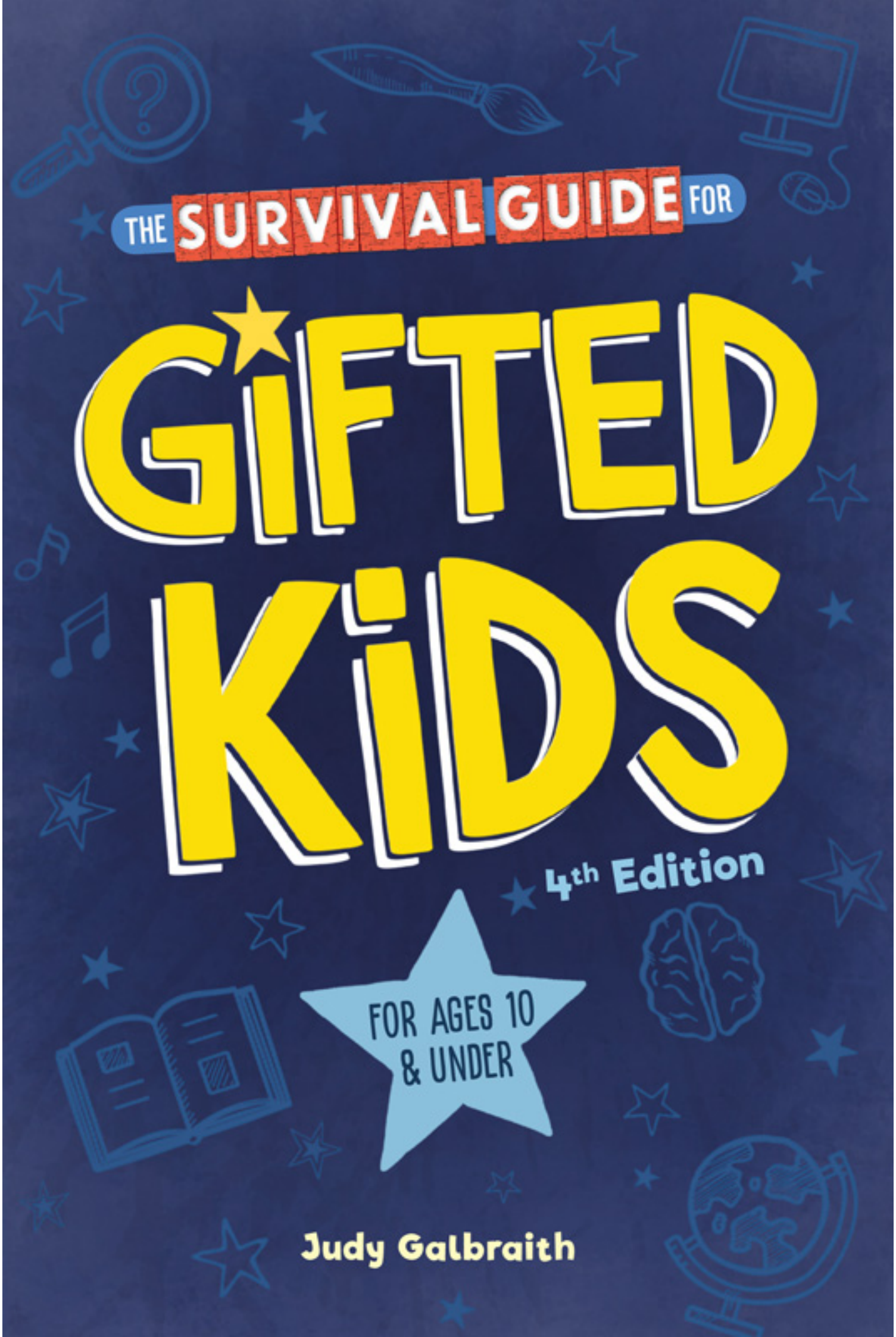

THE SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR
GIFTED KIDS
4th Edition
FOR AGES 10 & UNDER
Judy Galbraith

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The names of the young people quoted throughout the book have been changed to protect their privacy.

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CHAPTER 1

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GIFTED

> **"Being gifted means I'm special in different ways."**
> —Mei, age 9

So someone told you you're gifted and gave you this book. (Or maybe you found it yourself.) But having the label "gifted" doesn't tell you much about what being GT is all about. I'll get into your gifted brain in chapter 3, but for now, let's start with figuring out what being gifted means to various kids, experts, and organizations, so you can begin to understand what it means to you.

5 Fast Facts About Giftedness

Here are five fast facts about what it means to be gifted. Are any of these new to you?

FACT #1: "Gifted" Means Different Things to Different People

If you're not exactly sure what *gifted* means, you're in good company. There are many definitions of giftedness. Even the experts sometimes disagree with each other about what it means and how to identify it in people.

Here's how some gifted kids have defined giftedness. See if you agree or disagree with their definitions:

“Being gifted or high potential means that I’m very smart and I can do things other kids can’t do.”
—Brooklyn, age 9

“It means being more aware of people around you and telling how others feel around you.”
—Micah, age 10

“Being gifted is a good thing. I just really want to learn.”
—Colton, age 9

You probably notice that these kids’ definitions are pretty different from one another. Well, that’s not surprising, considering that each gifted kid is unique. What might be surprising to learn, though, is that various dictionaries, organizations, experts, and schools also define *gifted* in different ways.

Dictionaries say …

gifted (adjective):

1. having great natural ability: talented (*Merriam-Webster*)
2. endowed with great natural ability, intelligence, or talent (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*)
3. endowed with gifts; talented (*Oxford English Dictionary*)
4. having exceptionally high intelligence: gifted children (dictionary.com)

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